

MEDIA RELEASE

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ELIZABETH STREET COMMON GROUND OPENS DOORS

Melbourne's landmark Supportive Housing development, Elizabeth Street Common Ground, was opened today by Victorian Premier John Brumby, Federal Housing Minister Tanya Plibersek, Victorian Housing Minister Richard Wynne, Grocon CEO Daniel Grollo, HomeGround Services CEO Stephen Nash and Yarra Community Housing Chairperson Linda Hoskins.

Speaking on behalf of HomeGround, Mr Nash said "Elizabeth Street Common Ground is an example of what is possible when you combine diverse expertise from public, private and community partners. Not only is it the leading example of Supportive Housing in Australia, but the partnership has delivered a complex project ahead of schedule and under budget. Grocon and its subcontractors alone have contributed more than \$8 million in savings.

"Beyond the core project partnership, others like the Royal District Nursing Service, Rotary clubs of Melbourne and Melbourne Park, John T Reid Charitable Trusts, The Collie Foundation, Bunnings, Kmart and others have also come together to ensure that every aspect of Elizabeth Street Common Ground lives up to its immense potential.

Mr Nash also spoke about the tenants who would be moving in over the coming weeks.

"This building is more than a collection of apartments. Inside these walls, the housing and support model that we are putting in place will replace uncertainty with stability, fear with safety and hopelessness with new opportunity. Elizabeth Street Common Ground will end homelessness permanently for 65 of our most vulnerable community members.

"Each of these 65 people has been homeless for more than three years, half for more than ten. We are now offering an end to this damaging experience and a new start in life.

"Elizabeth Street Common Ground will show unequivocally that ending homelessness in Melbourne is possible through the combination of permanent housing and tailored support. That is the principle behind Supportive Housing and we are very happy to be here today with the Premier and our other partners to greet a new chapter for homelessness and housing services.

Elizabeth Street Common Ground is a partnership between HomeGround Services, Yarra Community Housing, the Victorian and Federal Governments, the Victorian Property Fund and Grocon. HomeGround will manage all on-site support services for Elizabeth Street Common Ground tenants.