

# News Release

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## **YWCA expands its affordable housing reach to women in South Australia impacted by family/domestic violence**

Australia's only national specialist women's housing provider is extending its growing pipeline of secure and affordable accommodation to women and women-led families in South Australia with construction of 24 new rental homes.

Construction of YWCA Australia's \$15.7 million affordable housing development, which will prioritise women and their families who have experienced domestic and family violence, began in the heart of Adelaide today.

The 24 long-term rental apartments are being built on Hutt Street for women and women-led families on low to moderate incomes for below market rent at a time of great need.<sup>1</sup>

Due for completion in 2025, the one, two and three-bedroom apartments will be the first housing project developed by YWCA in South Australia and has received support from the South Australian government through a \$5 million no-interest loan.

YWCA is planning to provide 30 per cent more tenancies over the next three years across Victoria, Queensland, Northern Territory and now South Australia. This will equate to providing an extra 45,000 nights of affordable accommodation to women each year.

Today, YWCA was joined by State Human Services Minister Nat Cook and Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence Minister Katrine Hildyard for a ground breaking ceremony to mark the start of the development at the inner-city site.

**YWCA Australia General Manager Community Housing Charlotte Dillon said:** "As a specialist women's housing provider, YWCA Australia looks forward to delivering 24 new rental homes designed specifically for South Australian women in need of affordable housing options.

"Far too many women are finding it increasingly more difficult to secure safe and affordable housing as private rental rates hit record highs and vacancy rates dip to new lows across the nation.

"This development will provide safe, stable, affordable, long-term housing for 24 women, including mothers with children, who have experienced family and domestic violence, and provide a foundation to heal."

**Human Services Minister Nat Cook said:** "Without a safe and secure housing alternative, there's a high risk these women and children will become homeless or stay in unsafe situations.

"These affordable rental homes will be a place for recovery from the trauma and abject fear that is part of the toxicity of domestic and family violence. Healing can begin when people know they are finally safe."



**Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence Minister Katrine Hildyard said:** “We don’t ever want women to have to choose between having somewhere to live and being safe.

“This development on Hutt Street is about ensuring they do not have to, a development that may save lives.”

Nationally, YWCA provides almost 150,000 nights of affordable accommodation to women each year. Many of these women have experienced family violence, with a lack of affordable and available housing inhibiting women’s options to leave unsafe homes.

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1. Requests for support to SA homelessness services increased 7.1 per cent, with women and children making up 74 per cent of those needing help in the three months to March 2023 (Homelessness Australia report “Overstretched and overwhelmed: the strain on homelessness services”, 2023).

**About YWCA Australia:** Since its foundation over 140 years ago, YWCA Australia has evolved to become one of the nation’s leading providers of housing and support services to women, including advocacy and policy development to address women’s homelessness and housing insecurity. YWCA Australia was set up in 1880 in Sydney and, in the same year, founded in Adelaide by pioneering Suffragist Lady Mary Colton. By 1969 there was a YWCA in every state and territory, providing women and girls with pathways to education, employment and safe housing. Today, YWCA Australia is the only national provider of long-term affordable accommodation in Northern Territory, Queensland and Victoria, providing more than 150,000 nights of affordable accommodation every year.

**About YWCA Australia’s Hutt Street affordable housing development:** 24 long-term, safe and secure homes for rent to women and women-led families in need, particularly those impacted by family and domestic violence. Designed by leading architects Tridente Boyce, the high-quality, affordable apartment development will be built over seven storeys with ground floor retail space to open in 2025. The development will be owned and managed by YWCA, which has experience running more than 390 affordable rental properties across Australia.