



*40 Years of Service*

Empowering Women

## Acknowledgement of Country

The Women's Housing Company acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we operate and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging

For 40 years the Women's Housing Company has helped women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness



# Who we are

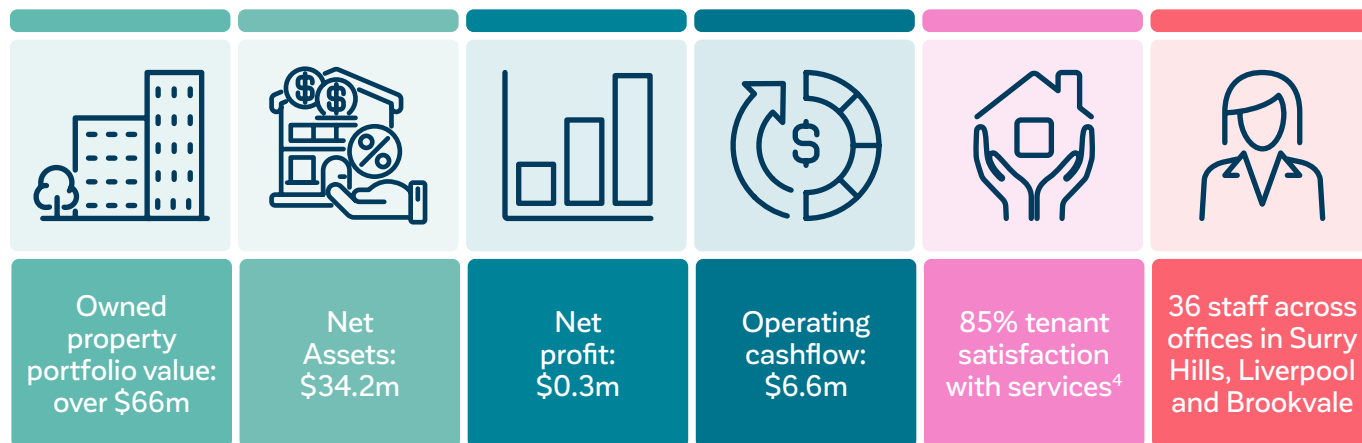
The Women's Housing Company empowers women to improve their lives through the provision of housing that is affordable.

A passionate champion for women left out of the housing market, our organisation works with integrity, respect, courage, collaboration and focus to provide quality, safe and stable housing and homelessness services for women.

