

# Media Release

**The Hon Harriet Shing MP**  
Minister for Housing  
Minister for Water  
Minister for Equality



Wednesday, 11 September 2024

## **SUPPORTIVE HOMES FOR PEOPLE SLEEPING ROUGH IN SHEPPARTON**

People who have experienced rough sleeping in Shepparton will be supported out of homelessness and into their own homes through a new housing program funded by the Allan Labor Government.

Minister for Housing Harriet Shing today announced Homes Victoria and Beyond Housing were partnering to develop a 15-unit housing complex in Shepparton under the Labor Government's \$26 million Regional Supportive Housing Program.

Beyond Housing will operate the new supportive housing units in partnership with Rumbalara Aboriginal Cooperative, VincentCare Victoria and Primary Care Connect.

The Regional Supportive Housing Program is the first permanent supportive housing of its kind in regional Victoria for people who have experienced rough sleeping. It means more people experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping in regional Victoria will have the support they need to rebuild their lives.

The program will be based on Housing First principles, which are centred on helping people into long-term housing, and providing the multidisciplinary support they need to move forward in life.

Evidence shows that providing stable, long-term housing with wraparound support breaks the cycle of homelessness and gives people the foundation to thrive.

The Shepparton project demonstrates quality design, including a high level of accessibility and environmental efficiency. The new homes will be well-located, and in keeping with other homes in their neighbourhood.

Construction of the proposed units is expected to start in January 2025, with completion anticipated by the end of the year.

The *Victorian Budget 2024/25* grows investment into the homelessness system by \$197 million over four years, to break the cycle of homelessness. This is on top of over \$300 million invested into specialist homelessness services every year, to assist around 100,000 vulnerable Victorians who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

Our historic \$6.3 billion investment in the Big Housing Build and Regional Housing fund is delivering more than 13,300 homes around Victoria, with more than 9,600 currently underway or complete.

### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Housing Harriet Shing**

*"With more housing options and wrap-around support to go with it, we're reducing homelessness and helping people in Shepparton get their lives back on track."*

*"This program is an opportunity to help break the cycle of homelessness for regional Victorians – because now more than ever, home means stability, security and safety."*

### **Quote attributable to Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes**

*"We're supporting vulnerable people in Shepparton into their own homes through the Regional Supportive Housing Program, with wrap-around support to ensure they're able to access long-term, stable housing."*

**Media contact:** Michaela Weston 0403 483 023 | michaela.weston@minstaff.vic.gov.au