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Submission in Support of Development Application Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family – Proposed Aged Care Facility, Marrickville

Submitted by:

Anne Farah-Hill OAM
Chief Executive Officer
Kingsgrove St George Community Aid Services.

1. Introduction

I write in strong and unequivocal support of the Development Application submitted by the Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family for the establishment of a new aged care (nursing home) facility in Marrickville.

In my capacity as Chief Executive Officer of Kingsgrove St George Community Services, and formerly as CEO of the Marrickville Community Centre (May Murray Community Centre), I bring over 35 years of direct experience in community service delivery, Aged Care, local infrastructure development, and advocacy within the Marrickville and broader Inner West and the St George region.

2. Strategic Need for Aged Care in Marrickville and the Inner West

The Inner West region is experiencing a significant demographic shift, with a rapidly ageing population and increasing demand for accessible, high-quality aged care services.

According to the **Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2021 Census:**

- In the Inner West Local Government Area, approximately **15–17% of the population is aged 65 years and over**, with this proportion projected to increase steadily over the coming decade.
- The number of residents aged **70 years and over is growing at a faster rate than the general population**, reflecting increased longevity and demand for higher-level care services.
- A significant proportion of older residents come from **culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds**, with over **40% of residents in parts of the Inner West speaking a language other than English at home**.

These figures highlight a clear and growing need for aged care services that are not only available, but appropriately designed to meet the complex cultural and social needs of the local population.

3. Multicultural and Specialised Care – A Critical Gap

One of the most compelling aspects of this proposal is its capacity to deliver **specialised multicultural aged care**.

The Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family are uniquely positioned to deliver:

- Linguistically appropriate care
- Culturally familiar environments
- Faith-based support and pastoral care
- Social connection that reflects residents' heritage and identity

This is particularly important in the Inner West, where a large proportion of older residents are from migrant backgrounds and may experience isolation or barriers in mainstream aged care settings.

4. Alignment with Planning and Policy Frameworks

The proposed development aligns with key planning objectives, including:

- NSW priorities supporting **social infrastructure and community wellbeing**
- Local Environmental Plans encouraging **health and aged care developments**
- State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs) supporting **seniors housing and care facilities**
- National aged care reforms promoting **ageing in place and culturally appropriate care**

5. Community Benefit and Local Impact

This development will deliver significant benefits, including:

- Increased aged care capacity within Marrickville
- Reduction of pressure on existing services
- Creation of local employment opportunities
- Strengthening of multicultural community networks
- Enabling older residents to remain within their local community

This facility represents essential infrastructure and should be viewed as a **community asset rather than a burden**.

6. Addressing Potential Concerns

Based on my experience, aged care developments of this nature:

- Integrate well within residential settings
- Operate under strict regulatory frameworks
- Provide stable and low-impact community use

Any potential concerns regarding traffic or amenity are manageable and outweighed by the long-term social benefits.

7. Proven Capacity and Community Trust

The Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family have a long-standing and respected presence within the community, with demonstrated capacity to deliver compassionate, high-quality care.

8. Conclusion and Recommendation

The proposed aged care facility is a **necessary and strategic response** to the growing ageing population in Marrickville and the Inner West.

It will:

- Address a critical service gap
- Deliver culturally appropriate care
- Strengthen local social infrastructure

I strongly urge the consent authority to approve this Development Application and support the delivery of a facility that will serve older Australians with dignity, respect, and cultural understanding.

Submitted by:

Anne Farah-Hill OAM.

Chief Executive Officer

Kingsgrove Community Aid Centre Inc.