



MEDIA STATEMENT



Sector welcomes high quality care and accommodation for older Tasmanians in need.

1st October 2019

Shelter Tas and Council on the Ageing (COTA) Tasmania welcome progress on the next stage of Wirksworth, a much-needed aged care facility.

This award-winning aged care service provides integrated accommodation and support for older Tasmanians on low incomes, aged over 55 and meeting relevant aged care assessment criteria. Shelter Tas and COTA have lobbied for many years to bring this successful model to Tasmania.

“These proposed new homes will be an asset to our community. The facility enables older Tasmanians to live in safe supported accommodation close to essential services. The accommodation will be operated by Wintringham, a not-for-profit organisation with an outstanding reputation. The Wintringham model delivers great outcomes for residents and for their neighbourhoods. We have learned from our members how much communities have benefitted from similar projects”, Shelter Tas Chief Executive Officer, Pattie Chugg said.

“Older Tasmanians deserve well-designed and well-located homes for their later years. Shelter Tas and COTA have long called for a Wintringham development in Tasmania, and we are delighted to see this project taking shape in Clarence. It fits in perfectly with the ‘Age Friendly Community’ direction of Clarence Council”, COTA Chief Executive Officer, Sue Leitch said.

“This innovative aged care model has a proven track record in Victoria”, Ms Chugg said. “With more and more older Tasmanians living in housing stress and presenting to homelessness services, we desperately need more aged care places for people on low incomes.”

“With Tasmania’s aging population, this type of accommodation meets a critical need. Nearly one in five homeless people in Tasmania are aged over 55 years, and increasing numbers of older women are presenting for assistance”, Ms Leitch said.

“Shelter Tas and COTA would like to see this excellent initiative replicated throughout the state, to meet the needs of older citizens in all regions,” Ms Chugg said.

For more information and comment, contact:

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