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A Place to Call Home: CatholicCare Victoria Winter Appeal invites the faithful to respond to homelessness

Melbourne, May 2026 – As winter approaches, CatholicCare Victoria is inviting the faithful to respond with compassion to people experiencing homelessness through its 2026 Winter Appeal.

At the heart of this year's Appeal is Ken, whose story reflects how quickly life can change, and how hope can be restored through the care of others.

After the loss of his wife to cancer, Ken's life began to unravel. Grief took hold, his mental health declined, he left work, and he eventually lost his home.

"I just could never, ever see myself being homeless," he said.

"I lost me," he said.

For a time, Ken was sleeping rough, facing each day with uncertainty and isolation.

"You're always on edge," he said.

Through CatholicCare Victoria, Ken was welcomed into safe housing and supported as he began to rebuild his life.

"Without that support, I don't know where I would've ended up," he said.

Today, he has a home of his own and renewed hope for the future.

Ken's experience reflects a broader reality across our community.

Homelessness is not always visible. It includes families living in cars, women fleeing violence, and individuals facing crisis after loss, illness or family breakdown.

Last year, more than 500 people were supported through CatholicCare Victoria's housing and homelessness programs.

The Appeal also highlights the importance of accompaniment and lived experience.

Jeremy Gunning, a Peer Support Worker at CatholicCare Victoria, draws on his own experience of homelessness to walk alongside others.

“When I was homeless, someone showed up and gave me a chance,” he said. “Now I get to do the same for others.”

CatholicCare Victoria CEO Agnes Sheehan said the Appeal is an opportunity to live out a call to care for those most in need.

“We are called to respond with compassion to those who are vulnerable in our community,” Ms Sheehan said.

“Through the generosity of the faithful, we can offer not just shelter, but dignity, care and the chance to begin again.”

To learn more and support CatholicCare Victoria’s 2026 Winter Appeal, visit: [Winter Appeal - CatholicCare Victoria](#)

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