

01 11 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

Support for the Redevelopment of Samaritan House

I am writing to express the support of Domestic Violence NSW (DVNSW), the peak body for the domestic, family and sexual violence sector in NSW, for the redevelopment of Samaritan House proposed by The Salvation Army.


The NSW Salvation Army Family Violence Stream are active members of DVNSW. We understand that The Salvation Army has plans underway for the redevelopment of their inner-city family violence crisis accommodation service, Samaritan House, which is currently a congregate care model supporting 30 adult women each night in a shared accommodation layout.

The new designs develop the building into 22 self-contained units of various sizes and with dual key flexibility, providing privacy and dignity for women and families essential to create a safe space for healing and recovery post-violence. The redevelopment also provides a core of office space for specialist case management and purpose-built gathering spaces on each level for connection with other residents, as well as indoor and outdoor play spaces for children.

This Core and Cluster model of refuge is considered a best practice response for people who are family violence survivors. The Salvation Army has engaged with sector education DVNSW and Homelessness NSW have provided about core and cluster design and we understand they have consulted with trauma-informed design expert Samantha Donnelly through this process. We are pleased to see that feedback delivered through this process has been implemented, including establishing dual key access flexibility and increasing communal areas. We strongly support the high level of accessibility of the units and the fact that pets can be accommodated.

We endorse the redevelopment of the existing building and believe the new service design will lead to improved quality of care and greater outcomes for women and children The Salvation Army supports.

Yours Sincerely



Delia Donovan
CEO, Domestic Violence NSW