



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

# Steve Whan MP

Member for Monaro  
Minister for Emergency Services  
Minister for Small Business



COUNTRY  
LABOR

## Media Release

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### **\$750,000 boost for those most in need in Queanbeyan**

Local MP Steve Whan today announced a **\$750,000** grant to HOME in Queanbeyan.

“This funding will provide a fantastic boost to the construction and operations of the HOME in Queanbeyan project, a fantastic community initiative which provides a supportive home for people with chronic mental illnesses, Steve Whan said.

“This funding is in addition to the **\$250,000** per annum the Rees Government has committed so that the local Area Health Service can provide additional mental health outreach support to HOME’s tenants.

“It’s hard to imagine anything worse than not having a place to call home and having to find a spot to sleep every night, but unfortunately that’s the harsh reality for too many people,” Steve Whan said.

“Its something that the Rees Government is taking very seriously because we believe good housing is a health need. This major investment will help fund 20 new homes for vulnerable locals with mental illnesses right here in Queanbeyan.”

“We must also acknowledge the efforts of my Federal Colleague, Mike Kelly, who was successful in securing **\$2 million** in funding from the Rudd Government for HOME, and the efforts of the community who have raised over **\$750,000** to date.

“The support of the local community for this project is overwhelming, and I am pleased the NSW Government is able to show its support as well, Steve Whan said.

Speaking at the official sod-turning ceremony today, Steve Whan said construction is expected to be completed in 12 months.

“The complex is located on the corner of Crawford and Rutledge Streets and will comprise of 20 one-bedroom en-suite rooms catering for 18 semi permanent residents (over various terms) and two respite care suites, Steve Whan said.

“Communal dining and lounge rooms will also be provided along with administration and service areas.

“HOME really do a fantastic job and they identified an urgent need for medium and long term non-institutional supported accommodation for the chronically mentally ill in Queanbeyan.

“HOME will provide a place where these people can live with the dignity and support they deserve. This project is an example of the NSW Government’s commitment to increasing availability of housing for those most in need in our community.

“I’d like to thank all those involved in getting the HOME in Queanbeyan project to where it is today, particularly the local Board Members.

HOME in Queanbeyan Co-Chair Fr Peter Day welcomed the funding from the NSW Government, saying it will be a tremendous boost to the project.

“This is wonderful news for HOME and the additional funding is the difference between us building just 12 apartments as opposed to the desired twenty, Fr Day said.

“Furthermore, it also helps ensure our long-term viability by freeing-up other monies we’ve raised which can now be directed towards ongoing commitments.

“On behalf of the HOME Board, I'd like to acknowledge Minister Whan's personal and compassionate commitment to this initiative; a commitment of over three years in which he has 'knocked down doors' on our behalf in order for HOME to become a reality.

“We are also very appreciative of NSW Housing Minister David Borger for his leadership and willingness to say 'Yes' to people who too often get told 'No' - our mums, our dads; our brothers, our sisters; and our sons and daughters who are left to battle mental illness in isolation, Fr Day said.