

New social housing opens

HOUSING

MORE than 100 people who would otherwise be unable to afford a stable place to live can now call Campbelltown home.

St Vincent De Paul Housing NSW opened the new purpose-built affordable housing apartment complex on Chamberlain Street on Thursday.

The 48-unit complex was built with funds from the charity's supporters and the state government's Social and Affordable Housing Fund.

Vinnies Housing chief executive Brian Murnane said the building representing the charity's long-standing commitment to the people of Campbelltown.

"These Campbelltown apartments will ensure tenants have the safety and security of a place to call home, as well as providing tailored support so they can connect with the services they need and become part of a supportive community," he said.

"As part of Vinnies' arrangement with the NSW Government, 500 properties will be developed across 12



PROVIDING HOPE: An official party officially opened the new social housing building on Chamberlain Street.

sites throughout the state.

"New units have already opened in Dubbo, Penrith and Albury, with eight more sites to open in 2020."

More than 51,000 applicants are currently on the waiting list for social housing in NSW, including families

with young children.

Vinnies NSW chief executive Jack de Groot said the homes helped families find stability.

"Without a secure place to live, it is incredibly difficult for people to live healthy lives in the present, let alone

plan for the future," he said.

"Every day at Vinnies we help people living on the verge of homelessness. Living with this uncertainty takes a toll on their mental and physical health.

"We do our best to support those in need, but many peo-

ple still aren't able to afford regular meals, or electricity to keep warm during winter or cool down in a heatwave. We see families fall apart under the stress.

"By providing more social housing, the state of NSW can restore hope to people

facing poverty."

Local Aboriginal elder Uncle Ivan Wellington officially opened the building with a smoking ceremony and Bishop of Wollongong Peteringham blessed the site. Campbelltown mayor George Brticevic also attended.