



ONE YEAR ON

>>>>>>>



Homes
HOUSING PROVIDER



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

YWCA Canberra proudly recognises the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to own and control their cultures and pays our respects to these rights. YWCA Canberra acknowledges the need to respect and encourage the diversity of Indigenous cultures and to respect Indigenous worldviews, lifestyles and customary laws. We extend our respect to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who for thousands of years have preserved their culture and practices of their communities on Country. This land was never surrendered, and we acknowledge that it always was and will continue to always be Aboriginal Land.



Dear members, supporters, and friends,

Safe, stable, and affordable housing is a fundamental right –not a privilege. That’s why we are so proud of YHomes.

As a key pillar of our social housing efforts, YHomes Housing Provider marks the next step in our commitment to supporting older women facing homelessness, survivors of domestic violence, and their children. By providing secure housing, we are not only offering shelter but also creating a foundation for residents to rebuild their lives with access to essential resources and support networks.

Since its launch on 14 December 2023, YHomes has provided much-needed housing for vulnerable women and their families. But there is still more work to do. With your support, we can continue expanding our impact and ensuring more women and children have a safe place to call home.

We look forward to working together to make this vision a reality.

Frances Crimmins
Chief Executive Officer

**Total nights YHomes
has provided:**



3,412

► ONE YEAR ON

YHomes is more than bricks and mortar. It's a catalyst for positive change, addressing the urgent need for appropriate and affordable housing while fostering stronger, more inclusive communities. With every step forward, we reinforce our dedication to social equity and justice, ensuring that women at risk of homelessness are given not just a place to live, but a place to thrive.



► HISTORY

As a feminist, not-for-profit organisation, YWCA Canberra has a rich history of supporting women and girls since 1929. The opening of Leave House in 1942 by Lady Gowrie as a temporary weatherboard hostel marked the start of YWCA Canberra's enduring commitment to providing safe accommodation, ultimately housing 18,000 women until its closure. Since then, our accommodation options have expanded to meet the diverse needs of women and girls in the Canberra region. The land for YHomes was purchased in 1993. With housing affordability and availability as longstanding issues in Canberra, YWCA Canberra has been actively engaged in advocating for housing solutions and creating supportive environments for girls and women.

ONE YEAR ON...

Number of women
accommodated

 **17**

122

Nights of Emergency
Accommodation
provided



Number of women
housed with children

11 

Number of women
moved into stable
home post-YHomes

100%



Total nights
YHomes provided

3,412



Number of
children assisted

17 

Number of nights
YHomes at full
capacity

98.5%



Average
length of stay

111
days



► CASE STUDY: JESS' JOURNEY TO STABILITY

In December 2023, Jess and her two young children, aged one and three, entered YWCA Canberra's safer places program while fleeing domestic violence. Relocating during the end-of-year period came with immense challenges, but with the support of the program's dedicated team, Jess and her children were able to settle into a safe and stable environment.

YWCA Canberra's safer places accommodation program provides short-term housing for up to six months, offering women and their families the security they need to begin rebuilding their lives. With stable accommodation and wraparound support, Jess was able to return to work, gradually increasing her hours to full-time employment.

Finding long-term housing remains one of the biggest challenges for women leaving crisis situations. Despite facing multiple rejections in the competitive private rental market, Jess persisted—attending inspections, submitting applications, and working closely with support services. Ultimately, she secured a home in her preferred location, ensuring stability for her children.

Jess' story highlights the vital role of safer places accommodation in helping women regain independence after experiencing crisis. With the right support and safe housing, women and their families can move forward and rebuild their futures.

(Name changed for privacy reasons.)



► DARIDHAWARA

YWCA Canberra is proud to announce that the official name for YHomes in Ainslie is Daridhawara—a Ngunnawal word meaning "safe place." The correct pronunciation of Daridhawara is Da-ri-dha-woo-ra. This name is a profound gift from the Ngunnawal Elders of Winanggaay Ngunnawal Language Aboriginal Corporation, and we are deeply honoured to receive it.

Recognising the significance of this name and the purpose of Daridhawara, we reaffirm our commitment to providing a safe, secure, and supportive environment for women and families in need.

► FUTURE FOCUS

Since launching YHomes in 2023, our homes have been at full capacity from day one—providing women with a safe and stable foundation to rebuild their lives. Recognising the urgent need for more secure housing, we have now acquired two additional, larger homes specifically for women escaping violence with their children. These family-sized homes help bridge a critical gap, ensuring more women and children have a safe place to call home.

As we continue to expand our housing options for women in crisis, we welcome the recent proposal to exempt public housing from third-party appeals at ACAT.

The demand for safe, affordable housing in Canberra continues to rise, and we are committed to expanding our portfolio to meet this critical need.

We are actively seeking opportunities to increase the availability of secure, long-term housing for women and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness. By growing our footprint, we aim to provide more women with the stability and support they need to rebuild their lives with dignity and confidence.

With continued support, we can expand even further ensuring more women and children have a safe place to call home.





YWCA
CANBERRA

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