

# The Border Mail

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## St Vincent de Paul public housing centre opened in central Albury



Vivienne Jones



OPEN: St Vincent de Paul's Brian Murnane, Dennis Walsh, Beverly Kerr and Jack de Groot outside The Nagle Centre. Picture: TARA TREWHELLA

The \$8.84 million St Vincent de Paul Society affordable housing development in central Albury is just "a drop in the ocean" with more than 60,000 people waiting for accommodation in NSW.

The development on Dempsey Place off Olive Street, which was built after Quamby House was demolished in 2017, has 38 units and a community centre named after the late Justice John Nagle, who was born in Albury.

The Nagle Centre was officially opened on Wednesday with the one, two and three bedroom units being occupied since January.

The units are owned and managed by Amelie Housing, a subsidiary of St Vincent de Paul, as affordable rental housing and chief executive Brian Murnane said there is a "huge need" for public housing in Albury.

"This is a project that was jointly funded by the St Vincent de Paul society and the NSW government under the social and affordable housing fund," he said.

"While this is a great facility there is a huge need right across the state, and even in this local area there is still a huge demand for more housing," he said.

"The society is building more and more housing with 500 currently under construction across NSW, including one around the corner in Hovell Street.

"For us that is a big project but in the scheme of things it is a drop in the ocean in comparison for the need that is out there for people who need secure affordable housing."

The community centre was funded by Justice Nagle's family and it acts as a hub for people affected by homelessness and isolation.

"The main thing is to assist those who are able to get a job," Mr Murnane said.

Quamby House, a mens' crisis accommodation centre, was closed to residents in 2013 and member for Albury Justin Clancy said it was a "great outcome for the community" for the new public housing to be opened.

"This is a great facility, great for the community and it is a wonderful precinct," he said.

"It is a significant step in terms of social community housing in Albury.

"Supporting homelessness in this area is very important as it is in all regional areas, social housing is a significant piece of that jigsaw so it is wonderful to be here to see it officially opened