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for immediate release

**Canberra City Care's new Harvest Community Kitchen will serve up benefits to Canberra's most vulnerable.**

Canberra City Care officially opened their new Harvest Community Kitchen today in Charnwood. The kitchen was largely funded by The Snow Foundation and Hands Across Canberra through their 2017 Project Support Grant Scheme.

After more than 12 months of fundraising and volunteering, a group of talented tradesmen and generous businesses donated their time and talent to construct the commercial grade kitchen.

Danielle Bates, Operations Manager, Canberra City Care said, "This is an amazing example of community collaboration, we are extremely grateful for the generous donation of materials and talent. I'm like to thank the Canberra community for helping to make this dream a reality! We hope to get to the point where we can offer accredited training courses, so our volunteers can also work toward a qualification."

Peter Gordon, CEO, Hands Across Canberra, said, "Canberra City Care plays a vital role in our community with the Pantry, Op-Shop, Tech Shed, Harvest Garden and now the Harvest Community Kitchen. All of these services offer support and assistance for our most vulnerable people. It's incredibly exciting and rewarding to see one of our support grant projects come to life."

To celebrate, they hosted an afternoon tea provided by the Global Sisters program, a local organisation for women who want to start up or grow a business.

Stavro Dascarolis, the local developer who generously managed the construction the Harvest Kitchen said, "I am thrilled to be part of this project. Organisations like Canberra City Care provide life-changing support to people who really need it and allows them to re-connect with their community and that's really inspiring." Mr Dascarolis also said "the support of my colleagues in the building industry was marvellous. Time and materials were supplied either at cost or free and I can't thank them enough for their support."

The kitchen follows the completion of the Harvest Garden last year. The garden allows staff, community groups and visitors to use the fresh produce and additional supplies from the Pantry to prepare and cook meals in the new Harvest Kitchen. The Kitchen will enable OzHarvest, as part of their food rescue service, to begin their community soon. CIT Students will also be able to practice and develop their cooking skills to meet their course requirements.

Canberra City Care now operates with the assistance of over 50 volunteers and has several daily visitors to their centre. The commercial grade kitchen means our members will learn new skills in food handling and preparation. These new facilities will help CCC expand the community outreach services offered in West Belconnen.

If you would like to find out more about Canberra City Care visit [www.canberracitycare.org](http://www.canberracitycare.org).  
If you would like to support Hands Across Canberra visit [handsacrosscanberra.org.au](http://handsacrosscanberra.org.au) or  
[know more information about The Snow Foundation visit  
http://www.snowfoundation.org.au/](http://www.snowfoundation.org.au/)

*Canberra City Care would like to thank the following for their contributions:*

**Financial donors:**

- Life Unlimited Church
- The Snow Foundation
- Hands Across Canberra
- Kim Hunynh
- IMB
- The Green Shed
- ACT Government
- MAX Foundation

**Other contributors**

- Stavro Dascarolis – Harvest Kitchen Project Manager
- ACTEW AGL- Gas connection
- Icon Water & OzHarvest – Commercial Dishwasher
- ProDraft ACT - Hydraulic Engineering
- ACT Stainless Steel
- OConnor Refrigeration
- Drips & Drains – Plumbing
- Canberra Air-Conditioning Services
- Haavisto Industries – Electrical
- Epoxy Coatings – Flooring

-ENDS-

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**About Hands Across Canberra**

Hands Across Canberra was launched in November 2010 to encourage and provide a simple way for Canberrans to adopt more regular habits of philanthropy. Through the Hands Across Canberra portal Canberrans have a cost effective, flexible and financially secure vehicle to contribute to local charities. Hands Across Canberra helps to keep the wealth created locally within the Canberra community.