

MEDIA RELEASE
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**Home in
Queanbeyan**
Patron: The Hon Sir William Deane

Anglican Church says 'Yes' to HOME building on its land

HOME in Queanbeyan Inc (HOME) has taken another major step towards becoming a reality with the local Anglican Church generously backing a move for HOME to be built on a parcel of land it owns in central Queanbeyan (cnr Rutledge and Crawford Sts).

For some time, HOME has been looking for a site on which to build a residential facility for the homeless (and chronically) mentally ill. This search has centred on negotiations with the NSW Government and local indigenous groups over a parcel of Crown land in Erin Street, Queanbeyan.

Notwithstanding the co-operation from both parties, there have been significant on-going delays and uncertainties associated with the site. And, given the pressing need confronting the homeless mentally ill *now*, the Board of HOME Inc resolved to pursue, as a matter of urgency, an alternative site.

'We also felt that, given the outstanding community support for HOME (over \$400,000 raised), along with the Federal Government's \$2m commitment to assist with construction, there was a real imperative to act,' Father Peter Day, founder of the HOME proposal and Board member said.

'And, to cut a long story short, thanks to the wonderful support of the Queanbeyan and District Anglican Parish community, this means HOME should become a reality sooner rather than later.'

The new site is very well located: it's central; close to essential services; and in attractive surroundings. The immediate next steps to ensure HOME is realised will focus on a consultation phase.

'We are very mindful of the need to consult with the community about this proposal. We also intend to respect the heritage of the hall located on the site by re-using it as a central feature of HOME,' Fr Day said.

'If the feasibility of this site can be confirmed after broad community consultation, construction of HOME could be underway by the end of this year. That's very exciting because this is so desperately needed.'

For more information contact: Fr Peter Day 0407 914 341

About HOME

HOME will provide 24 hour supported accommodation for our most vulnerable citizens: a place where people with chronic mental illness will be afforded the care, love and dignity they deserve in a safe, community environment. HOME will be a residential facility – not an institution or hospital – with 18-20 self-contained, one-bedroom units (16-18 medium and long-term units and 2 respite).

Importantly, HOME is a community initiative. One in which the citizens of Queanbeyan have had the courage to say: "enough is enough; no more," to the plight of the homeless mentally ill. To this end, what we are proposing is not an option but, as our Patron, Sir William Deane, says: it's a must.

In a nutshell, HOME will gently and persistently love people back into life.

Website: homeinqueanbeyan.org