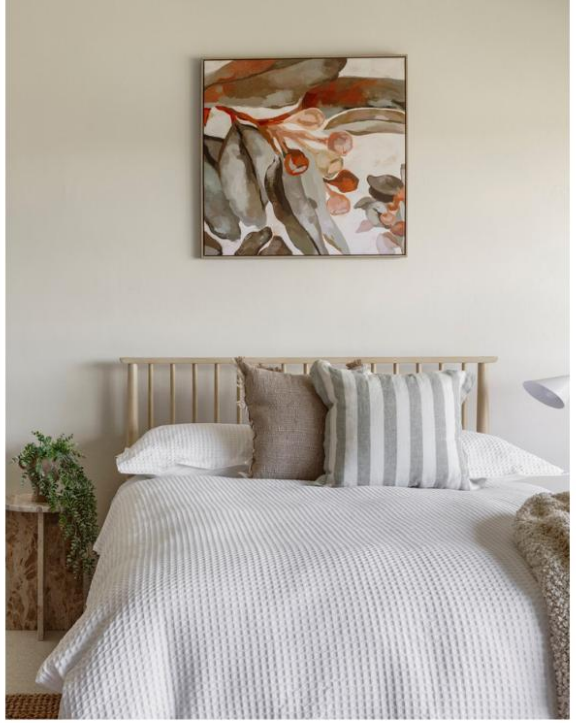
WOMEN'S COMMUNITY SHELTERS

Homewards:

Making meaning out of 'meanwhile use'

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The Impact of the Current Housing Crisis

DATA FROM THE 2021 CENSUS:

The 2021 Census told us that on any given night, **122,494 people** in Australia were experiencing homelessness.

- **1 in 7 people** experiencing homelessness are **children under 12 years**
- **Almost 1 in 4** (23%) were **children and young people** aged between **12 and 24 years**
- **1 in 5** people experiencing homelessness identified as **Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people**
- Homelessness is not only rooflessness. **Only 6%** of people without a home are **sleeping rough**.
- **The majority of homelessness is hidden** – people in crisis accommodation, rooming houses, insecure housing, over-crowded dwellings or couch surfing



Housing and Support Innovation

CREATING MEANWHILE USE HOUSING SOLUTIONS

Meanwhile use housing is an **innovative model** that makes use of **vacant or under-utilised properties**—such as aged care facilities, hospitals, church-owned buildings, properties land banked as part of major infrastructure developments and government assets—to provide **immediate housing solutions.**

This approach not only addresses the **urgent need for shelter** but also makes efficient use of existing resources, **turning vacant spaces into vibrant homes.**



Our Journey into Meanwhile Use

- **Our journey into meanwhile use began in 2017 with the establishment of the Pathways Home program.**
- **In partnership with the PAYCE Foundation and Bridge Housing, a tier 1 community housing provider, we were able to deliver additional transitional housing for women and children exiting crisis accommodation.**
- **This program, which utilised five vacant properties land-banked for future development, demonstrated the power of collaboration and innovation.**
- **By bringing together the expertise and assets of each organization, we created a cost-effective and replicable transitional housing model.**



Beecroft House

Our Meanwhile Use Business Model

THE REQUIRED COMPONENTS

Access to vacant properties for a minimum of 2 years

Values aligned community housing partners with a passion for innovative housing and support service models

Property developers and trades who are committed to the greater good and able to promptly undertake required property repairs and renovations at low / no cost

People with a passion for out of the box innovation

Funding to support any additional required refurbishment and the establishment of any client support services to the required level to support a mix of crisis, temporary and transitional housing models

What have we learned over the last 9 years?

- **Establishing meanwhile use** requires strong project management and leadership
- **Developing a shared vision** about purpose and the passion to utilise vacant property is crucial
- **The property needs to be available for at least 2 years**
- **The Property needs to be provided at no or low cost**
- **In kind / pro bono support** is critical
- **Community engagement** is a foundation underpinning all of our projects
- A **strong partnership** with a CHP is critical
- Access to **people who have a solid understanding of town planning requirements** is important



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