

# Media Release

9 April 2024

## Blessing of Ready to Launch House

An innovative home in regional Victoria is giving young locals with disability a springboard to launch their independence.

The Ready to Launch House, run by for-purpose disability and aged organisation VMCH, was officially blessed by Bishop Shane MacKinlay and Monsignor Cris Manongas in Wangaratta on Monday 8 April.

Ready to Launch provides practical, real-life experiences for young people wanting to move out of home for the first time in a safe and supportive environment. The program is tailored to each resident to suit their individual goals and needs.

It's the first service offering of its kind for the organisation, and fills a vital need in the local area. VMCH is also looking to potentially expand the program into Melbourne in the future.

Daniel Boschetti, aged 20, currently lives in the house full-time (housemates can stay for as little or as long as they wish until they're ready to move on) and says learning skills like budgeting, household tasks, cooking and laundry are boosting his confidence to move out on his own.

"I have learnt to be more careful with buying things, trying to reduce food wastage and everything that my money needs to cover each week," Daniel says. "I would like to get a better paying job, find a home in town or just out of town within my budget to move into. I'm also working hard to get my P's."

He admits his favourite part of living at Ready to Launch is "uninterrupted sleep", away from his three younger sisters.

His housemate Josh West, aged 30, stays every Thursday and some weekends. Josh also aspires to live independently one day.

"It's been good learning new things. And I like spending time with the staff and Dan."

Budgeting has also been an important learning curve for Josh. "I'm shocking with money but I'm trying to save for a laptop!"

VMCH Ready to Launch Team Leader Kelsey Bowman says Josh has come a long way in a short period of time.

"He takes pride in his bedroom, showing consideration to other residents. Josh enjoys socialising and cooking his evening meal. In the future I'd like to see Josh to continue to progress and have the skills and confidence to move out of his family home and into his own home in town."

Kelsey says Dan has already acquired most of the skills needed to live independently.

"My hope for Dan in the future is for him to gain employment where he feels valued, for him to get his P's and find a home that feels like home to him."

VMCH Chief Mission Officer Bridget O'Shannassy described the blessing as a "special day".

"The local team went to so much effort, offering us all wonderful hospitality. It was exciting to see all the great things VMCH is achieving in Wangaratta, impacting many lives positively."

Ready to Launch House is part of an expanding suite of VMCH Disability Services across the Hume region, all geared to help people with disability find and sustain meaningful employment, build life and job skills and live independently.

**For more information on Ready to Launch or other disability programs, call 1300 698 624.**

### Media enquiries

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### About VMCH

Here at VMCH, our services are as diverse as the people we support.

Our values underpin the work we do. As a Catholic, for-purpose organisation, love, joy, hospitality and courage aren't just words to us, they guide us in everything we do.

While we've been around for over a century, we're always moving forward. Always staying true to who we are by supporting people and families to live their best lives; providing a place to call home and spaces to learn and grow.

Our professional and compassionate teams are with you on your life journey; helping you with a wide range of support from early learning and therapy, specialist education, disability services, affordable homes, residential aged care, retirement living and at-home aged care.

