



27/3/2026

Submission to the Independent Planning Commission

Re: Development Application Support for Maronite Sisters Redevelopment (SSD 69377980)

Dear Commissioners,

I write in my capacity as President of the Board of Trustees of the World Lebanese Cultural Union (WLCU), an international non-governmental organisation dedicated to strengthening cultural ties, supporting communities, and promoting social wellbeing.

On behalf of our organisation, I wish to express our strong support for the Development Application submitted by the Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family for the redevelopment of their aged care facility.

The Maronite Sisters have a long and respected history of service in Australia since their arrival in 1968. Their mission—grounded in care, compassion, and community engagement—has significantly contributed to the wellbeing of countless families, particularly within the Lebanese and broader multicultural communities. Their work in aged care reflects not only professional excellence but also a deep understanding of cultural and spiritual needs.

Australia's ageing population is growing rapidly, especially among those aged 85 and above. This demographic reality brings with it an urgent need for modern, high-quality aged care services. The proposed redevelopment directly responds to this need by replacing outdated infrastructure with contemporary facilities designed to meet current standards, including improved safety, infection control, and a more dignified, home-like living environment.

From a community perspective, the Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family Village plays a vital role in preserving cultural identity and social connection for elderly residents. It enables individuals to remain close to their families and maintain meaningful ties to their heritage, language, and faith—elements that are essential to their overall wellbeing.

The proposed development will also deliver broader social and economic benefits. It will increase access to aged care services, support vulnerable members of the community, and create employment opportunities both during construction and ongoing operations. Furthermore, it will contribute to workforce development in a sector that is currently under significant strain.

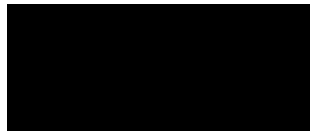
As a trusted, not-for-profit organisation, the Maronite Sisters have demonstrated their ability to deliver high-quality, culturally responsive care while fostering strong community integration. Their continued presence and growth are of great importance not only to the Lebanese community but to Australian society as a whole.

In our view, the public interest is clearly served by this proposal. The benefits—social, cultural, economic, and healthcare-related—are substantial and far outweigh any potential concerns.

We respectfully urge the Independent Planning Commission to approve this Development Application and support the Maronite Sisters in continuing their essential mission in a modern and appropriate facility.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Michel Doueihy OAM
President, Board of Trustees
World Lebanese Cultural Union (WLCU)