

YWCA Bendigo

Affordable homes for women and their families in East Bendigo

YWCA welcomed six women and their families to their new homes on Dja Dja Wurrung Country in East Bendigo in 2021.

The five three-bedroom townhouses were architecturally designed by DKO Architecture and built by renowned builder GJ Gardner Homes. The project was a finalist for the Category of Modernisation of a Built Form Development in the 2021 PowerHousing Awards.

The properties were offered to women at below-market rates to give women and their families, including those who have experienced family and domestic violence, an opportunity to secure a safe affordable home.

The development contains five two storey, three-bedroom, two and a half bathroom townhouses. Each townhouse has a lock-up garage and a landscaped, fully fenced and secure private open space.



YWCA Bendigo – townhouse exterior



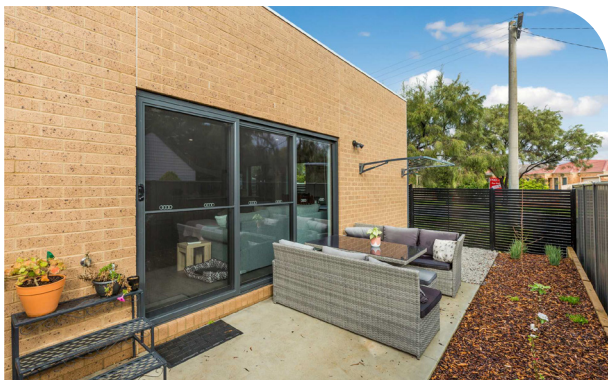
YWCA Bendigo – townhouse kitchen

All homes in the development are six-star energy rated and have several environmentally friendly features that also reduce costs for renters including solar panels, double glazed windows, energy efficient appliances and a water tank. To help renters connect with services, education, employment and community, each townhouse also has NBN connectivity.

YWCA selected the development's location to ensure residents are close to key services. The development is located approximately 2km from Bendigo railway station; 1.2km from the edge of the CBD; and within 1km of a full-line supermarket, TAFE education centre and several open space amenities including Bendigo East Bushland Reserve and Lake Weeroona.

Through a partnership with WomenCAN, residents also have the opportunity to undertake peer-supported training which will provide them with a Certificate III in individual support aged care.

I love it here. It's big enough for a family but still low maintenance – Renter, YWCA Bendigo Affordable Housing Development



YWCA Bendigo – townhouse private open space

The project was fully funded by YWCA who purchased the land on the open market and engaged Melbourne based and renowned architects DKO Architects to design the homes. YWCA commercially tendered the project on a fixed price contract with GJ Gardener the successful builder.

The project was constructed during COVID-19 lockdowns which caused time delays to the program. Despite these challenges, the project remained within budget and was completed to a high standard.



YWCA Bendigo – townhouse living room

Gretel, one of the development's residents tells her story and explains how important developments like this are:

"I cried when I got this place. I'd applied for a number of places and kept getting turned down. As a young woman and casual worker, it was hard to find somewhere within my budget that would take me. If I hadn't gotten this place, I'd probably be relying on family for a couch or spare room."

"If you're in a rough place or a situation you don't want to be in, there are people out there and organisations like YWCA who will help and give you a chance. I know there are other young women in Bendigo who could benefit from places like this."

About YWCA Housing

YWCA Housing is the only national women's housing provider in Australia with an affordable housing portfolio across metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria, as well as in Queensland and the Northern Territory. YWCA Housing is a subsidiary of YWCA Australia, a feminist organisation that provides housing and programs for women experiencing or at risk of homelessness

There are a lot of country people struggling with the price of rentals, especially single mums. If I wasn't living here, I'd be in a private rental - if I could find somewhere. So many people are struggling to find suitable affordable housing in Bendigo – Renter, YWCA Bendigo Affordable Housing Development

YWCA Housing is a member of the Community Housing Industry Association of Victoria (CHIA Vic), the peak body for the community housing sector in Victoria. CHIA Vic works to support the growth of community housing as the most effective and efficient means of ensuring more disadvantaged Victorians can enjoy the dignity of safe, secure and appropriate housing.