



CATHERINE HOUSE

Our logo is a woman standing tall. Her legs are elongated to give the impression of inner strength and resilience. She is holding her arms up in celebration of taking control and giving herself shelter in a difficult time. She is not standing still - her legs are different lengths to emphasise movement - she is moving forward, she is progressing positively with her life.

Gold suited this image as it is precious and has enduring qualities. It is resilient, and albeit it looks rough in its raw state, with a bit of effort, it shines.



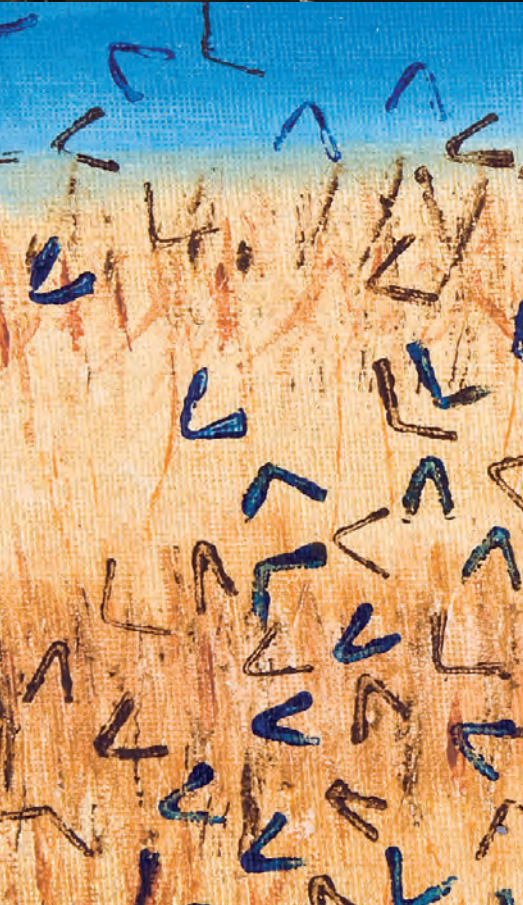
STRENGTH

OUR PURPOSE

Solving Women's Homelessness

At Catherine House we seek to offer a woman the opportunity to transform her life, through the various supports and programs that we provide. Our underlying philosophy is that we always see a client as a person first, and not the sum of all the problems that have brought her to homelessness.

We have a holistic approach to the work that we do. We not only deal with the immediate problems and issues that have led a client to homelessness, we also look with her at how she can create a more sustainable, satisfying future.



OUR VALUES AND BEHAVIOUR

Respect, Acceptance and Trust: We promote an organisational culture which respects, accepts and celebrates differences in our clients, staff, volunteers, board and trust members and valued supporters. We take pride in being a place of warm welcome and hospitality and receiving people just as they are. We believe in building trust with our clients, ourselves and others.

Dignity, Worth, Hope and Fun: We strive to work with women in a way that encourages self-determination, increases self-worth and offers hope. We provide educational and learning opportunities designed to develop and build a woman's capacity to live life with dignity, through helping her to develop her full potential. We value the benefit of social occasions to celebrate life and to promote healthy fun and laughter.

Innovation, Choice and Excellence: We are committed to ongoing program development in order to offer women the choice of a range of innovative services including pathways into employment. We recognise that it is vital to provide an excellent, integrated and meaningful service response, specifically tailored to meet the needs of the women who come to our organisation.

Inquiry, Motivation and Change: We value the evolving nature of our work. We seek, therefore, to continue with relevant research studies that will help us to determine how best we can support and work with our client group. We seek to motivate clients to change the patterns and behaviours that have been destructive in their lives. We believe in the value of public education as a key priority in our drive to change negative images and stereotyping about the women we work with.

Cooperation, Partnerships and Diversity: We are committed to developing strong and cooperative working relationships within and outside the organisation. We enjoy working in partnership with other agencies and government departments towards a common goal. We appreciate the richness of diversity and difference in relationships and partnerships with government and non-government entities.



LAUGHTER



Catherine House Inc was established in 1988 by the Sisters of Mercy. It is the only provider of supported accommodation in South Australia for women over 21 years, unaccompanied by children, who are homeless for a range of complex reasons.

Over 700 women a year come to Catherine House. On average 50-60 women are referred to the emergency accommodation program each month. Women can self refer, however, welfare services, hospitals, prison, Crisis Care and police are the main sources of referrals.

Women come from across the whole spectrum of society including those who have gone to private schools, university or had a career.

Catherine House employs over 50 full time, part time and casual staff including administration staff, housekeepers, social workers, community service workers, a drug and alcohol clinician, an educational course coordinator and a vocational psychologist.

There is also a band of invaluable volunteers who work in various roles across the organisation.

Catherine House has received national accreditation through the Quality Improvement Council.

Our focus is to deliver a range of innovative programs and services that deliver the outcomes necessary to solve women's homelessness. We believe that through hard work, creative endeavour and keen attention to providing a high quality service, our stated 'purpose' is very much attainable.

Programs and Services

- Supported Accommodation – Emergency, Transitional, Permanent
- Specialist Mental Health Program
- Housekeeping and Hospitality – good food, warm décor, safe and welcoming environment
- Administration – quality systems and processes
- Outreach – working with women upon exit from the Emergency and Recovery Programs
- Co-morbidity – Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol clinician available
- Vocational Education and Employment – finding women jobs – 'educating women out of homelessness'
- Research – well-regarded studies published
- Public Education – regular corporate, community and school speaking engagements conducted. Conferences attended and papers published
- Volunteers – great group who are vital to our work
- Legal and Health Services
- Events – fundraising events are held regularly
- Funding – around 60% from government, remainder grants and fundraising

Catherine House is an incorporated body with a highly skilled Board of Management. It also has an extremely energetic and committed Trust that has the important role of fundraising for our work.



Catherine House Inc.

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