



## The Snow Foundation

The Snow Foundation has agreed to financially support a local community's initiative to establish *Home in Queanbeyan (Home)*.

Home will provide 24 hour supported accommodation – residential, not institutional - for 20 people with mental illness who cannot live independently and have been, or are at risk of being homeless. Residents will receive medium and long-term care within their *own* self-contained, one bedroom units (with 2 dedicated to respite care). They will also be communal areas for dining and recreation.

In its biggest single donation so far, the Foundation will donate \$400,000 over the next four years to help get Home up and running as soon as possible.

Details of the donation were announced on Monday, April 21 by Foundation Chairman, Mr Terry Snow and Father Peter Day. More than 100 people from all walks of life attended the cheque handover, including Patron and former Governor General, Sir William Deane, who said he had enjoyed a 70 year association with Queanbeyan where he used to shop on Saturdays with his parents when Canberra was a suburb of Queanbeyan.

“All the ideas, inspiration and ideals that emerged from Kevin Rudd’s 2020 Summit are subservient to one basic truth,” he observed. “That is how we treat the most disadvantaged in our society.” All creeds and religions recognised this basic truth.

“The mentally ill were the worst placed among homeless people because they did not have a place they can properly call their home.” he said.

The driving force behind Home, Father Peter Day, said The Home in Queanbeyan was all about “hanging in there,” sitting alongside people with their daily struggle and “ensuring that they knew they were loved and valued.” It was not just about money and the Snow Foundation realised that.

“Home in Queanbeyan is the inspired initiative of Father Peter who, when training for the Priesthood, witnessed first hand the daily struggle of the mentally ill on the streets of inner Sydney - and later in Queanbeyan - and decided to do something about it,” Mr Snow said.

“I understand that these life-changing street experiences taught Father Peter that the task of helping the mentally ill cannot be adequately addressed by governments and health experts alone. We, the community, also have a responsibility to share our gifts and expertise if things are to change for our most vulnerable citizens,” Mr Snow said.

Terry’s daughter and Snow Foundation Chief Executive Officer, Georgina Byron, had discussed with her family the urgent need to help relieve the plight of people who, with too little support, often become overwhelmed by their illness.

“The passion and drive of those involved with Home to help the most desperately vulnerable in our community is beyond question, and humbling. We are delighted to help provide the bricks and mortar for this much needed initiative,” Ms Byron said.

Located in central Queanbeyan, the purpose-built residential facility will cost around \$3.5 million to build and include a manager, a caretaker, support staff, and a team of community volunteers.

Father Day welcomed the Snow Foundation’s generous support. “Our first priority is to provide a *Home* for people; to love them back into life so they, too, might enjoy active and fulfilling lives within their community.”

Home will not be a secure facility. It will be a place where people will be free to come and go. “It will be their home,” he said.

“Thanks to the generosity and compassion of the Snow Foundation we can make this happen sooner rather than later. We also believe that the Queanbeyan Community is providing national leadership by tackling head-on this national crisis that lies at our feet. Hopefully, Home will inspire other communities to do the same.”

The Snow Foundation is the creation of brothers Terry and George Snow, who established it in 1990 to help the less fortunate in society.

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