

# Elizabeth Street **COMMON GROUND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING** 660 ELIZABETH ST MELBOURNE 3000

Elizabeth Street Common Ground is the first development of its kind in Melbourne. This project is based on an internationally proven, practical and cost-effective model to meet the housing and support needs of people who have experienced long-term homelessness. Supportive housing coordinates the two essential elements in ending homelessness by providing appropriate, affordable and safe housing together with long-term tailored support services. Supportive housing gets people housed and keeps people housed.

Elizabeth Street Common Ground is a partnership between HomeGround Services, Yarra Community Housing, the Victorian Property Fund, the Victorian and Federal Governments and Grocon. It is a first for Australia in terms of both the housing model and the multi-million dollar philanthropic contribution from Grocon.



# Elizabeth Street **COMMON GROUND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING**

## HOUSING DESIGNED FOR OUR MOST VULNERABLE COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Elizabeth Street Common Ground comprises 131 studio apartments over 8 floors. 65 will be rented to people who are experiencing long-term homelessness and 66 to low income households.

Supportive housing is high quality housing provided together with coordinated support services. It is designed for people with significant barriers to stable housing and increased vulnerability caused by factors including mental health, physical health, drug and alcohol, family violence and disability. It enables people to stabilise their lives using housing as the foundation and to become connected once again to their social networks and community.

In addition to the 131 supportive housing units, there will be 30 apartments for low income families. These have a separate entrance on Berkeley Street. Yarra Community Housing will manage tenant selection for these apartments.

Elizabeth Street Common Ground has a number of features that make it unique in the Melbourne context. These are outlined below.

## HIGH QUALITY AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN A GREAT LOCATION

Rents for the formerly homeless tenants will be in line with Yarra Community Housing and Office of Housing affordability benchmarks. The housing is of the highest quality with world class environmental design features and quality fittings. The building is located on the fringe of Melbourne's central business district (CBD), close to the Queen Victoria Market and a range of other employment opportunities, amenities and services.

## ON-SITE SUPPORT SERVICES AND TENANCY SERVICES

One of the fundamental features of supportive housing is the provision of individually tailored long-term support services for those who need assistance to maintain their housing and wellbeing.

Elizabeth Street Common Ground will have a team of support workers on-site to provide tailored support to formerly homeless tenants. Tenancy management staff will also be located on-site to provide responsive tenancy services.

A range of other allied health, therapeutic, recreation and employment services will be available on-site to supportive housing tenants.

## A POSITIVE SOCIAL MIX

Elizabeth Street will have a balanced social mix of 50% formerly homeless and 50% low income, including employed, households.

Having a vibrant social mix reduces stigmatisation for tenants and promotes community through the diversity of interests and backgrounds. It creates positive role models and fosters a belief in the possibility of change.

## SAFETY, SECURITY AND CONCIERGE

Elizabeth Street Common Ground is designed with the safety and security of tenants as the highest priority.

A concierge service provides 24 hour support and controlled access to the Elizabeth Street entrance, as well as monitoring security within the building. In addition, the concierge provides after hours response to any situations requiring response.

Access to the building is restricted to tenants using a swipe card system and there is CCTV and security lighting throughout the building.

## WHEN WILL IT OPEN?

Elizabeth Street Common Ground is due to be completed by August 2010. Occupation of units will begin progressively from early September.

## MORE INFORMATION

For more information please contact:

### **Leanne Acreman**

Supportive Housing Manager  
HomeGround Services  
Phone 9288 9711  
leanea@homeground.org.au

### **Issy Gennari**

Housing Services Manager  
Yarra Community Housing  
Phone 9419 0009  
issy@ych.org.au  
www.ych.org.au

**[www.elizabethstcgsh.org.au](http://www.elizabethstcgsh.org.au)**

