

Media Release

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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A long history of supporting women

Consistent with its long history of supporting South Australian women through affordable housing options, ACH Group is continuing to innovate with new service delivery models to meet the needs of vulnerable older women with the announcement a new housing development in the heart of Adelaide.

Spence on Light was officially launched ahead of International Women's Day in Light Square this week as a result of a partnership between ACH Group, Housing Choices South Australia and SA Housing Authority.

The \$25 million development will include 75 apartments to support older people with limited housing options to access new homes that will allow them to comfortably age in place, in a location that is central to work and social opportunities.

ACH Group CEO Frank Weits said: "ACH Group was founded 65 years ago by parliamentarian Sir Keith Wilson who set out to support pensioners, post-war migrants, war veterans and their widows by pioneering new housing models for older people, in particular those who were disadvantaged."

In addition to this new initiative, ACH Group's long history with the War Widows Guild of South Australia provides long term, secure and affordable accommodation services to war widows.

More recently, a partnership with Catherine House, an organisation that supports older women at risk of or experiencing homelessness, has been forged to provide affordable housing and tailored services.

Mr Weits said today there was a lack of affordable housing for older people, particularly women, in the inner-Adelaide area. In South Australia, over 800 people experience homelessness on any given night, and more than half (60 per cent) of the older homeless population are women. Across a 12-month period in 2016-17, there was a 44 per cent increase in older people accessing specialised South Australian homelessness services.

"We are delighted to take this opportunity to support older women as we continue ACH Group's tradition of challenging traditional service models and finding new ways to support people to live well as they age."

ACH Group also shows its support for women via strong representation across the workforce, including its executive and board, chaired by Mary Patetsos. Around 54 per cent of ACH Group's 1700-strong workforce are women aged 45 and over.

End Media Release

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 Jani Baker on 0417 856 361 or at jbaker@ach.org.au