

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 1 July 2020

The power of one - Housing Choices Australia Ltd and Access Housing Australia Ltd merge to become one of Australia's largest Community Housing Providers

Western Australian-based Access Housing Australia Ltd and Housing Choices Australia Ltd (VIC, TAS, SA and NSW) are excited to announce they have joined forces and merged to become one of Australia's largest Community Housing Providers.

Following an extensive due diligence period, both companies are pleased to now formally announce the merger, effective as of Wednesday 1 July 2020.

With Access Housing joining the Housing Choices Australia Group of Companies, the merged entity is now responsible for the management of nearly 7,000 social and affordable homes across Australia, with assets valued in excess of \$900 million and with annual revenue of nearly \$70 million.

Housing Choices Australia Ltd Chairperson Heather McCallum said the merger would enable the Group to provide more housing and opportunities for current and future residents while maintaining and advocating a 'think national, act local' vision that respects the local culture, history and tradition of both organisations.

"The Housing Choices federated model has been designed to balance the interests of each participating state by ensuring a local membership board and equal representation of each state on the national Board of Housing Choices," Ms McCallum said.

"Under the model, each state business is able to realise the benefits from being a part of a national group, such as access to increased scale and expertise, while retaining strong local connections and preserving assets and investment at a state level.

"We think this approach is the best way to continue to deliver excellent outcomes for all stakeholders including, now, the people of Western Australia."

Access Housing former Chairman David Lantzke has joined the Housing Choices Australia Board of Directors, as has former Access Housing Director Matt Raison.

Mr Lantzke said the new national organisation's solid financial base and strong presence will help it meet the challenges of an emerging new age for the Community Housing sector.

"As a truly national Community Housing Provider, our scale and capacity will better position us to help inform and shape policy, both at national and state levels, as well as allow us to deliver a far broader and more innovative range of positive housing and community outcomes for some of Australia's most vulnerable people," Mr Lantzke said.

"From a WA-based service delivery perspective, the services Access Housing has provided to our tenants and the community will continue as usual, but with the additional support of our eastern states-based colleagues who we will be working with to determine and deliver best-practice affordable housing solutions to those in need."

Housing Choices Australia Managing Director Michael Lennon will lead the expanded organisation, with WA operations to be headed up by Executive General Manager (WA) Neil Starkie. Mr Starkie joined Access Housing in February 2020 in the role of Interim Chief Executive Officer as the companies worked to finalise the merger.

For more information, please refer to the attached FAQs and/or contact:

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