

**HOBART CITY MISSION 'COMING HOME' PROGRAM  
NEW ACCOMMODATION UNITS  
SPEECH BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
15 DONTAY DRIVE, ROKEBY, MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2023**

Thank you, Harvey [Lennon, CEO, introduced HE].

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community and recognise their enduring culture and continued connection to land, sea and waters.

It is an honour for me as your Governor and as Patron of our Hobart City Mission to officially open these 15 units. The units are the outcome of the Coming Home housing program, which aims to provide long-term accommodation for men, aged 45 and over, who have experienced homelessness.

The construction of these units was completed in July 2023. Twelve of the one or two-bedroom units are part of the Coming Home program, with another three units designed for persons with disability.

Construction was supported by State Government funding, and a significant bequest to support older men facing homelessness. The importance of both these sources of funding cannot be underestimated. We all know of the limited emergency and tenancy accommodation that is available in Tasmania.

I understand that the ongoing costs of the Coming Home program will be funded through donations from generous supporters. These donations say much about the value of and respect for our Hobart City Mission.

The *Impact Report 2023*, states we have, I quote,

“a supportive place for people as they move out of homelessness,” with “a support worker on-site to help tenants settle in and connect them with important services and community groups.”<sup>1</sup>

The Coming Home program is also geared to assist residents in seeking employment or undertaking adult learning; helping them reconnect with family; and, helping to deal with the complexities of substance dependence and other health issues.

Don and I have been fortunate to be involved with the work of our HCM. Over the past 18 months, this includes attending and officially opening ten new supported accommodation units in Chigwell in March 2022.

In June last year we hosted a musical fundraising evening for HCM.

And, in November last year, we hosted a reception to mark your 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary and to launch Dianne Snowden’s excellent book, *Always There: Hobart City Mission 1852-2022*.

At that launch, I referred to today’s HCM as a flourishing Hobart-based social safety net operating as a sound and profitable business organisation. Aligning these two parts cannot always have been easy. Congratulations were given to John Minchin, Board Chair and fellow Board members, CEO Harvey Lennon and all the management team.

Congratulations to you all – as we admire these new units of your Coming Home program.

Importantly, may I wish all the very best to the all the residents.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> *Impact Report 2023* page 18.