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CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON NEW SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOMES FOR WESTERN SYDNEY

Construction of 92 new social and affordable housing units is set to commence in Western Sydney as part of the Government's state-wide push to deliver up to 3,400 homes for people who need them most.

Minister for Social Housing Pru Goward said the developments at Westmead and Merrylands would give a vital boost to local housing supply and get vulnerable members of the community off the social housing waiting list and into stable homes.

"Western Sydney is set to become a hotbed of development this year as work begins on more and better housing for people struggling in the private market or on the waiting list for social housing," Ms Goward said.

"All across NSW, similar developments are due to commence as we work to deliver social and affordable homes close to train stations, bus stops, shops, schools and services so people can be involved, not isolated."

The Westmead site, which includes 14 new SAHF units, is being delivered by Uniting, while the 78-unit Merrylands site is being delivered by St Vincent de Paul.

When the SAHF units are service ready, the accommodation provision, along with coordinated access to support services for households, will be funded by the Government under \$1.1bn Social and Affordable Housing Fund (SAHF).

Ms Goward said the SAHF model, which links housing with vital supports, was an innovative approach that showed what could be achieved when Government worked together with the community housing sector.

"Our partners at Uniting and St Vincent de Paul were selected for these projects because of their proven track record of housing and helping people in need.

"By embracing a collaborative approach, the government and its partners are helping people to break the cycle of disadvantage and move towards greater independence."

As at 1 May 2018, Uniting has completed 99 SAHF homes with 66 tenanted and 33 currently being allocated to new tenants in renewed accommodation across multiple locations. The Westmead site is one of 17 new developments that include SAHF homes that Uniting is delivering across the state. When all developments are completed Uniting expect to house at least 300 SAHF tenants.

"Helping vulnerable older people secure affordable housing and integrated services aligns with the mission of Uniting and we look forward to welcoming more new residents into our villages," said Uniting Executive Director Peter Worland.

St Vincent de Paul Housing CEO, Brian Murnane, said “St Vincent de Paul Society is working with the NSW Government under the SAHF to ensure more social and affordable housing is being offered to people who need it most.

“We look forward to the continued progress of our St Vincent de Paul Housing constructions, providing 500 homes across Sydney and regional NSW.”

The service package tenants receive through the SAHF will include access to accommodation, asset and tenancy management services, and links to supports like training, education opportunities and medical services.

The SAHF is a key initiative of *Future Directions for Social Housing in NSW*, the NSW Government’s 10 year plan for social housing.