

Media Release



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\$36 million Catherine House project a step closer to completion

A \$14.4 million investment by the Malinauskas Government is helping deliver a new \$36 million Catherine House development in Adelaide's CBD, providing more safe accommodation and vital support services for South Australian women experiencing homelessness.

The New Generation Catherine House project has reached another major milestone, with the eight-storey building topping out and moving another step closer to completion.

The development will deliver 52 new apartments, including 20 crisis accommodation apartments and 32 social housing apartments, alongside dedicated recovery and support services.

The Malinauskas Government is contributing \$14.4 million through the Community Housing Accelerator Fund and has also supported the purchase of the \$2.9 million development site.

The project is being delivered through a partnership involving the South Australian and Australian Governments, Catherine House and Housing Choices South Australia, with additional support from Housing Australia and philanthropic donors.

The development will provide crisis and longer-term accommodation for women experiencing homelessness, many of whom have escaped violent relationships.

For the first time, women accessing Catherine House accommodation will have self-contained apartments with private bathrooms, kitchens and laundry facilities, providing greater privacy, independence and dignity.

The new 24/7 facility will bring accommodation and specialist support services together under one roof, including:

- An on-site Women's Respite and Recovery Centre.
- Dedicated education and computer training spaces.
- Counselling, health and wellbeing support.
- Employment pathways and personal development programs.
- Shared kitchens, meeting rooms and activity areas.
- Secure outdoor gardens and communal spaces.

The development will significantly expand Catherine House's capacity to support women and their families, building on the specialist services the organisation has provided since 1988.

Domestic, family and sexual violence remains a leading cause of homelessness among women, highlighting the importance of providing safe accommodation alongside specialist services to help women recover and rebuild their lives.

In South Australia, women accounted for 60 per cent of specialist homelessness service clients as of June 2026.

During 2025–26:

- Domestic, family and sexual violence was the second most common presenting issue for people accessing specialist homelessness services, accounting for 26 per cent.
- 81 per cent of clients experiencing or at risk of homelessness due to domestic, family and sexual violence were female.
- Around one in four people experiencing or at risk of homelessness due to domestic, family and sexual violence were children aged 0–14.

Older women are also the fastest-growing group experiencing homelessness, often facing a combination of domestic and family violence, financial hardship and relationship breakdown.

Catherine House receives approximately 180 self-referrals and 40 agency referrals each month.

The new development will be managed by Housing Choices and Catherine House, providing women with safe accommodation and access to case management, health services, counselling, financial and legal assistance, education and employment pathways.

Being built by Hindmarsh Constructions, the project is expected to be completed in early 2027.

The \$36 million project is supported through a combination of government investment, Housing Australia financing, land equity and philanthropic contributions.

In addition to the State Government's \$14.4 million investment, the project has received \$8 million from the Australian Government's Safe Places Inclusion Round, \$3.8 million in Catherine House philanthropic support and \$2.5 million in land equity from Housing Choices South Australia.

Housing Australia is also supporting the project through loans and availability payments over 25 years.

Quotes attributable to Katrine Hildyard

Every woman deserves to feel and be safe, to live with dignity and to have somewhere secure to call home, a foundation from which she can thrive.

Today marks another important step toward making that a reality for more South Australian women, particularly those escaping violence and experiencing homelessness.

Having somewhere safe to go can be the difference between a woman remaining in a violent relationship and having the opportunity to leave. Women should never have to choose one or the other.

This new Catherine House will provide much more than a roof over someone's head. It will provide safety, specialist support and the opportunity for women to heal, recover, rebuild their lives and look toward a better future.

Our government is determined to tackle domestic, family and sexual violence, its intersection with homelessness and all of the intersecting issues that women confront, and investing in safe accommodation and recovery services is an important part of that work.

We are proud to support this project and deeply grateful to Catherine House, Housing Choices, the Australian Government and everyone who has helped bring it to this important milestone.

Quotes attributable to Alice Rolls

We know that women and children are disproportionately impacted by domestic and family violence, and too often that violence leads to homelessness.

This project recognises that safe and secure housing is a critical part of ensuring victim-survivors have access to accommodation options that support their safety.

The Royal Commission made it clear that safe and secure housing is critical for women leaving domestic and family violence. Without a stable home, it becomes much harder for victim-survivors to access support, heal, and recover.

The South Australian Government continues to deliver on its commitment to strengthen access to safe and affordable housing, and I am so proud of what the partnership between the South Australian Government, Catherine House, the

Australian Government, and Housing Choices has been able to achieve in this remarkable facility.