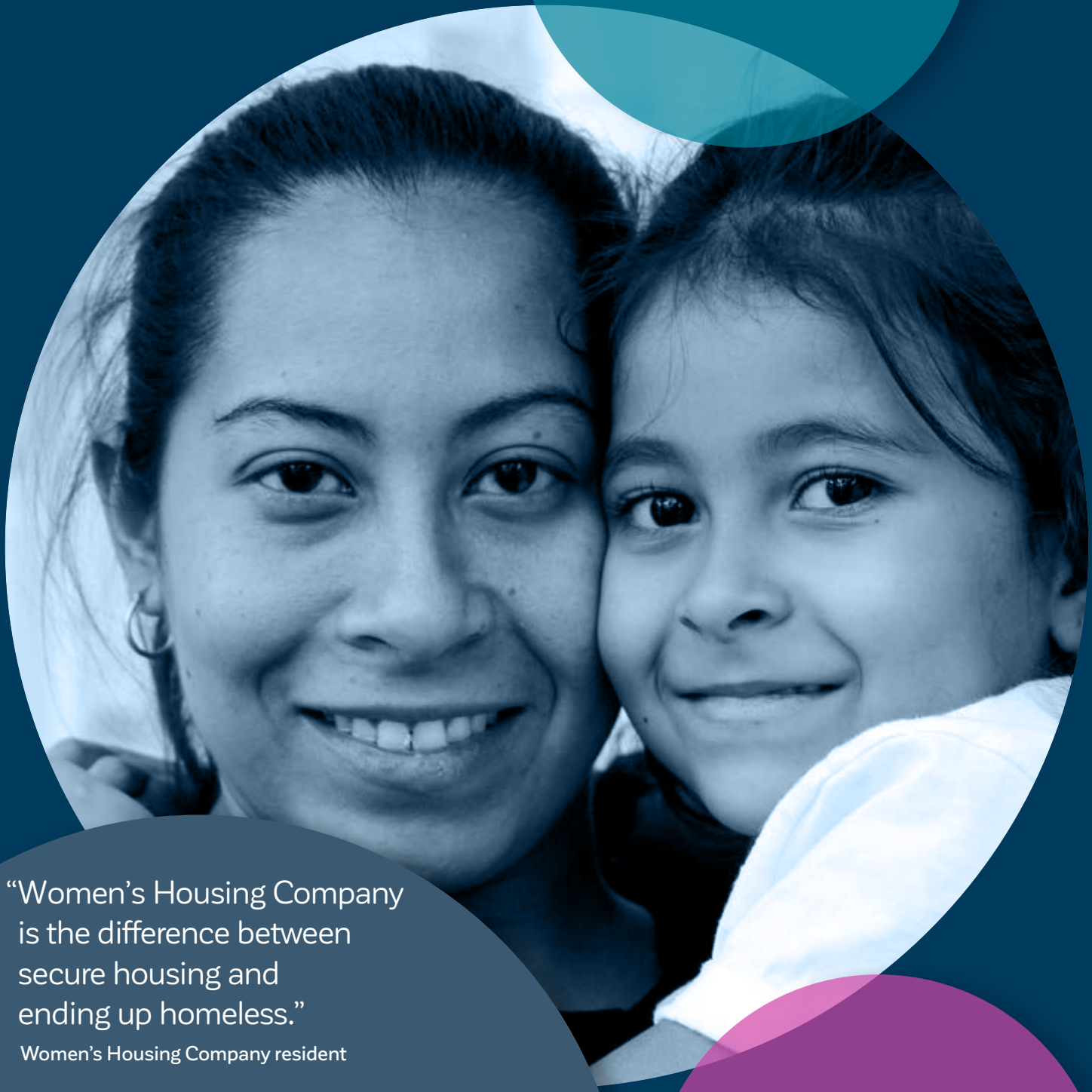
We are:

- 40 years young
- the largest specialist housing provider in Australia
- an ACNC<sup>1</sup> registered charity
- nationally regulated as a top-tier housing organisation<sup>2</sup>
- governed by an experienced, skills-based Board
- managed by a team of housing experts.

## Snapshot<sup>3</sup>



1. Australian Charities and not-for-profits Commission 2. National Regulatory System for Community Housing 3. 2020-21 financials 4. 2021 Tenant Satisfaction Survey



“Women’s Housing Company  
is the difference between  
secure housing and  
ending up homeless.”

Women’s Housing Company resident

# What we are dealing with

The Women's Housing Company client group faces unprecedented challenges in finding safe, secure and affordable homes.

- 50,000-plus approved applicants on the NSW social housing waiting list are waiting up to 10 years for housing<sup>1</sup>
- Single older women are the fastest growing group experiencing homelessness<sup>2</sup>
- Domestic and family violence is a leading driver of homelessness for women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds<sup>3</sup>
- Virtually no homes in Greater Sydney are affordable for renters on low and very low incomes.<sup>4</sup>

*"Housing affordability is the biggest risk to women finding safe and secure accommodation for themselves and their children."*

**Chair Alice Spizzo**

# Who we help

The Women's Housing Company houses almost 1,100 women, along with their children across Greater Sydney, the Hunter and Coffs Harbour.

Our resident community embraces women aged 18-96, including some of the most housing-vulnerable women:

- Older, single women
- Women and their children escaping domestic violence
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women
- Culturally and linguistically diverse women
- Women living with disability
- Young women.

*"If it wasn't for you, I would have been on the street with my three children."*

**Women's Housing Company resident**



“When I was in need of help  
Women’s Housing Company  
were the only ones there for me.”

