



\$6 million renovation transforms

THE St Vincent de Paul Society has moved into its new look Edel Quinn homeless service where it will continue to provide essential services for people experiencing homelessness in Wagga and the broader Murrumbidgee region.

The extensively renovated 16 bed facility will be open next month to provide a holistic approach to homelessness including

accommodation, individualised case management, specialised education and training, outreach support to people living in the community, advocacy and legal support, counselling, and transitional housing for independent sustainable community living.

The service will continue to assist men experiencing homelessness and will extend its service to assist single women.



Edel Quinn Manager Peter Quamby and Acting Regional Manager St Vincent de Paul Support Services Pat Fogarty outside the revitalised centre.

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Home has a rich history

THE grand house which forms the centrepiece of the Edel Quinn homeless service facility may now be state-of-the-art and appointed with many modern innovations but it has a rich history dating back to the 19th century.

The house was originally the grand Colonial residence of store keeper and stock and station agent George Forsyth, who was Wagga's first Mayor.

In the ensuing decades, the house had several owners and has been a private hospital, nursing home, a millinery, lending library and an from 1955-65 it was divided in to flats as accommodation for editorial and printing staff of Frank Packer's *Evening News*.

The residence was acquired by St Vincent de Paul in 1966, when it became the original Edel Quinn homeless men's shelter.

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Advertising feature
*New look
 Edel Quinn
 to re-open*



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AFTER years of planning and more than two years of building at the cost of \$6 million, the original site of Wagga's Edel Quinn homeless service is about to re-open its doors.

The service operated from houses in Kincaid and Travers streets while the project was being completed.

Edel Quinn will continue in its traditional role of assisting men experiencing homelessness but its new secure accommodation units will allow it to extend its service to assist single women.

While client meetings are already taking place in the new facility, it is expected that the first client will take up residency at Edel Quinn early next month.

Edel Quinn Manager, Peter Quarmby said the new service is an exciting one for the region and the service model is in line with the State Government's homeless service reforms, *Going Home Staying Home*, which focus more heavily on moving people out of homelessness more quickly or preventing homelessness from occurring in the first place through early intervention.

"The Society is very supportive of the new reforms as we believe that they are focused on getting better outcomes for people experiencing homelessness or those at risk of homelessness," he said.

Mr Quarmby said the re-development will have a positive impact on social and community infrastructure for people in the region experiencing disadvantage.

"We are very excited as the new facility will respond to unmet demand for assistance from the community," he said.

"The new Edel Quinn will have greater capacity to help people transform their lives."

Currently, the centre has three case managers - which it is looking to extend to five - and deals with up to 60 service users a month with the renovations purpose-designed to help satellite users, with a travellers' kitchen, bathroom and laundry.

"Part of our service is helping people who just want a hot meal or hot shower," Mr Quarmby said.

RIGHT: The fully appointed commercial kitchen can cater for as many as 30 people at a sitting in Edel Quinn's dining hall.



BELOW: The general accommodation units are secure with climate control and an ensuite. Single women experiencing homelessness are now able to be accommodated at Edel Quinn.



ABOVE: The self-contained accommodations units are complete with a kitchenette - with cook top, dishwasher, microwave and refrigerator - a laundry and bathroom.



LEFT: The bathroom in the self contained accommodation unit at the new Edel Quinn homeless service facility.



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