



**Alister Henskens**  
Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### FUNDING BOOST TO TURN ICONIC PUB INTO HOUSING

New social and affordable homes will be delivered as part of a plan to transform the 130-year-old heritage-listed Steelworks Hotel in Port Kembla.

Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services Alister Henskens said the revamp of the iconic pub is one of two projects in the Illawarra funded through the latest round of the NSW Government's Community Housing Innovation Fund (CHIF).

"We are joining forces with [Anglicare](#) and [Housing Trust](#) to deliver dozens of new affordable rental homes in the Illawarra, providing safe and stable accommodation for those who need it most," Mr Henskens said.

"This program is unlocking exciting and innovative development opportunities by partnering with community housing providers, and these projects will add to the strong pipeline of social and affordable housing being delivered across the region."

The NSW Government is investing \$5 million to help refurbish the historic building in partnership with Anglicare, with the project to include 30 new one-bedroom units.

Anglicare CEO Grant Millard said the development will provide older people at risk of homelessness with secure housing and tailored support.

"We see this as a tremendous opportunity to engender a renewed sense of community. The project will conserve the historically significant building while providing new homes with quality communal areas that enhance opportunities for older residents to socialise," Mr Millard said.

Housing Trust has also received \$5 million through the CHIF to help fund a 30 unit development close to the Wollongong CBD.

Housing Trust CEO Michele Adair said the development will also use part of the \$4.3 million Housing Trust received in Federal funding distributed through Wollongong City Council's affordable housing program for older single women and women with children.

"This is an investment in our local heroes. The frontline workers who we've all relied upon during the pandemic need affordable rents in secure, quality housing close to where they work. The project will also create local jobs during construction delivering a boost to the local economy," Ms Adair said.

More information about the CHIF is available [online](#).

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