



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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House of Welcome  
197 The Trongate  
GRANVILLE NSW 2142  
PO Box 10  
GRANVILLE NSW 2142  
PH: 02 9727 9290  
ABN: 67 064 978 347

### **The House of Welcome needs a new home to meet the increasing needs of people seeking asylum.**

The House of Welcome is moving to increase service capacity by 30 per cent and is calling on the community for support through a crowd funding campaign on *Chuffed.org*.

The need to increase capacity is to meet the needs of increasing numbers of people seeking asylum who are being forced into poverty and homelessness.

According to CEO, Lyn Harrison, as a result of recent policy changes, some people seeking asylum are being denied access to Medicare, Centrelink and any government funded support services. Many are even being denied the right to work.

*“These policy changes are forcing families into destitution and directly impacting the mental health and wellbeing of those we help. People seeking asylum need our help now, more than ever.”*

Since 2001, the House of Welcome has assisted over 16,000 people through providing; case work, accommodation, English lessons, financial assistance, food and household necessities, community activities and employment assistance, but the service needs to dramatically ramp up service provision.

The House of Welcome relies solely on the support of the community so that it can provide assistance to those with the least options. Mrs Harrison and her team have projected the organisation will need to increase service capacity by 30% in order to meet the needs of an influx of clients affected.

To achieve the increase in capacity, the House of Welcome is converting a disused building into a new, larger premises to operate from and has today launched a crowd funding campaign calling on the community to assist with one-off costs involved in the move.

The House of Welcome crowd funding campaign on *Chuffed.org* will help to cover one-off technical costs involved with converting the disused building in Granville into a new House of Welcome that is ready to receive clients. Donations will assist with:

- Telecommunications cabling installation & computer infrastructure
- Security installation
- Basic plumbing services
- Office furniture

To donate, please visit: <https://www.chuffed.org/project/the-house-of-welcome-needs-a-new-home>

#### **For more information:**

Ina Mullin, Business Development Manager, St Francis Social Services  
M: 0412377217 E: [ina.mullin@stfrancis.org.au](mailto:ina.mullin@stfrancis.org.au)