



## Media release

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# Swift action to house families fleeing violence and to provide crisis support to young people will make a real difference

The Victorian Government has made an important commitment of \$152.5 million over two years to quickly begin providing housing options to women, children and young people escaping violence.

“This fantastic recognition of the critical importance of housing options will enable women and young people to re-establish lives for themselves and their children free from violence”, says Council to Homeless Persons (CHP) CEO Jenny Smith.

“The Government’s commitment includes provision of 130 new social housing properties. This is a strong start on a longer term strategy to expand housing options, such as social housing to meet the needs of young people or women on low incomes.”

Also welcome is the commitment to:

- Safe at Home, headleasing and private rental brokerage to enable women and children to be rapidly rehoused or to remain safe in their current home
- \$25 million for new and upgraded crisis accommodation including:
  - two new youth homelessness accommodation facilities for young people in partnership with Melbourne City Mission and Hope Street Youth and Family Services
  - redevelopment and additional capacity at Ozanam House and Ozanam Community Centre in partnership with VincentCare
  - new crisis capacity in Footscray with McAuley Community Services for Women
- \$21 million for redevelopment of refuges to better meet the needs of a diversity of women and families exiting violence.

In Victoria in 2012-13 there were 25,104 women and children who sought help from homelessness services as a result of family violence. National figures show that more than 90 per cent of requests for long term housing by women and children experiencing domestic and family violence were unable to be met by homelessness services.

“Today’s swift commitment will improve the prospects for young people, women and children fleeing violence who face homelessness in Victoria”, says Jenny Smith.

“As these housing options are delivered we will continue to work with the Government to closely assess the quantum of resources and spread of housing options needed to ensure that no young people, or women and children in Victoria face homelessness as a consequence of violence.

[Ends] **Media enquiries:** contact Kate Colvin on 0418 103 292 or [kate@chp.org.au](mailto:kate@chp.org.au)  
Jenny Smith, CEO Council to Homeless Persons is available for interview