



*A safe, supportive and caring home for people with enduring mental illness*

## **President's Report for 2018 AGM for MyHome in Canberra**

### **Welcome**

I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land and pay respects to their elders past and present. I would also like to welcome everyone and thank you for attending.

I would like to acknowledge and thank John Tucker for his hard work in establishing My home in Canberra since its inception. John has worked tirelessly for MyHome under very trying health constraints. I would also like to thank John for his long service and for the directions he has set for the organisation. I would like to thank the board for allowing me to take on the role as President for the remainder of John's term. I would also like to thank all the Board members for their support and their contributions during the past year. I would also like to acknowledge the close links with the Woden Rotary Club and the St James Uniting Church. Bendigo Bank and members of the Canberra community for their continued support.

### **The Year in Review**

MyHome has over the last year, focused on working with the government to demonstrate the need for providing supported housing for those with an enduring mental illness. We have managed to have a \$200,000 allocation by the government in the 2018/19 budget to examine the governance details of the Curtin block. We have also worked with the government on the Cohort study whose aim is to analyse population needs for housing, to inform future mental health accommodation initiatives and to align future facility planning concepts. We have worked with Uniting to put forward a proposal to Government to develop the block for My Home and Affordable housing as well. This has made our project very much larger than we originally envisioned. Yet, we believe the larger development is more likely to gain Government support and minimise delays in the planning and development phases.

The second major area we have focused on is fund raising. We have done this with the help and support of the Woden Rotary club. The Woden Rotary club has provided funds from its Five peaks Challenge cycle ride, its virtual race night and the Wine tasting event from the wineries of the Lake George area. These events raised just over \$16,500 for My home.

Our web site is being reviewed by John Eyers and its development will make it much easier for people to see what we are doing and engage the community in our activities.

We continue to review our documentation and our model of care. We are engaging with other service providers and having community consultations and radio interviews.

We have made considerable progress, but more work needs to be done. We need to continue to consult and engage effectively with relevant ACT Ministers, and Uniting, to obtain approval to our budget submission and obtain funds to build our planned supported accommodation project.

I am sure that, with the support of Rotary, St James Uniting Church, Uniting and the Canberra community we are much closer to achieving our goal of having supported accommodation built for people with an enduring mental illness

I would like to thank you for attending the AGM and supporting My Home in Canberra.

Shukry Sahhar

President

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