

20 February, 2013

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Official opening “Lady Heydon House”

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| <b>What:</b>  | Governor-General opens “Lady Heydon House” – the first phase of the YWCA of Canberra’s affordable housing for women project. |
| <b>Where:</b> | 24 Scattergood Place, Spence, Canberra<br>(entry via Boyland Close)  |
| <b>When:</b>  | 3pm, Wednesday 20 February, 2013   |

Over the last two years the YWCA of Canberra has been pursuing the aspiration of becoming an affordable housing provider. As a provider of homelessness services, we are increasingly concerned about the limited number of exit points for families and individuals who have entered our services, stabilised the issues that led them to seek assistance, and are in need of their own accommodation.

In relation to older women, there is significant evidence that this group is at particular risk due to intermittent work patterns, low levels of superannuation and lower incomes.

*Lady Heydon House* is the result of the initial phase of our affordable housing program and will provide safe affordable housing for five single women. Each woman will have her own bedroom, sitting room, en-suite and kitchenette, and will share a larger kitchen, dining room, and two living spaces.

“We are delighted to be naming this new group house *Lady Heydon House* after Naomi Heydon, past President and significant contributor to the YWCA of Canberra through the 1960s and 1970s. The site where the house now stands was originally named Heydon Cottage and was set up to help develop a sense of community in what was one of Canberra’s new suburbs at the time,” explained Rebecca Vassarotti, Executive Director of the YWCA of Canberra.

“Today we are also launching the YWCA of Canberra Gift Fund, which will support our vision of women achieving their potential and facilitate the growth of our affordable housing project over time,” Rebecca continued.

*Lady Heydon House* was officially opened on 20 February 2013 by our Patron, Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC CVO Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia.

For comment or for further information contact:

**Rebecca Vassarotti, Executive Director, YWCA of Canberra  
on 0408 661 259**



*YWCA of Canberra - women achieving their potential*

Women's Leadership | Children's and Community Services | Advocacy | Community Resources

*Patron: Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce, AC – Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia*