

MEDIA RELEASE

1 May 2013

**McAuley Works a finalist in  
national homelessness achievement awards**

McAuley Works' employment program, run by McAuley Community Services for Women, has been recognised as a finalist at the 2013 National Homelessness Achievement Awards in the category of "Excellence in supporting pathways to employment or education" at the

The awards, held today by The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), recognise the outstanding achievements and contributions community organisations and services around Australia make to support people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

In its announcement, FaHCSIA congratulated the program for "helping so many women who have experienced family violence, homelessness or mental health issues into the workforce and gain financial independence."

"McAuley Works had stood out through efforts to help women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness find and keep work."

"This program is making a real difference in women's lives."

"With support right through the process of getting a job – from getting ready for employment, preparing for an interview, and keeping a job – this program is helping women build a better future for themselves and for their children."

"Thanks to the commitment of McAuley Works, vulnerable women in Melbourne have someone to turn to when they need it most."

Ms Tenar Dwyer, program manager, said that the recognition of McAuley Work as a finalist is gratifying.

"It is extremely encouraging to see McAuley Works acknowledged amongst such high-calibre finalists."

"McAuley Works is unique in its capacity to offer specialised knowledge and resources to help women who have highly complex needs to find work and build an ongoing career."

"By assisting women to gain financial independence, McAuley Works is helping to prevent further homelessness, financial hardship, reliance on social welfare, family breakdown and many other associated issues that are a result of financial stability."

"We are delighted at the confidence the community sector has in McAuley Works' ability to achieve positive outcomes for vulnerable women," Ms Dwyer said.

The McAuley Works program is funded by donations from the community. It is currently pursuing a stream of core funding to ensure its future sustainability.

**McAuley Community Services for Women** provides accommodation, services, advocacy and support for women who are homeless, and women and their children escaping family violence. Every year, McAuley assists 650 women and children in desperate situations.

**McAuley Works** is an intensive employment program that assists women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, primarily as a result of family violence and mental health issues, to become financially independent by securing meaningful employment. In the 2011/2012 financial year, 100 women were assisted through McAuley Works – double the number than anticipated. It currently has 150 women participating in the program.

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