



MEDIA RELEASE

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EMBARGOED UNTIL 6PM

Energy efficient homes to replace rundown estate

More vulnerable Victorians will be able to access social housing with the Victorian Government's announcement that redevelopment is to begin of a rundown housing estate in West Brunswick. Community housing organisation Women's Housing Limited will manage the completed redevelopment, which will increase social housing numbers by 45 per cent.

Women's Housing CEO Judy Line says, 'We have worked closely with the Department of Health and Human Services and developer AV Jennings to bring this project to life, and we are delighted to be part of this exciting housing development.'

'The old rundown walk-ups at Gronn Place will be replaced by new energy efficient homes that will not only be better to live in but be more affordable for our tenants.'

'We are looking forward to taking a leading long-term role in the overall management of the precinct, to ensure that this project further enriches the neighbourhood as well as delivering much needed long-term housing for vulnerable women,' Judy says.

The 82 vacant units currently on the site will be demolished to make way for 111 new public housing properties, and Women's Housing will purchase an additional eight homes from the developer, greatly increasing the number available to those eligible for social housing. The redevelopment will also include 79 private homes, which will help fund the project and create more diverse communities.

Public housing tenants who have been provided with alternative accommodation in the lead up to the redevelopment will be given the option to move back to the site once it is complete, with Women's Housing to be responsible for the management of rental agreements and maintenance. Tenant's rights will continue to be protected via the Residential Tenancies Act.

As a registered Victorian Housing Association, Women's Housing Ltd has extensive experience in managing a diverse range of social housing across Melbourne and has an excellent reputation for property and place management.

Community Housing Industry Association (CHIA Vic) CEO Lesley Dredge says the redevelopment is welcome with Victoria holding the unenviable record of having the smallest proportion of social housing in Australia. Currently 50,145 households are on Victoria's social housing waitlist.

The Gronn Place development is part of the Victorian Government's \$185 million Public Housing Renewal Program that plans to develop up to 2,500 public housing dwellings and increase the number of social housing properties by at least 10 per cent across metropolitan and regional sites.

Lesley Dredge is available for further comment on 0407 886 066.

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