

Guy Barnett MP

Minister for Primary Industries and Water
Minister for Energy
Minister for Resources
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Liberal Member for Lyons



TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT MEDIA RELEASE

Guy Barnett, Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing

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More help for older Tasmanian men at risk of homelessness

The Tasmanian Government is committed to supporting Tasmanians who are homeless and increasing the supply of emergency accommodation and housing for our most vulnerable.

We recognise that older Tasmanians can be particularly vulnerable to homelessness and we are acting to provide more accommodation and supports to improve their housing security and health and wellbeing.

Today I saw firsthand the construction progress on new men's accommodation at Rokeby that will provide much-needed housing for older men who are homeless or who are at risk of homelessness.

The 15-unit facility will provide safe accommodation and support for vulnerable, older Tasmanian men. Three of the units will also be suitable for people living with disability.

The facility will be managed by Hobart City Mission, which operates numerous housing and homelessness services in and around Hobart.

These include 32 units at the Mountain View Lodge supported accommodation facility in Goodwood, 35 beds in the Hobart Safe Spaces program, eight short-term transitional units for their 'Dads with Kids' program in Moonah and housing support services through Housing Connect.

The Tasmanian Government provided \$2.4 million towards the cost of building the new Rokeby men's accommodation, with the remaining cost of approximately \$1 million funded by Hobart City Mission through donations and a large bequest.

This facility is being built by Centacare Evolve Housing's building and construction social enterprise St Joseph Affordable Homes, which is employing 27 apprentices on the project.

So not only is this development going to provide roofs over the heads of vulnerable Tasmanians, it is also providing significant employment opportunities for young Tasmanians.

Construction on the units began in September 2022 and is expected to be completed by May 2023.

This new facility is just one of a range of new facilities under construction around the state that will add to the supply of crisis and transitional accommodation for Tasmanians in need.

These include:

- A new \$20 million, 50-bed men's shelter and supported accommodation facility in Hobart on the site of the former Waratah Hotel;
- 23 crisis and transitional accommodation units for young people in the North-West;
- A 15-unit expansion of the Launceston's Women's Shelter;
- A dedicated eight-unit men's shelter on the North-West Coast for men, including those with children, and
- A new 26-bed Youth2Independence facility in Hobart, a new 25-bed Youth2Independence facility in Burnie and a 20-bed expansion of the Launceston Youth2Independence facility.

The Tasmanian Liberal Government recognises the housing struggles facing Tasmanians and is responding with a massive 10-year, \$1.5 billion housing package – the largest housing investment in the State's history – to build on our existing reforms and take further action to provide even more affordable accommodation.

But we also know that there are Tasmanians who are doing it tough and need support right now.

That is why we invest over \$36 million a year on wraparound services to ensure those who need help now are getting the services they need.

This includes funding for 19 existing Specialist Homelessness Services, our Safe Spaces and connected support services.

The Tasmanian Government is able to use our strong economy to deliver on our commitment to invest in new accommodation, addressing the needs of vulnerable people by providing safe and secure accommodation for Tasmanians.

We encourage anyone who is homeless or is at risk of homelessness to contact Housing Connect, 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 1800 800 588.