Women’s Housing Company resident

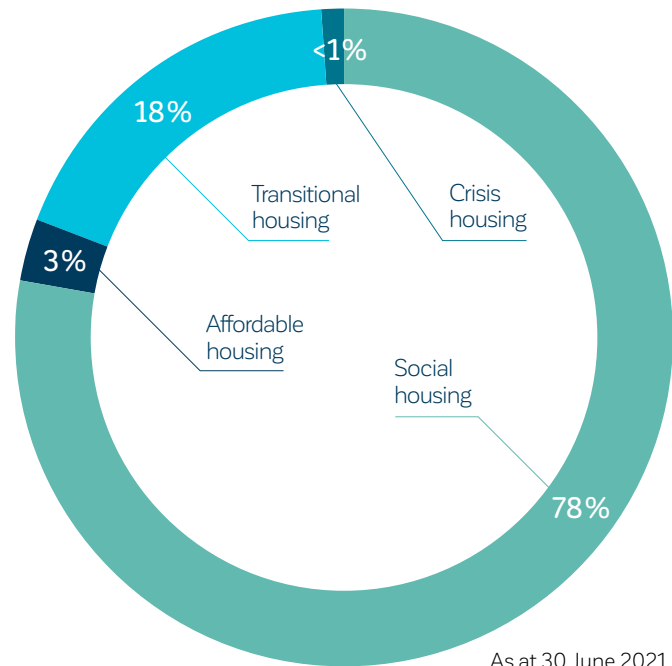


# What we do

We make a difference to the lives of vulnerable women by:

- Housing women on very low to moderate incomes who cannot afford market housing
- Preventing and responding to women's homelessness
- Connecting women to support and communities
- Creating pathways to employment and opportunity
- Providing a safe haven for women at risk of violence
- Advocating for women.

**The Women's Housing Company provides accommodation to eligible women across the housing spectrum.**



# How we work

**The Women's Housing Company drives a sustainable business to secure our future and that of the women we house.**

We develop five-year Strategic Plans and annual Business Plans to guide our activities and investments, and to be transparent and accountable for our performance.

We partner with other organisations that share our values to achieve our business objectives and support residents to sustain their tenancies and lead fulfilling lives.

We explore all avenues to source more housing that is affordable, including new housing ventures with developers, purchase of existing housing stock, contracts with Government to manage social housing, leaseholds in the private market, and fee-for-service arrangements with local government and others.

We compete for and win Government contracts to extend our reach and impact. Since 2014 we have managed homelessness services for women in the south west of Sydney for the NSW Government, providing crisis accommodation for women escaping domestic violence and supporting women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

We innovate to problem solve housing challenges and to continuously improve our performance and impact.

We are strong advocates for women with Government, the private sector and in the community to shape policy and programs, seek investment in their futures, and call out injustice.





“You have helped me grow  
more than you will ever know.”

Women’s Housing Company resident

“Homelessness does not discriminate.  
Anyone can find themselves in that situation.”

Women’s Housing Company resident

### Karen’s story

*“The beginning of my homelessness journey began when I became redundant. I was not on a waiting list. I didn’t even think of putting myself on a waiting list. I really didn’t think it would be an issue to re-enter the workforce but it was.”*



# Housing for women

## Older women's housing development February 2020

The Pendle Hill Project is home to 22 women aged 55 and over. The Women's Housing Company worked with the NSW Government, developer Blue Sox and Cumberland Council on this collaborative model for the not-for-profit, government and development sectors to address the housing shortage for older women.



# Housing for women

**Award-winning  
housing design  
August 2017**

The Woolloomooloo Women's Housing Project is home to 20 women. It is a life-changing sanctuary in the inner city that fosters social connection and neighbourhood. A partnership project with the NSW Land and Housing Corporation, it won an Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) 2020 Award for Excellence in Affordable Housing.





# Housing for women

## Northern Beaches portfolio management August 2019

The Women's Housing Company manages 151 homes for women on the Northern Beaches for the NSW Government under its Social Housing Management Transfer Program in a partnership with Bridge Housing. This major portfolio transfer evidenced our capacity to operate at scale, develop new service delivery systems and partnerships, and to manage portfolio growth of 18 per cent.






“The solution to women’s homelessness is more housing. It’s as simple as that.”

CEO Debbie Georgopoulos



### Bee’s story

*“Never in a moment did I think I would be homeless. After my marriage broke down, I got diagnosed with breast cancer and my whole world changed. For the last 5 years, I have been living in a permanent WHC unit. Housing needs to be available to women of all ages.”*



The Women's Housing Company cannot be successful alone. If you would like to support the life changing work we do, talk to us about the many ways you can get involved, such as:

- Individual donations and bequests
- Philanthropic partnerships
- Corporate sponsorships

Homeless women in Australia are the women we know. Our mothers, our aunties, our neighbours, our sisters. It can happen to anyone.

Empowering women to improve their lives  
through the provision of housing that is affordable



**women's**  
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