

TOGETHER HOME PARTNERSHIP TO HOUSE ROUGH SLEEPERS IN INNER SYDNEY & EASTERN SUBURBS

**For immediate release
3 August 2020**

A new NSW Government – community sector partnership in response to the COVID-19 pandemic will house an additional 45 rough sleepers and others experiencing homelessness in the Eastern Suburbs - Inner Sydney region.

Leading local community housing provider, Bridge Housing, will manage the partnership under the Together Home program and provide tenancy management services, sourcing suitable housing in the private rental market. Partners Mission Australia, St Vincent De Paul and Salvation Army will deliver support services to clients.

Together Home is a two-year \$36m statewide initiative to provide housing to rough sleepers currently staying in temporary accommodation or who have returned to the streets. Funding is provided to obtain leasehold properties managed by community housing providers and wrap around support services.

Bridge Housing CEO John Nicolades said: “We have significant experience in the delivery of homelessness programs through our leasehold portfolio and are currently delivering the Step To Home Program (to 50 people over a 4 -year period) in partnership with NEAMI National, Women’s Housing Company and Metro Housing.”

“Every additional person who can be found safe, secure housing with the support services to sustain their tenancies is less vulnerable to COVID-19 and has the chance to improve their health, wellbeing and life circumstances.”

Lesley Butt, State Manager Homelessness NSW/ACT at The Salvation Army, said: “We all want to end homelessness and provide people with long-term accommodation in communities of their choice, to sustain their tenancies with meaningful support for as long as they require.”

Kirsten Harmer, Mission Australia Regional Leader, Central Sydney said: “Mission Australia is pleased to partner in the Together Home program to ensure those most at risk of homelessness not only have a safe place to call home, but have the wrap-around supports they need. We look forward to walking alongside tenants to settle into their new homes, help them maintain their tenancies and work through any underlying challenges to break the cycle of chronic homelessness and support them on their journey towards long term independence.”

Niamh Mannion, Executive Director Services, St Vincent de Paul Society NSW, said: "The Together Home program provides a great opportunity to deliver a housing first response for some of the most vulnerable in our Society. It's an opportunity to provide safe and secure housing for those in need and the necessary support to be able to maintain this housing. This is a fantastic platform from which they can achieve their individual goals. St Vincent de Paul Society NSW welcomes the opportunity to partner with Bridge Housing in this much needed program and looks forward to assisting tenants to live safe fulfilling lives."

If you are the owner of a vacant rental property and want to help address homelessness while having your property professionally managed, we'd love to hear from you.

For more information:

Bridge Housing CEO John Nicolades: 0423 331 393

Bridge Housing COO Rebecca Pinkstone: 0431 292 046

About Bridge Housing

Bridge Housing is a leading NSW community housing organisation, managing some 3,500 tenancies across Greater Sydney for people on low to moderate incomes. We already manage some 529 tenancies in the Eastern Suburbs and 457 in the Sydney LGA.

Photo: Please credit the photographer, Jonathan Rados, if you choose to publish the attached free stock image from [Unsplash](https://unsplash.com).

English

If you need help to understand this letter please contact the Telephone Interpreters Service on 131450 and ask them to contact on 8324 0800 for you at no cost. You can also come to the Bridge Housing office and ask for assistance in your language.

Simplified Chinese

如果您理解这封信有困难, 请拨打电 话传译服务 131450 要求电话传译 服务替您拨打 Bridge Housing, 电话 8324 0800。这项服务是免费的。您也可以到 Bridge Housing 的办公室来。要求用您的语言来协助您。

Spanish

Si necesita ayuda para entender esta carta, por favor comuníquese con el Servicio Telefónico de Intérpretes al 131450 y solicite que lo contacten sin cargo con Bridge Housing al 8324 0800. También puede dirigirse a las oficinas de Bridge Housing y solicitar asistencia en su idioma.

Russian

Если для понимания содержания этого письма Вам необходима помощь, свяжитесь, пожалуйста, с Телефонной переводческой службой по номеру 131450 и попросите соединить Вас с Bridge Housing по номеру 8324 0800. За соединение платить не нужно. Кроме того, Вы можете лично посетить офис Bridge Housing и попросить об услугах переводчика.

Greek

Εάν χρειάζεστε βοήθεια για να κατανοήσετε την παρούσα επιστολή, παρακαλώ επικοινωνήστε με την Υπηρεσία Τηλεφωνικών Διερμηνέων στο 131450 και ζητήστε τους να επικοινωνήσουν με το 8324 0800 για εσάς χωρίς καμία χρέωση. Μπορείτε επίσης να επισκεφθείτε το γραφείο Bridge Housing και να ζητήσετε βοήθεια στη γλώσσα σας.

Vietnamese

Nếu cần người giúp để hiểu thư này xin quý vị liên hệ với Dịch Vụ Thông Ngôn Điện Thoại số 131450 và nhờ họ liên lạc với Bridge Housing qua số 8324 0800 cho quý vị một cách miễn phí. Quý vị cũng có thể đến Văn Phòng của Bridge Housing và xin giúp đỡ bằng ngôn-ngữ của quý-vị.

Arabic

إذا احتجت إلى مُساعدة في فهم هذه الرسالة رجاء الاتصال مع خدمة الترجمة الهاتفية على رقم 131450 واطلُب منهم أن يتصلوا لك بمكّتب على رقم 8324 0800 بدون تكلفة عليك. ويُمكّنك أيضا الحضور إلى مكّتب Bridge Housing وطلّب المُساعدة بلُغَتك.