

MEDIA RELEASE

Building Hope for Canberra

EVENT DETAILS

MASTER BUILDERS ACT X HANDS ACROSS CANBERRA SOD TURNING

Monday 20 October

12-12.30pm

128 Thancoupie Crescent, Whitlam

As Master Builders ACT marks its centenary year, the construction sector has once again joined forces with Hands Across Canberra and the Chief Minister's Charitable Fund for the 2026 Charity House project, to deliver a home built with purpose, care and community spirit.

The project will be launched at midday on Monday 20 October by Chief Minister Andrew Barr, Master Builders ACT President Frank Porecca and Hands Across Canberra board chair, on site at 128 Thancoupie St in Whitlam.

The project marks the fourth Charity House collaboration between Master Builders ACT and Hands Across Canberra, reflecting a shared commitment to giving back to the community and addressing pressing social needs. Funds raised from the home's auction will be distributed to local charities supporting Canberrans in need, with a particular focus on the victims and survivors of domestic and family violence.

The 2026 Charity House will be constructed in Whitlam by fourth-generation builders A+P Leemhuis, supported by dozens of industry partners who are contributing time, materials and expertise to bring the charity house vision to life.

"This year is a significant milestone for Master Builders ACT," said CEO Anna Neelagama. "In our centenary year, the Charity House is a powerful testament to what can be achieved when the building industry works together. It is a proud moment for us to see our members once again pulling together to give back to the community."

Hands Across Canberra CEO Genevieve Jacobs added: "Every brick tells a story of care and collaboration. The enduring partnership between Hands Across Canberra and Master Builders ACT has delivered millions of dollars to Canberrans in need, demonstrating how we literally build a better Canberra when we work together."

The 2026 Charity House is inspired by the Whitlam project ethos: a place that feels like a growing community and is built to the highest standards of quality and craftsmanship. More than a home, it stands as a symbol of family, generosity, and collaboration in action.

House proceeds will go directly to local charities, ensuring this centenary project leaves a lasting legacy for Canberra.

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Media enquiries:

Anna Neelagama | CEO, Master Builders ACT
aneelagama@mba.org.au | 0448 692 245

Genevieve Jacobs | CEO, Hands Across Canberra
gjacobs@handsacrosscanberra.org.au | 0428 432 621