

Media Release

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Partnership to support older men at risk of homelessness becomes official

Melbourne Archbishop Peter Comensoli has formally endorsed the merger of two Catholic organisations as they unite to support older men at risk of homelessness.

VMCH and Corpus Christi Community Greenvale (CCCG) announced their intention to merge in August, following a year of collaborating on the best way forward to secure the future of CCCG.

CCCG is a residential care home around 20kms north of Melbourne that provides accommodation and support for marginalised older men with a history of homelessness, complex health needs, or addiction. CCCG was founded by Mother Teresa in 1974 and then supported by the Jesuits and Sisters of Mercy under the auspices of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne.

The vital need for specialised homes like CCCG is clear, with one in seven people (16%) aged 55 and over experiencing homelessness (2021 Census). Studies have also shown the duration of substance use problems is often prolonged in the homeless population, because their social networks may perpetuate alcohol and other drug problems (Johnson & Chamberlain 2008).

VMCH Chair Julien O'Connell AO and CCCG Chair Tom Barry say they are proud to unite and ensure the critical work of CCCG will now continue for years to come. The two organisations have a long history of working together, both guided by Catholic social teaching.

"We share a common mission and values to deliver compassionate care for people in need, particularly the vulnerable and marginalised," Mr O'Connell AO said.

"VMCH's fantastic reach and resources within the aged, disability and affordable housing and community services sectors will be an asset to CCCG residents."

Mr Barry said as Australia's housing crisis grows, it is "important to ensure CCCG's specialist work continues for those affected by homelessness and disadvantage and is strengthened within a highly experienced and well-resourced organisation".

The merger will bring the governance and operations of CCCG and VMCH together, whilst leveraging and retaining the unique strengths of each organisation.

A Transition Committee has been established, including members of the CCCG Board, management, and residents, along with VMCH representatives.

The merger is expected to take full effect by the end of 2023.

Media enquiries

Cassie Zlonzak

Communications Manager

M: 0402 422 852

E: cassie.zlonzak@vmch.com.au

About CCCG

Corpus Christi Community, Greenvale is inspired by a determination that everyone should feel valued and supported by their society, and to age with respect and care.

Over the past 49 years, our life-changing mission has reached out to some of the most marginalised and vulnerable in the Melbourne community – and at the heart of our work, you'll find the men who had the courage to make a fresh start, amidst community, kindness and friendship.

Learn more: <https://corpuscc.org.au>

About VMCH

Here at VMCH, our services are as diverse as the people we support.

Our values underpin the work we do. As a Catholic, for-purpose organisation, compassion, respect and inclusion aren't just words to us, they guide us in everything we do.

While we've been around for over a century, we're always moving forward. Always staying true to who we are by supporting people and families to live their best lives; providing a place to call home and spaces to learn and grow.

Our professional and compassionate teams are with you on your life journey; helping you with a wide range of support from early learning and therapy, specialist education, disability services, affordable homes, residential aged care, retirement living and at-home aged care.

