

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **A POWERFUL ADVOCATE FOR HOUSING VULNERABLE WOMEN**

The Women's Housing Company has appointed as its new patron a high-profile woman with a passion for addressing the risk of homelessness facing many women.

The Hon Ros Kelly AO will work with the Board and leadership team to create awareness of the challenges women face in the housing market, raise the profile of the Women's Housing Company and help pursue opportunities to expand our work and social impact.

A trailblazing Minister in the Hawke-Keating Governments and the first female minister in the House of Representatives, Ms Kelly has been a director on a number of not-for-profit Boards, and has a long-standing commitment to supporting women.

WHC Chair Alice Spizzo said: "We are thrilled to have Ros accept this new honorary role to promote the Women's Housing Company and the important work it does to advocate for more housing and homelessness services for women."

In NSW alone there are over 50,000 applicants on the waiting list for social housing, and older women are the fastest growing cohort of people nationally experiencing homelessness. Today's housing crisis is outstripping existing service providers' resources.

Ms Kelly said: "Every woman needs a home, and this need has never been more difficult to meet than today, especially for older women and women escaping domestic violence".

"I want to be part of the solution and galvanise others to act, by helping the Women's Housing Company to meet head-on the housing crisis of our time. This means securing funds and expanding the Company's capacity to deliver more homes and to do so faster because today's need is so great and growing daily."

The Women's Housing Company is a community housing provider, registered under the National Regulatory System for Community Housing and operates as a charity. Last year, the Company housed almost 1,700 women and children, as well as supporting over 300 homeless women.

The Hon Ros Kelly AO is a former member of the House of Representatives where she served from 1980 to 1995, holding various ministries at a time when women were just starting to be heard in the corridors of power in Canberra.

For further information:

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