



Core and Cluster program – information for NSW local councils

Core and Cluster program overview

On 19 October 2021, the NSW Government announced an historic investment for housing and specialist supports for women and children experiencing domestic and family violence (DFV).

The investment includes \$426.6 million over four years to expand Core and Cluster to deliver and operate new women's crisis accommodation that will support up to an additional 2,900 women and children escaping DFV each year.

What is Core and Cluster?

Core and Cluster is an innovative model that allows for independent living and privacy for women and children experiencing domestic and family violence while also providing access to supports.

Under the Core and Cluster model, a 'cluster' of self-contained accommodation is located next to a 'core', which provides access to services such as counselling, legal assistance, education and employment support.

The sites may contain meeting rooms, audio-visual equipment for court appearances, communal kitchens, and playgrounds.

The new refuges will be developed to with the aim of providing greater safety for women and children experiencing DFV, and to allow them to heal and thrive.

Procurement and delivery of Core and Cluster accommodation

Construction of the new refuges will commence in 2022 and continue over four years up to 2025-26.

Funding will be rolled out over four years and three tranches. Each tranche will commence with an Expression of Interest (EOI) to identify proposals and providers for new or additional facilities (asset and/or service delivery).

More information on the procurement activity can be found on the [DCJ webpage](#). Information will also be published on the [NSW e-tendering site](#).

Information on indicative locations of the refuges can also be found on the [DCJ webpage](#).

Role of local councils

The NSW Government welcomes the participation of local councils in the Core and Cluster program. Local councils will be critical to the successful delivery of new Core and Cluster accommodation.

As funding for new Core and Cluster refuges is rolled-out, councils may receive development applications for the construction of new refuges and change of use development applications.

Councils may also wish to participate in the Core and Cluster Program by identifying land or assets that could be utilised for Core and Cluster proposals.



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Councils may also be able to assist in facilitating partnerships between local services. DCJ has developed a process whereby parties can register their interest in potential partnerships and directly contact possible partners. Please refer to the [DCJ webpage](#) for more information on registering such interest including the form required to be completed and submitted to DCJ.

DCJ has communicated that all Core and Cluster proposals must comply with local council planning requirements, and outline whether the land and asset has appropriate council approvals for a Core and Cluster facility.

Further information

For information about the Core and Cluster Program that cannot be located on the [DCJ program information webpages](#) please email SHSProgram@facns.nsw.gov.au.