



**Friday 26 October 2018**

**For immediate release**

### **A house built out of love for the people of Canberra.**

Today, Hands Across Canberra in partnership with Master Builders ACT (MBA) and Village Building Co. announced a new Charity House Project with the proceeds again being donated to Canberra's most vulnerable people.

The Charity House concept was developed by MBA ACT back in 2013. The most recent project was the Deakin Charity House in 2016. A collaboration between ACT Government, MBA and Hands Across Canberra, the Deakin Charity House project was expertly managed by Renaissance Homes with two beautiful houses built and sold. As a result, more than \$2million was donated to the community sector – the biggest ever donation to be injected back into the Canberra community.

This new MBA Charity House project is to be delivered in Village Building Co.'s exciting new Weston precinct. Hands Across Canberra is incredibly proud to work side by side with local businesses and treasures the opportunity to be a part of this project.

Michael Hopkins, CEO, Master Builders ACT said: "We look forward to updating the Canberra community on the progress of this latest MBA Charity House which will be built in partnership with generous local developer and builder, the Village Building Company, over the next 12 to 18 months." Master Builders ACT has completed three previous charity houses which collectively have raised close to \$3,000,000 for local Canberra charities. It is hoped this latest, fourth project will result in even higher funds raised at auction.

Hands Across Canberra is delighted to be able to partner with the MBA and the local construction industry as they look to create an ongoing and permanent MBA Charity House program which they are confident will become an annual feature in the community over time. Peter Gordon, CEO, Hands Across Canberra said, "This is exactly one of the reasons we work so hard for good causes. It will be extra special for this house when we know every dollar is going back into our community. Everyone loves a chance to give back."

Village Building Company, a Canberra institution, is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. As part of its celebration, Village announced it would be the first fully private-sector funded sponsor of a Charity House in the ACT.



Travis Doherty, CEO, Village Building Co. said: "This type of project proves just how much can be achieved when individuals and businesses band together to achieve positive change."

The MBA Charity House concept is a unique concept which capitalises on the generous community spirit of the local building industry, support from the ACT Government, and project leadership provided by the MBA and Hands Across Canberra.

To stay up to date about the MBA Charity House development visit

[www.handsacrosscanberra.org.au](http://www.handsacrosscanberra.org.au)

[www.mba.org.au](http://www.mba.org.au)

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**About Hands Across Canberra**

Hands Across Canberra was founded in 2010 by a group of Canberra leaders with the idea of creating a foundation to help fellow Canberrans and give back to the community. Hands Across Canberra is Canberra's independent community foundation, working with more than 250 local community organisations.

**About Master Builders ACT**

The Master Builders Association of Australia is the nation's peak building and construction industry association which was federated on a national basis in 1890. Over our 125-year history, our membership has grown to more than 32,000 businesses nationwide, including the top 100 construction companies.

**About Village Building Co.**

Village is a 30-year-old national property company with fully integrated development, construction and investment capabilities. It creates well planned, highly liveable and environmentally responsible urban communities.

Headquartered in Canberra, Village employs over 50 people and currently is working on projects in the ACT, NSW, Victoria and southern QLD. Village offers the full spectrum of developments including land, house and land, apartments and mixed-use developments. Village has a history of contributing to its communities as founding sponsor of the National Arboretum in Canberra. 's involvement in the Hands-Across-Canberra initiative signals a renewed commitment to its home town, Canberra under new CEO, Travis Doherty