

## MEDIA RELEASE

# VMCH opens world-class retirement precinct

VMCH is proud to welcome residents into its highly-anticipated, world-class retirement living precinct, St. Clare, Kew.

A flagship \$250 million project for VMCH, St. Clare encompasses 103 luxury retirement residences and communal spaces within restored and repurposed heritage buildings, in the highly sought-after Studley Park.

VMCH CEO Sonya Smart says St. Clare is the biggest project undertaken by the for-purpose Catholic organisation.

“After years of planning and hard work, it’s wonderful to see the vision of St. Clare come to life and residents preparing to celebrate their first Christmas in their new home. Watching the community come together has been a proud moment for everyone involved. What’s made this journey truly special is the involvement of residents from the very beginning – seeing them now enjoy the homes that once existed only on paper is fabulous.”

Designed by Woods Bagot and built by Hacer Group, St. Clare sets a new benchmark for over-55s living. Inspired by Kew’s grand mansard-roofed homes, the spacious apartments are complemented by 50% open space, including St. Clare Green, vegetable gardens and a private dog park.

St. Clare meets a vital gap in the local market for premium retirement living, reflected in its exceptional sales. Over 85% of apartments were reserved at opening, including a record-breaking price of \$5.1 million for a penthouse.

Residents, who began moving in on 1 December, enjoy premium amenities including a magnesium pool, wellness centre, cinema, library, restaurant, two bars, private dining rooms and a golf simulator – complemented by hotel-style services such as a concierge, Wellness Manager and 24-hour staffing.

VMCH Board Chairman Julien O’Connell AO says retirement living projects like St. Clare help the organisation generate vital capital to deliver on its mission-based projects, such as affordable homes for older people on low incomes.

“Residents moving into St. Clare have made a philanthropic impact, as their decision leaves a lasting legacy for vulnerable people in our community.”

Mr O'Connell also expressed his gratitude to builder, Hacer Group. "In particular Mr Vin Sammartino, whose leadership and commitment have been instrumental in driving the success of this project and achieving outstanding outcomes."

New residents, Claire and John Fitzgerald, say the move has exceeded expectations.

"Our apartment is exactly what we were hoping for, and more," says Claire. "We were 'gob smacked'; the size, layout, colour coordination, and quality of the finishes and appliances. We are also fortunate to have an expansive terrace, which we will love."

"We've already connected with so many neighbours," added John. "Everyone's excited, and the social events have been fantastic. Some of us have suggested parties may be prevalent, well, it is community living!"

As Christmas approaches, the couple looks forward to celebrating with their new community.

"We'll be with family on the day, but it'll be lovely to share a toast with neighbours beforehand. It already feels like home."

## Media enquiries

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## 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, love, joy, courage and hospitality 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.