

Investor Update

McGrath North Lakes | November 2025

Opening Doors with HOWSS: Helping Older Women Find a Second Chance at Home

At McGrath North Lakes, we believe real estate is about more than matching people with properties — it's about helping people rebuild their lives.

That's why our partnership with HOWSS (Housing Older Women's Support Service) has been so meaningful. A service of Footprints Community, HOWSS provides crucial support to women aged 50 and over who are experiencing housing stress or homelessness across Queensland.

Many of these women have lived independent, productive lives — working, raising families, and caring for others — only to find themselves without secure housing later in life. Relationship breakdowns, bereavement, job loss, or rising rental costs can leave them suddenly vulnerable. With limited superannuation and a shortage of affordable homes, some are forced to couch-surf, live in cars, or rely on temporary shelters.

HOWSS helps change that story by offering advocacy, housing assistance, and connections to essential financial and legal services. Their work helps women regain stability and re-enter the private rental market with confidence and dignity.

At McGrath North Lakes, we support this mission by identifying suitable rental properties — typically one- or two-bedroom affordable homes — and prioritise applications from HOWSS clients wherever possible. With assistance from HOWSS to apply for rent subsidies, these tenancies are given the best chance for success.



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Laura our Principal with HOWSS worker Ashley at the Footprints Community 'Hub' in West End

We also collaborate through education and awareness initiatives. In August, our Principal Laura Valenti joined the Understanding & Applying for Private Rentals workshop at the HOWSS Hub in West End. Her presence and insights were warmly received by the women participating. Through open conversation, Laura shared her expertise on making the private rental market more accessible, offering practical advice that shifted participants' perspectives. Many had previously believed private rentals were out of reach due to age or income-related barriers.

Laura also highlighted how support services like HOWSS can provide context letters to help strengthen rental applications under new rental laws. The session sparked hope and understanding among participants, and we are looking forward to returning to the next information session.

Our team is proud to play a part in helping older women find their footing again. With the right support and compassion, we can all help ensure that every woman — no matter her age or circumstance — has a safe place to call home.

For more information, visit howss.org.au

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Learning, Coaching, Networking

Our Principals Laura and David attended the REIQ 'Lift' Conference which focused on leadership, resilience, and exceptional customer service. We were also thrilled that Caroline our Head of Property Management was chosen to present a session on QCAT.



Laura and Jodee (our New Client Consultant) attended a breakfast at the North Lakes State College hosted by the North Lakes Chamber of Commerce.

Business leaders connected with local school reps to promote school-based traineeships. Our agency has mentored several students through traineeships which provide students with practical career options.



Changing careers later in life didn't slow Rochelle and Linda down — since joining us this year as assistant property managers, they've already been promoted to Senior Portfolio Managers.