Friday August 21, 2026

MEDIA RELEASE

Men experiencing homelessness in Bourke to benefit from new crisis accommodation

Men experiencing homelessness in Bourke will soon have access to local crisis accommodation, thanks to a collaborative initiative between Maranguka and CatholicCare Wilcannia-Forbes (CCWF) aimed at addressing a longstanding service gap in the community.

The need for emergency accommodation has been a key priority identified by Maranguka's Men of Bourke group for several years.

To help bring the project to life, CCWF secured funding through the NSW Department of Communities and Justice's Homelessness Innovation Fund, under the Reforming Temporary Accommodation Program.

CatholicCare Wilcannia-Forbes CEO Anne-Marie Mioche said the project involves the construction of three self-contained, portable accommodation units within the Bourke Men's Hub precinct.

“These dwellings, which could be described as tiny homes, provide an innovative and practical response to homelessness in regional and remote communities where access to major housing infrastructure is often limited,” Ms Mioche said.

“Work is progressing well, with installation of the prefabricated units commencing earlier this year.

“We look forward to welcoming the first residents once the project is completed, which is anticipated by the end of this year.”

The accommodation project builds on the success of the recently completed Men's Shed and further strengthens the Bourke Men's Hub as a place of connection, support and community engagement. The Hub represents a significant partnership between Maranguka and CCWF, providing a dedicated space for programs and activities focused on supporting local men.

Maranguka Executive Director Alister Ferguson said the support services delivered through the new Bourke Accommodation and Support Hub would be just as important as the accommodation itself.

“This will be a safe and welcoming place where men can support one another and connect with a range of cultural, health, social and wellbeing activities and healing programs,” Mr Ferguson said.

“All of this sits under Maranguka's Growing Our Kids Up Safe Smart & Strong Strategy. Support at the Hub will be built around the individual and tailored to what each man actually needs, through Maranguka's Integrated Coordinated Case Support Model. It is a new and innovative approach to the way services are delivered in Bourke.

“The new units will provide safe, supported accommodation for men experiencing homelessness, as well as for those who choose to leave their home before domestic and family violence incidents escalate.”

The Bourke Accommodation and Support Hub reflects the shared commitment of Maranguka and CatholicCare Wilcannia-Forbes to delivering locally led solutions that strengthen community wellbeing and create pathways to stable housing and support.

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