havelock housing

MEDIA RELEASE

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Four ways Canberrans can support locals experiencing homelessness this Christmas

Havelock Housing, local provider of a range of affordable, social and specialist disability housing to assist those in need across the ACT, is asking the Canberra community to help people experiencing homelessness this Christmas, with four practical ways to get involved. They range from giving online to sharing what your business or household can offer.

The Havelock Christmas Donation Drive launches today and runs until the New Year 2027. Donations made through the Havelock website will fund Christmas food packs, hampers, personal care items and small gifts for Havelock tenants.

Havelock Housing CEO Kylie Maidens said Christmas was a time when Canberrans naturally think about the people around them.

“This city is full of caring and generous people, and we see that every year. But Christmas can be the hardest time of year for people who have experienced homelessness. A food pack, a hamper or a small gift is more than the item itself. It tells someone they are part of a community that cares,” Ms Maidens said.

“Canberrans can help the homeless in our community this Christmas in four ways. The most effective way is through donations with every dollar going towards Christmas support for Havelock tenants,” Ms Maidens continued.

“We understand that more than ever, financial strain is felt with increased cost of living pressures, but a donation from as little as $25 provides Christmas treats for the homeless. $50 provides a Christmas food pack, $75 can achieve a food pack and essential personal care items, $100 provides a Christmas hamper with festive food and a small gift, and $250 provides a household with a food hamper, personal care essentials and small gifts,” Ms Maidens continued.

“We also welcome unwanted Christmas gifts, clean clothing, non-perishable food and homewares, that can be dropped off directly to Havelock House on Northbourne Avenue,” Ms Maidens continued.

Ms Maidens said another way that Canberrans can support the homeless in our community is by sharing why housing matters to their community with their local ACT and federal members. Ms Maidens said community voices help keep housing and homelessness on the agenda.

“Governments in the ACT and nationally are investing in housing, and that is welcome. When people tell their local member why this matters, it helps make sure that momentum continues,” Ms Maidens said.

Businesses and individuals can contact Havelock to offer services, meals or transport over the Christmas period.

Ms Maidens said the drive was about creating positive links within the community.

“Havelock has been at the frontline of homelessness response in Canberra for over 40 years, and we know we can’t do this alone. Whether you give $25, drop off a bag of groceries or offer a meal, you are helping a Canberran feel supported. Every contribution matters,” she said.

Havelock currently manages 210 properties across the ACT, housing around 400 tenants. To donate or find out more, visit https://christmas.havelockhousing.com.au

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Media contact:

For more information, images or to arrange an interview with Kylie Maidens, please contact:

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About Havelock Housing

Havelock saves lives by creating a community that cares. As the oldest and largest frontline Community Housing Provider in Canberra, Havelock has more than 40 years of experience delivering social, affordable and specialist disability housing across the ACT and Southern NSW. Havelock currently manages 210 properties across the ACT, housing 406 tenants. Investment in community housing and wraparound support reduces pressure on emergency services, hospitals and corrections, delivering better outcomes at lower cost. People don't choose homelessness. Havelock is there when they need it most.

havelockhousing.com.au

BACKGROUNDER

Since 2015, Havelock Housing has supported more than 2,000 individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Havelock has worked with people from a wide range of backgrounds and circumstances, including those experiencing rough sleeping, domestic and family violence, mental health challenges, disability, youth homelessness, and families requiring housing support.

Today, Havelock Housing manages 406 active tenancies, providing stable and affordable housing to around 400 residents across their portfolio.

Havelock's services are built on the belief that safe housing is a fundamental foundation for wellbeing, independence, and community connection.

Havelock Housing is committed to providing inclusive, person-centred support and does not discriminate based on age, gender, cultural background, religion, sexuality, disability, relationship status, or life circumstances.

Through a combination of housing, tenancy support, case management, maintenance services, and community development initiatives, Havelock Housing continues to support individuals and families to sustain their housing, improve their wellbeing, and build positive futures.

Havelock's numbers -

- Over 2,000 people supported since 2015

- Over 400 active tenancies
- Operating across a diverse portfolio of rooming accommodation and independent housing options