

MEDIA RELEASE

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Demolition begins on former Canberra PCYC headquarters to make way for 55 new social and affordable homes

The long-awaited redevelopment of the former Canberra Police Community Youth Club (CPCYC) site in Turner has reached a major milestone, with demolition of the derelict headquarters commencing today.

A consortium of partners including community housing provider CHC Australia and Canberra PCYC, supported by the Snow Foundation, have confirmed the start of works on the project, which will deliver 55 new social and affordable rental homes in the city's inner north. Core Building Group has been appointed as head contractor.

The development is supported by the ACT Government through its Affordable Housing Project Fund and is a preferred project under the Federal Government's Housing Australia Future Fund Facility (HAFFF Round One). The 55-unit development will house essential workers and at-risk young people, comprising 45 affordable rental units for key workers, 10 one-bedroom social housing units for at-risk young people aged 16 to 24 years, and a social enterprise café with staff to include young people supported by CPCYC.

The demolition of the derelict building – the long-term home of CPCYC until storm damage rendered it unusable - marks the first visible step towards transforming the prominent Turner site into a much-needed source of housing in the ACT.

A 36-tonne excavator will undertake the demolition, while a photographic record of the building's distinctive graffiti is being preserved with aspects to be incorporated into the new development.

ACT Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs Yvette Berry said: "It's exciting to see this project reach a new milestone with the start of demolition works. Importantly, this will ultimately deliver 55 new affordable units for Canberrans who need it. This joint venture project is a great example of how the ACT Government is using innovative ways to address the housing crisis. By working in partnership with organisations this helps to deliver our commitment of 30,000 more homes across Canberra by 2030. This includes 5000 community, social and affordable homes."

Canberra PCYC CEO Cheryl O'Donnell said: "Canberra PCYC is thrilled with the redevelopment of our Turner site, it is an exciting milestone, one that has taken many years, but is well worth it. This project is made possible through our valued partnership with CHC, and the incredible support from Snow Foundation and the generous support of Boorer Foundation, as well as the incredible generosity and expertise of so many consultants, businesses, and supporters who have come together to make this vision a reality. We gratefully want to acknowledge the ACT Government for their ongoing support, which has been instrumental in helping us move forward with confidence. This innovative project will support many families as well as young people, we are humbled by the support provided."

CHC CEO Nathan Dal Bon said: “The demolition of the former Canberra PCYC building marks the beginning of an important renewal for this site, and the wider community. In its place, new social and affordable homes will provide much-needed accommodation for essential workers and at-risk young people, who are expected to move in from 2027. This project demonstrates the real outcomes that can be achieved when the public and private sectors work together to deliver safe, high-quality and affordable housing.”

Snow Foundation CEO Georgina Byron said: “It’s so good to see demolition underway at Turner. This site is being transformed from bricks and rubble into homes and futures. Through genuine partnership with Canberra PCYC, CHC and the ACT Government, we are creating stability and pathways for young people, alongside affordable places to live for essential workers and a social enterprise hub for the whole community.”

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