

VMCH Good Works

Our mission, lived every day



VMCH

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Since VMCH's beginnings, our mission work has always been at the heart of who we are.

VMCH was formed by the coming together of two organisations with a shared purpose. The Villa Maria Society supported the Catholic blind community through faith and connection, translating the Bible into braille. Catholic Homes began with four men who saw a need for affordable, safe housing for people on low incomes and were determined to create change.

While VMCH has grown over time, what continues to sustain us is the generosity and engagement of our staff, volunteers and community supporters.

Some of our most important, life-changing supports are not funded by government. They are made possible through donations from people connected to VMCH, along with support from bequests, Trusts and Foundations, and surplus from capital works projects.

Our Good Works are our mission in action.



Community inclusion

Our Social Enterprises provide real-world training, meaningful employment and community connection for people with disability across Victoria.

From cafés and coffee vans to maintenance crews, gardening teams and creative arts, each of our enterprises is a stepping stone toward independence.

VMCH's mission strongly supports the inclusion of people with disability in all aspects of our community. The establishment of social enterprise businesses are made possible through the support of our generous donors.

Meet the Green Team

VMCH's Green Team turns gardens and green spaces into pathways to paid work for people with disability. Since launching in 2023, this gardening and maintenance social enterprise has grown to five crews across metropolitan Melbourne, Ararat and Wangaratta, supporting 107 participants in award-wage roles.

Led by experienced gardeners and disability support staff, teams maintain VMCH affordable homes, Specialist Disability Accommodation, aged care homes, a specialist school, Home Care Package clients and community housing properties. Participants gain valuable real-world experience while demonstrating the benefits of inclusive employment.

Crucially, the Green Team offers more than participation. By combining hands-on training, practical experience and equal pay for equal work, it helps participants build confidence, independence and

Over the last year alone:



140 people
participated in job skills training



40,000+ hours
of training were delivered



30+ people
moved into secure,
award-wage employment



job-ready skills, creating pathways to open employment and further study.

As one Green Team member described it, the program is “advocacy in action” — challenging assumptions about capability and showing that, with the right support, people with disability can thrive in meaningful paid work.

The Green Team was established through the generosity of VMCH donors, whose support continues to create opportunities for people to build skills, confidence and brighter futures.

Spiritual support

Pastoral Care at VMCH offers personalised spiritual and emotional support to our community.

Our team includes 27 professional practitioners and 57 volunteers who provide one-on-one visits, support for residents attending chapel and group services, ministry of Holy Communion, and small gatherings, memorials and life conversations.

They also offer companionship and a calm, compassionate presence to residents and families during end-of-life and palliative care transitions.

Our Pastoral Care team is not funded by government or other funding bodies, this important work is fully supported by VMCH and our generous donors.

Pastoral Care in action

For 21 years, Corpus Christi Community Greenvale (CCCCG), a VMCH residence for older men who have experienced disadvantage, was home to John, its longest-residing resident. After a period of homelessness, he arrived at CCCC and found stability, care and community.

"I was in Sydney basically living in a gutter before here," the 90-year-old recalled. "My sister, who was a Catholic nun, got me in here. It saved my life. I've been really well looked after, and I appreciate it."

Central to John's life at CCCC was reconnecting with his Catholic faith. "I got that back being here. We have a chapel on-site. I know that I will die here, and I am happy with that."

When John passed away in 2024 VMCH's Pastoral Care team and the CCCC community ensured he was surrounded by spiritual and emotional support.



"We followed John's wishes, including holding a full funeral Mass in our chapel," said CCCC Residential Services Manager Donela Perry. "Residents sat with him, staff spent extra time with him, and right to the end he enjoyed being with people. He died surrounded by friends."

Stories like John's highlight the impact of pastoral care. As compassionate, non-judgmental listeners, pastoral carers provide comfort, connection and dignity to residents and families every single day.

Homes for life

VMCH's Affordable Homes provide safe, secure, and comfortable housing for older Victorians.

Anglicare's Rental Affordability Snapshot shows that just 0.3% of available housing stock in Australia is affordable and appropriate for a single person on an Age Pension. That's where we come in.

As part of our commitment to housing security and dignity, VMCH currently provides affordable homes to 421 people across 22 communities — fully funded by VMCH.

Brian's found a place to call home

Safe, secure and affordable housing is one of the most powerful expressions of VMCH's mission, and few stories capture that better than Brian's.

At 75, Brian Devenish has spent a lifetime serving others. His Christian missionary work has taken him around the world, building orphanages, supporting people experiencing homelessness, assisting communities after natural disasters and running programs in remote Aboriginal communities. Yet, like many older Australians, secure housing became difficult to access in later life.

Today, Brian is one of 421 people who call a VMCH affordable home their own across 22 Victorian communities.

For the great-grandfather of seven, having a home he no longer needs to worry about has been life-changing. Brian has lived at VMCH's Balwyn community for two years after his previous housing development closed.

"I think the man upstairs was looking after me when he gave me this beautiful



front unit at Balwyn," he says. "It's been wonderful, and the people here are wonderful too."

With the security of a home behind him, Brian is free to keep doing what he loves most: helping others.

"It's great there are organisations like VMCH providing homes like this," he says. "In a country as prosperous as ours, there shouldn't be people without a home."

Brian's story is a reminder that a VMCH home is never just bricks and mortar. It's dignity, security and the freedom to keep giving back.

Partner with us

With your support, we can continue to deliver these vital programs and create opportunities for people to live with dignity, connection and purpose.



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If you would like to support this important work, you can access our fundraising page by following the QR code.

VMCH



1300 698 624
hello@vmch.com.au

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