

Media Release

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ACH Group addresses affordable housing shortfall

A range of affordable retirement living units has been released this month with the launch of Stage 3 of ACH Group's James Evans Court redevelopment at Magill.

The release of the independent one and two-bedroom units, priced from \$82,000, comes amid a shortage of low cost retirement housing options in South Australia.

ACH Group Chief Executive Officer Ray Creen says ACH Group has a long history of providing affordable housing to older South Australians.

"We recognise that there is growing demand, particularly from people with mortgage liabilities or limited superannuation payments, to access secure, affordable housing for their lifetime. "We aim to meet this need by releasing housing at prices that are within reach along with flexible contract options to allow a closer match to a purchaser's budget."

A number of projects are set to come online in coming years to boost affordable housing for older Australians, including stages 4 and 5 of the James Evans Court redevelopment at Magill.

"We plan to incorporate affordable housing at all of these sites following consultation with the community about what they would like us to do to help them continue to live good lives."

Along with competitive pricing, ACH Group offers flexible contract options to allow a closer match with a purchaser's budget and Tailored Ownership Options to help cover any future housing or home support services.

"Our units provide access to secure, long-term quality accommodation within a community setting, at a price that is within reach," ACH Group Real Estate Services Senior Manager Nat Johncock says. "With gardening and maintenance provided, tasteful finishes and private rear yards, in a premium location with links to the wider community, these refurbished units mean people can enjoy the best of low maintenance retirement living."

University of Adelaide Centre for Housing, Urban and Regional Planning research fellow Dr Debbie Faulkner says affordable housing is becoming increasingly out of reach for older Australians.

According to the 2011 Census, there was a shortage of 16,300 affordable and available housing for low income private renters across all age groups in South Australia.

"Women are particularly vulnerable due to low paid and interrupted careers, lower rates of savings and superannuation," she says. "(People) need access to affordable housing to enable them to enjoy housing stability and affordability to ensure they can successfully age in place."

ACH Group's new release includes a selection of units fully fitted out for independent, disability accessible living.

The \$2.93m redevelopment also has its own community centre offering health and fitness activities, social opportunities and kitchen and dining facilities for entertaining and functions.

With 1218 housing units worth a net \$72m, leading not-for-profit ACH Group is redefining its housing options to respond to the demographic changes occurring across Australia.

Display units are now available for viewing. To register interest, please contact Nat Johncock on (08) 8159 3480 or email njohncock@ach.org.au

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About ACH Group

ACH Group is a not-for-profit aged care organisation that has been offering services to support good lives for older people in South Australia since 1952.

As well as accommodation options across Adelaide, the Fleurieu Peninsula and East Melbourne, the group offers a range of health, wellbeing, respite and support services, help at home and social activities.

Our 1700 specialist staff and hundreds of volunteers share the belief that older people should be valued and respected, connected to their communities and in control of their lives.

For further information or comment, please contact Anna Randell on (08) 8159 3632, 0417 856 361 or ARandell@ach.org.au.