

CASE STUDY: Eltham Refugee Housing and Support Project



Eltham Project aims to provide accommodation and settlement support to newly arrived refugees from Syria and Iraq.

Eltham Refugee Housing and Support Project

provides accommodation and settlement support to newly arrived refugees from Syria and Iraq. This project is delivered in partnership with St Vincent's Health Australia, who has provided refurbished units on the site of their Eltham Aged Care facility. CatholicCare provides tenancy and settlement support.

Refugee families pay rent while staying in the units and are assisted with orientation to the local area (transport and other services) and linked in to schools, training and employment opportunities. They are also assisted with English language, financial literacy, homework and social support.

By providing this essential combination of housing and settlement support, newly arrived refugees are adjusting to their new home, establish positive community links and rental history, and secure employment so they are better equipped to move into the private rental market.

The two-year project commenced in October 2016 and has supported 61 individuals living in 35 units. Since the project started: Social events have been held and refugees have been able to participate and integrate with community. Local parishes, mainstream organisations, local groups and schools have been involved in supporting the refugees through donations, driving lessons and fundraising.

The overwhelming welcome and support shown by members of the local community and beyond has been a most positive aspect of this project. All units have been fully furnish by parishes and community groups at a cost of \$3000 per unit. At the end of the project, residents will take the furniture to their new homes.

We have started the process of supporting the refugees to transition into private rental; refugees have been linked with volunteers who are supporting them with identifying areas where they would like to move, searching for properties, organising inspections, preparing documentation and writing rental applications.

AT A GLANCE



Target Participants

Syrian & Iraqi newly Arrived refugees.



Aim

To Provide accommodation and settlement support to newly arrived refugees from Syria and Iraq.



Organisations Involved

CatholicCare and St Vincent's Health Australia (SVHA)



Location

Melbourne, Victoria



Funding

SVHA, Order of Malta, Gill Family Foundation and individual donors

A significant outcome so far is that all refugees over the age of 55 currently occupying 14 units have been offered ongoing accommodation at St Vincent's Care Services, which means they will remain in the facility. All other families are been supported to seek alternative accommodation by the end of September when the project finishes.

For More Information Visit:

www.ccam.org.au

