

# Marlborough Street Balaclava

## 46 new affordable homes for low-income households

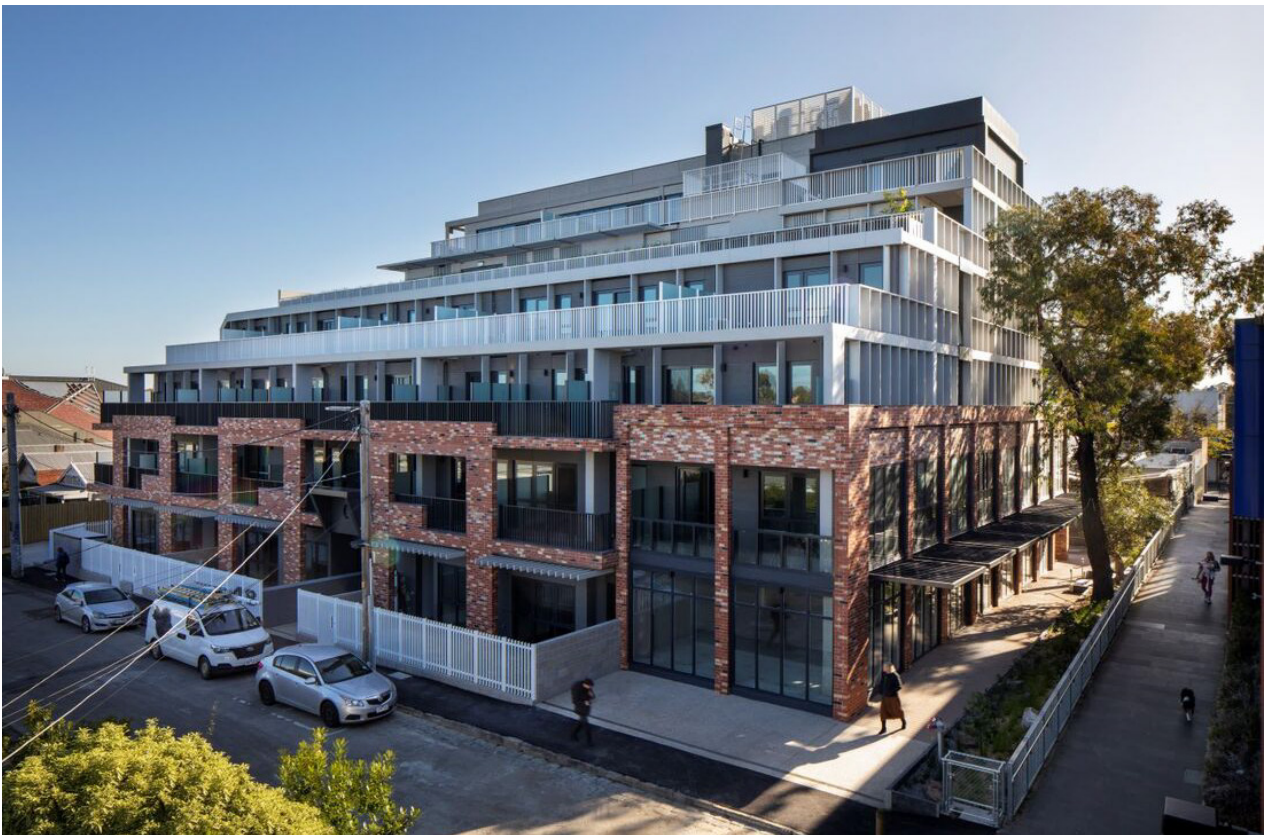
In October 2023, HousingFirst welcomed residents to their new homes in Marlborough Street, Balaclava. The homes are a mix of one, two and three-bedroom apartments offering diverse accommodation options to meet the needs of many types of renters.

The 46 architect-designed apartments have an 8.2- NatHERS rating and feature many environmentally sustainable and energy efficient elements, including naturally cross ventilated corridors, solar panels and passive shading techniques.

Residents can also enjoy a beautiful community terrace 'veggie garden', which provides a space to bring residents together.

The homes were available for people on the Victorian Housing Register (VHR), Victoria's single social housing waiting list. Residents are primarily older people, people living with a disability, and people escaping family violence.

The project is the result of a successful collaboration between registered community housing organisation HousingFirst and all three levels of government.



Marlborough St, Balaclava – apartment exterior

***“The creative thinking at the heart of this project, where a carpark has been transformed into 46 homes, can truly change not only spaces but lives.” – Cr Heather Cunsolo, City of Port Phillip Mayor***

The site, which is located close to shops and public transport, was previously a public car park. The City of Port Phillip (CoPP) donated the land to HousingFirst, who developed the site. In addition to the 46 social housing homes, the development also includes a ground floor space for a social enterprise, and a basement public car park which was transferred back to the CoPP.

The project was funded under the Victorian Government’s Building Works Package, and the Federal Government’s National Housing Infrastructure Facility (NHIF).

This project aligns with CoPP’s strategic direction outlined in their Council Plan 2021-31 and Affordable Housing Strategy, In Our Backyard – Growing Affordable Housing in the City of Port Phillip 2015 – 2025.

***“We want to foster a community with strong social connections, where people feel safer and welcome and have access to affordable housing and the information and services they need to support their health and wellbeing.” – City of Port Phillip***



*Marlborough St, Balaclava – community terrace*

## About HousingFirst

HousingFirst is an award-winning, regulated, not-for-profit organisation providing social housing to over 2000 people across Melbourne. Born from a community campaign in the 1980s to stem the loss of affordable housing within the City of Port Phillip, HousingFirst has since expanded to provide social housing in fifteen additional local government areas across Melbourne. In all developments HousingFirst strives to create a sense of place that residents can call home, build relationships with the surrounding community, and link with the full range of local services and opportunities to enable residents to thrive.



*Marlborough St Balaclava – apartment interior*



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HousingFirst 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.