



The Victorian  
Homeless Fund

*"To relieve and prevent homelessness in Victoria"*

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019

MEDIA RELEASE

## **Hon. Richard Wynne opens 'Brian O'Donnell House'**

*A Victorian family in need is set to move into a new home thanks to the Victorian Homeless Fund and its supporters.*

The Victorian Homeless fund is pleased to today officially open its latest newly built home - 'Brian O'Donnell House'.

The home in Ashwood was officially opened by the Minister for Planning, Housing and Multicultural Affairs, Hon. Richard Wynne.

Chair of the Fund, Colleen May said that the house had generously been built by SJD Homes, led by Director Simon Dunstan.

Colleen added that the house will be donated to Women's Property Initiatives, who will provide an ongoing home to a female led family in need.

"This home has been developed through the tireless work of the Victorian Homeless Fund - a group of volunteers supported by the Housing Industry Association (HIA) who work year-round to assist the homeless by building and renovating houses" she said. Our mission is to "build a house and give away a home".

"The entire team at the Victorian Homeless Fund is continually humbled by the overwhelming generosity and support of organisations such as SJD Homes and the extensive group of donors, suppliers and trades who have made this project possible."

We have named the home to honour our former committee member, Brian O'Donnell who was also a HIA National Board Member and Life Member of the Housing Industry Association.

Simon Dunstan, Managing Director of SJD Homes said that all of the team at SJD Homes are very proud to be involved in this project, supporting families in need and providing a home to those at risk of homelessness.

"A sincere thank you to the Victorian Homeless Fund for giving us this opportunity" he said.

The keys to the home were presented to CEO of Women's Property Initiatives, Jeanette Large. "We are delighted that due to the outstanding work of the Victorian Homeless Fund, the beautiful Brian O'Donnell House will provide a new beginning for a deserving family" she said.

Minister for Planning and Housing, the Hon. Richard Wynne said "This home will make a real difference to the lives of women and children by giving them secure, long-term accommodation when they urgently need it."



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### **About the Victorian Homeless Fund**

The VHF was founded in 1987, the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, and is an independent charitable organisation with the sole purpose to work in the area of homelessness in Victoria.

The VHF aims not only to relieve homelessness but also to prevent homelessness by contributing housing stock where it is needed. The VHF partners with community and charitable agencies that deliver services to those in need and have the capacity to administer the properties. Through the work of the VHF, long-term and transitional housing has been provided for an estimated 300 people, predominately families. Funding is generously donated from philanthropic organisations, companies and individuals.

The Victorian Homeless Fund is proud that 100% of funding sourced is used directly on projects.

The organisation is managed by a volunteer committee of dedicated people, with the Housing Industry Association (HIA) providing administrative support. The VHF aims to provide housing options so that families can get back on their feet, children can get back to school and the cycle of poverty can be broken.