

MEDIA RELEASE

CATHERINE HOUSE/HOUSING CHOICES MERGER

The merger of two organisations that support South Australian women, who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness, to access safe, affordable housing and recovery services will provide greater capacity to help a growing number of people in need.

Housing Choices South Australia (Housing Choices) and Catherine House can do more for women by working as one organisation than they can separately.

Announcing an intention to merge today, Julie Duncan, General Manager Housing Choices, and Linda Matthews, CEO Catherine House, agree this will build on the partnership that has developed between the two organisations over the last decade.

“Improving access to permanent housing will help alleviate the stress some of our clients face when they need to move because they are living in crisis accommodation. This will give women more time to focus on their recovery and prepare for their future,” Linda Matthews says.

“By working together, we will be better able to help the growing number of women, particularly older women experiencing homelessness, to access safe, quality, affordable long-term housing.”

Both organisations share a proud history of providing housing and support services.

Catherine House has been providing crisis accommodation and support services for women in SA since 1988.

Housing Choices is a national not-for-profit housing organisation with nearly 7,000 social and affordable homes for 8,500 residents across Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia, New South Wales, and Western Australia.

Julie Duncan says, “Housing Choices also run the internationally recognised Common Ground program, an intensive homelessness support response helping people to secure housing, sustain a tenancy, and improve their health and well-being”.

“With our experience in providing longer-term and permanent supportive housing and the specialist expertise at Catherine House in trauma and recovery practices, our goal is a more holistic support and recovery service for women exiting homelessness.”

“We will work to provide women a pathway into stable housing, while continuing to access Catherine House’s recovery-based support services.”

Both organisations will retain their names, with Housing Choices to take on the management of Catherine House from the start of 2021, subject to relevant consents being obtained.

For now, it will be ‘business as usual’ as Catherine House will continue to provide recovery-based services for women experiencing homelessness.

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Bringing the two organisations together will deliver a stronger specialist homelessness response and greater potential to secure long term, secure and affordable housing outcomes.

Catherine House and Housing Choices look forward to working together to ensure we continue to deliver effective services to South Australian women experiencing homelessness in the future.

END.

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