

## **Media Release**

**Friday 10 March 2017**

### **St Vincent de Paul Housing to provide 500 new dwellings under Government Housing Fund**

Amélie Housing, the community housing company of the Trustees of the Society of St Vincent de Paul (NSW), has been selected by the NSW Government as a partner in its Social and Affordable Housing Fund (SAHF), a key initiative of Future Directions for Social Housing in NSW. Under the SAHF, Amélie Housing will be building 305 new properties and acquiring 195 properties across the state. They will be a mix of social (70 per cent) and affordable (30 per cent) dwellings, helping those who can't afford to rent in the private rental market to access homes that are affordable.

Future Directions is a ten-year plan to reform the NSW social housing system so it can better meet the housing needs of our most vulnerable and break the cycle of disadvantage. The SAHF is a key component of the NSW Future Directions for Social Housing in NSW strategy that will result in more social and affordable housing linked to tailored support, to help households gain independence.

Brian Murnane, CEO of Amélie Housing, said: "We're very excited about what this will mean for low-income earners and people experiencing disadvantage because we can now offer them more housing options. The opportunities now opened up for our Society and those we assist are huge.

"These buildings will be built to 7-star energy efficiency ratings, helping keep utility costs down for residents and reducing environmental impacts."

Denis Walsh, Chairman of the Amélie Housing Board and NSW State President of the Society, said the flow-on effects would be significant:

"The real strength of our proposal is that not only will Amélie Housing be providing affordable housing stock, but also that the Society will be assisting tenants with wrap-around support services. This is where the Society excels and what our members, volunteers and employees have been doing across the state for many decades—supporting residents to connect with local communities and assisting them, using established case management capabilities and other support networks within the Society," he said.

"We know that maintaining a tenancy can be really tough for people who have experienced disadvantage, homelessness and trauma. Our members, volunteers and employees will be supporting people to enable them to overcome their difficulties so they can live in comfort and with dignity. Everyone has the right to a home.

"We reach out through financial assistance, budget counselling and other training programs, as well as just providing a friendly ear."

The Trustees of the Society of St Vincent de Paul (NSW) have long been advocating for more affordable housing such as [the Right to Home Campaign](#) and welcomes this new housing fund and the precedent it is setting for future housing plans.

“Our Trustees have given their full endorsement for this initiative by investing substantial funds and land into the SAHF 25-year program. It aligns perfectly with our long-term vision,” said Mr Walsh.

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