

Guy Barnett MP

Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing
Minister for Energy and Renewables
Minister for Veterans Affairs
Liberal Member for Lyons



Tasmanian Government **Media Release**

Guy Barnett, Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing

4 May 2023

Delivering more accommodation for older Tasmanian men in need

The Rockliff Liberal Government is supporting vulnerable Tasmanians by increasing the supply of housing.

Older Tasmanians can be particularly vulnerable to homelessness, so we are acting to provide more housing to give them, safe affordable homes and support their health and wellbeing.

“It was a pleasure today to join Premier Jeremy Rockliff to visit the site of eight nearly completed social housing units at Rokeby that will provide much-needed housing for older men who are at risk of homelessness,” Minister Barnett said.

“These units, plus seven units of homelessness accommodation at the site, will help address a service gap in the provision of supported accommodation for older men. Three of the units will also be suitable for people with disability.

“The homes will be completed this month and 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, 35 beds in the Hobart Safe Spaces program, eight transitional units for their ‘Dads with Kids’ program, and housing support services through Housing Connect,” Minister Barnett said.

The units are 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 employment opportunities for young Tasmanians and generating economic growth to help invest further in health, education and cost-of-living relief.

The Tasmanian Government provided \$2.4 million towards the cost of these new units, approximately \$1 million was funded by Hobart City Mission through donations and a large bequest with total injection of nearly \$7 million into the local economy.

Every Tasmanian deserves a roof over their head, and with the growth in Tasmania's population exceeding predictions, our ambitious plan to build more houses sooner is critical to improving the lives of vulnerable Tasmanians.

This is all part of our \$1.5 billion housing plan to deliver 10,000 new social and affordable properties by 2032 and we are on track to deliver our planned 1,500 homes by June 2023 with more than 850 completed at the end of March.

The Tasmanian Government recognises the barriers and challenges Tasmanians can face in securing safe accommodation. We know there is more to do, and we recognise there are Tasmanians who are doing it tough and need support right now.

That is why, through Homes Tasmania, we invest over \$38 million each year in Specialist Homelessness Services. There are 18 homeless shelters operating around the state that provide crisis, transitional or emergency accommodation for Tasmanians who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Homes Tasmania has more than 90 units of homelessness accommodation in its construction pipeline that are expected to be completed by the end of 2023.

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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.

