

MEDIA RELEASE

ACT building industry commits to support for domestic and family violence victims

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Leading Canberra building industry figures have committed to support for domestic and family violence victims through a Master Builders ACT charity house project in collaboration with Hands Across Canberra, the ACT's community foundation.

The four-bedroom architect designed house will be built in Whitlam and auctioned on completion. The project has also been supported by the ACT Government and Suburban Land Agency, securing a large block with sweeping views of the Molonglo River and mountains.

Profits from the sale will benefit charities working on crisis response, longer term care and support, and breaking cycles of violence within families. All funds will remain in the Canberra community and all projects are entirely local.

Domestic and family violence is a major cause of harm in the ACT. Nationally, about two in five homicides are linked to family and domestic violence, although a significant proportion of incidents continue to go unreported.

'This is our fifth charity house the Master Builders are delivering for Canberra. This is one of the major ways our movement and the ACT building and construction industry gives back to the ACT and region,' said Master Builders ACT CEO Anna Neelagama.

'We leave no stone unturned – every tile and brick, the landscaping, this time even a pool, are donated by Master Builders ACT members. The architect has not charged a fee, nor has the interior designer, and we've sourced generous donations for everything from the concreting and door frames to the clothes-line.

'Domestic and family violence is a complete blight on our community and a big barrier for victims is lack of access to both transitional and permanent housing. The beneficiaries from this Charity House will deliver core support to victims and survivors, and that support lifts us all up as a community here in Canberra.'

Together, we build better. 

Darrell Leemhuis, principal of construction firm A+P Leemhuis, is leading the build and sees the charity house project as a values-based proposition.

‘For me, building a house to help out just makes sense, it’s what we can do. When I was approached about the project, I said, “Mate, I’ll build it. You don’t have to even ask the question.”’, Darrell said.

‘A+P Leemhuis have started to really push on philanthropy over the past few years, and this is a way to inspire others in the industry to do the same.

‘My son is coming up now as a young builder and when you sit down at the dinner table each night, it’s good to talk about more than bricks and mortar and business. I want to show him you can work with integrity and grace by giving back to your community.’

END

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