



## Family violence and homelessness

Women and children escaping family violence have both short- and long-term housing needs.

Immediately, they require safe housing away from the abuser.

Ultimately, the family requires access to safe, stable, affordable housing.

A strong investment in affordable housing is crucial to women and children in this situation so that the family or woman is able to leave the shelter system as quickly as possible without returning to the abuser.

Women also need to be assisted to stay safely in their own homes, with abusers removed – so far it's usually too unsafe for most women to do this.

## McAuley's Homelessness Program

McAuley has successfully developed a housing and integrated service for women who are homeless. Our program costs around \$15,000 a year to accommodate, feed, have an individual case worker and provide vital recreation and social opportunities and access to legal and financial advice.

McAuley provides women-only housing and support for women whose lives have been torn apart by family violence or mental illness and who have been left homeless.

We support women living in the community who continue to find support through McAuley House.

### Over 2013 – 2014, of the 93 women we supported through the homelessness program:

- 100% were homeless
- 47 % came from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- 92% were unemployed or not in the labour force
- 34% were referred to McAuley House from hospital or mental health service
- 30% had experienced family violence
- 73% were experiencing mental illness