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## **OVER \$500,000 GRANTED TO TRAINING PROGRAM TO BUILD BRIGHTER FUTURES**

An investment of \$545,000 from Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation (NPCF) will help women across the Hunter and Central Coast access new training and employment opportunities thanks to an initiative from Habitat for Humanity Australia.

Over three years almost 50 participants in the Habitat Women program will receive free hands-on training in foundational construction skills, covering topics such as basic carpentry and plumbing, wall repairs, painting, tiling and general repairs and maintenance. The first intake will begin in late February.

The investment builds on previous support provided by NPCF to help Habitat for Humanity Australia establish their Brush with Kindness program in the region which rejuvenates crisis and transitional accommodation for people experiencing vulnerabilities.

According to 2024 ABS data, women comprise just 13.6% of the construction workforce, with even fewer engaged in trades. This partnership aims to boost participation and uplift access to and quality of much-needed affordable housing for the most vulnerable, including women and children escaping domestic violence.

"We are thrilled to partner with Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation to increase the reach of our Habitat Women program," Habitat for Humanity Australia's CEO, Penny Kaleta, said.

"For many participants this program is a turning point, providing exposure to new industries, strong networks and a clear pathway into the workforce.

"Together, we are building brighter futures – one woman, one community at a time."

Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation spokesperson Natasha Beyersdorf said the Foundation was thrilled to continue working with Habitat for Humanity Australia, after granting \$120,000 to the organisation in 2024 to roll out Brush with Kindness across Newcastle and the Central Coast.

"Brush with Kindness continues to deliver much-needed upgrades to transitional accommodation and following its success we are proud to partner with Habitat for Humanity Australia again to expand their Habitat Women program," Ms Beyersdorf said.

"This initiative opens doors for women to develop practical skills, build confidence and access meaningful employment opportunities across in-demand industries."

To learn more about the partnership between Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation and Habitat for Humanity Australia, please visit: [habitat.org.au](https://habitat.org.au)

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# Media Release



## **About Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation**

Since its establishment in 2003, the Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation has provided more than \$27 million to not-for profit organisations and community groups throughout regional NSW, supporting important projects and initiatives aimed at improving community health and well-being for those most in need.

