



3RDSPACE MEDIA RELEASE

139 CLUB OFFICIALLY LAUNCHES NEW CAFÉ AND ANNOUNCES NEW NAME!

WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2017: Today is a big day for the homeless drop-in centre formerly known as the 139 Club. Not only did the centre officially launch its exciting new **3rd Space Café**, it also announced its new name - **3rd Space Brisbane**.

Affording dignity to those doing it tough

Officially launched by the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing, Minister for Multicultural Affairs and local Member for Brisbane Central, Hon Grace Grace MP, 3rd Space Café is the result of Minister for Housing and Public Works Hon Mick de Brenni MP's Dignity First Fund and 3rd Space's committed staff who wanted to introduce dignity to their traditional 'soup kitchen' approach.

3rd Space Chief Executive Officer Sara Harrup said the refurbished café replaced kitchen queues and limited food choice with table service and an all-day, nutritionist-designed menu.

"Our visitors deserve the same level of service, quality and choice as the rest of the community – and 3rd Space Café provides that," Ms Harrup said.

"We now have a wonderful environment for relaxing, replenishing and reconnecting, along with an opportunity to encourage wider Brisbane community involvement in our activities.

"In addition to the tasty menu, our café offers outstanding espresso made by trained baristas – thanks to the team at Di Bella Coffee, which has generously supported us throughout the entire café construction process."

Ms Harrup said the Department of Housing and Public Works' Dignity First Fund was already making a real difference to Brisbane's homeless.

"We will see the positive effects of the new café in so many ways. Just recently, one of our visitors told me that after patronising 3rd Space Café a few times, he gained the confidence to buy a coffee at his local suburban café.

"Soon we will be providing training and social-enterprise opportunities through the café – so we won't just be promoting dignity, self-worth and social skills; we will also be offering our visitors job skills."

A 3rd Space for those who need it most

Since opening its doors 42 years ago at 139 Charlotte Street, the 139 Club has been helping Brisbane's homeless and marginalised at various locations across Brisbane until it settled in its current home of 505 Brunswick Street.

Ms Harrup said that while the organisation was proud of its heritage, it was time to open a new chapter.

"We have a new structure, new board, heightened governance and a new direction underpinned by our vision of **Safe spaces to be • Safe places to call home**," she said.

"Consequently, we felt that it was time to rejuvenate our brand so that it better reflected our future - while also stopping the confusion around visitors trying to find us at 139 Brunswick Street!

"If our 1st place is our home and 2nd place is where we work, then – according to social visionary Ray Oldenburg - our 3rd place is where we can put aside our worries and simply enjoy the company of those around us.

"For people in Brisbane who are homeless or living rough, 3rd Space may be all they have."

For more information about 3rd Space Brisbane or to donate funds, time or goods to this worthy local cause, visit www.3rdspace.org.au.

Ends.

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Safe spaces to be • Safe places to call home • 3rd Space Brisbane is a drop-in centre where homeless people and those doing it tough can find practical support, friendship and dignity. Located in Fortitude Valley, 3rd Space (formerly the 139 Club) helps hundreds of people every week – assisting some with simple things such as a shower or a meal and a cup of tea, and others with a program of support for more complex needs. We help to find accommodation and work; manage addictions and emotional challenges; and get the right health and dental services. Visit www.3rdspace.org.au for more information or to donate funds, time or goods to this worthy cause.