

MEDIA RELEASE

MAJOR PHILANTHROPIC INVESTMENT IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING

For immediate release

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A community activist deeply concerned about Sydney's housing affordability crisis has gifted a significant donation to leading community housing provider Bridge Housing.

Former NSW Greens Member of Parliament, Sylvia Hale, has donated \$500,000 to Bridge to deliver more affordable housing to people struggling to find a home in what has become of one the world's most expensive cities.

Sylvia says: "Housing is absolutely essential for people's quality of life. Unless you have secure, adequate housing that meets your needs, your education suffers, your health suffers and your job prospects suffer."

"Housing affordability is at crisis point in this state and affordable housing is out of reach for many people. The failure of past and current governments to address the problem leaves me in despair. This is a personal contribution that I hope will highlight a situation that should shame any civilised community. Safe, secure, adequate housing is a human right, not an optional add-on," she says.

Sylvia is known as a social justice, community and environmental campaigner. She was a Greens member of the New South Wales Legislative Council from 2003 to 2010 and prior to that a Councillor of Marrickville Council. Sylvia was a founding partner of independent book publishers Hale & Iremonger.

Bridge Housing is a social and affordable housing provider with more than 1,600 housing tenancies across 18 local government areas in Sydney. The organisation provides homes for people from the street homeless through to key workers for the economy who cannot find affordable rental properties.

Bridge CEO John Nicolades says: "This extraordinarily generous donation from Sylvia is an investment in affordable housing that will deliver returns again and again. Bridge's model is to reinvest our capital and the rents we generate from tenants to build even more affordable housing."

Bridge will use the funds to help finance one of several new affordable and social housing developments it has in the planning stages to provide much needed affordable housing for 250 families across Sydney.

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