



Document tendered by

Ms Carole Davidson

Received by

Sarah Perkins

Date: 21/07/2022

Resolved to publish Yes / No

## Introduction to Action on Housing Older Women (AHOW)

**Action on Housing Older Women (AHOW)** emerged from a small group of interested women on the Central Coast of NSW, convened by representatives of the Elderslee Foundation.

In March 2021 a forum was held, *Creating Collaborative Housing Solutions- a Focus on Older Women*, with presenters from a range of local, state and federal organisations.

<https://eldersleefoundation.org.au/elderslee-project/>. The forum attracted around 90 people who explored and described housing pressures on older women and visited a range of solutions. Positive feedback to this event and indications from a range of people supported the idea of maintaining an ongoing group.

Subsequently, AHOW formed as a committed group of people acting to develop ideas into a broad spectrum of solutions. AHOW is committed to be a catalyst and facilitator of actions and collaborations focussed on increasing services available to older women affected by homelessness.

### **Aims of Action on Housing Older Women**

1. To raise awareness of the issue on the Central Coast
2. Link people together to identify and take action towards potential actions that can be taken to address situation on the Central Coast.
3. Develop ideas and resources identifying practical and strategic actions which can be taken.
4. Advocate for older women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

### **Who we are**

Members of AHOW are individuals within the community and representatives of local organisations. These organisations include:

- Zonta Club of Central Coast
- Central Coast Community Women's Health Centre
- Older Women's Network NSW
- Pacific Link Housing
- Uniting NSW/ ACT
- ARAFMI Central Coast
- Central Coast Domestic Violence Advocacy Service
- Wesley Mission
- Barang Regional Alliance
- Soroptimists International Brisbane Water
- NSW Legal Aid
- Baptist Care
- TAFE NSW
- Housing Affordability Officer Central Coast Council
- Elder Abuse Unit, Legal Aid, Gosford

***They each bring a treasure trove of experience and knowledge to the group.***

**Follow us on Facebook: Action-on- Housing-for- Older- Women**

<https://www.facebook.com/Action-on-Housing-for-Older-Women-106349421654307>



## ***AHOW Actions Since March 2021***

AHOW membership has worked on the following:

- *Meanwhile Use Housing:* liaising with Community Women's Shelters and Pacific Link to investigate and support the development of the opening of Allawah House.
- *Peninsula Village (PV):* potential repurpose of unused aged care building into appropriately designed studio apartments for older women. *Linked older women into vacant units in PV retirement village.*
- *Developing Brokerage Fund:* Secured funding through philanthropic trust to offer support to older women to overcome financial barriers to housing.
- *Ongoing networking:* Regular meetings to share information and discuss possible local solutions and projects.
- *Linking:* Supporting housing organisations through notifying vacancies in housing opportunities for older women.
- *Advocacy work:* Meetings with State and Federal politicians. Interviews with local media.
- *New models for older women:* Funding received through Mercy Foundation in partnership with Central Coast Community Women's Health Centre to investigate potential for older women to share rental applications.