



**Lions
Assistance Dogs**

Turning Vision into Reality

The New Home of Extraordinary

Today marks the official beginning of the Lions Assistance Dogs National Training Centre redevelopment at Verdun, South Australia - a once-in-a-generation investment in national capability, community impact and the future of Assistance Dog partnerships across Australia.

The new purpose-built facility will enable Lions Assistance Dogs to expand training capacity, reduce waiting times and support more Australians to live safely, confidently, and independently.



\$16 million redevelopment project
\$8 million secured



Construction commencing
June/July 2026



Completion anticipated
Q1-Q3, 2028



Capacity growth from
30-40 placements annually
to 120 annually



Estimated \$528 million
cumulative economic value
by 2037

Why This Matters

Demand for Assistance Dogs continues to grow across Australia, with some waiting times approaching three years. Current infrastructure limits breeding scale, training capacity and workforce expansion.

This redevelopment removes that infrastructure barrier and establishes a permanent national centre of excellence for Assistance Dog training, placement and innovation.

Expanded services will support:



A significant reduction in wait times to receive an Assistance Dog



Hearing Assistance Dog Program to increase



Psychiatric Assistance Dog Program to expand beyond Veterans



Medical Assistance Dog Program to expand beyond type 1 diabetes



Future specialised programs responding to growing community needs

What the New Centre Will Include



Intergrated breeding & kennel facilities



Real-world domestic simulation training environments



On-site Veterinary triage



Purpose-built enrichment spaces for best-practise socialisation



Multi-use community spaces



Expanded operational and volunteer infrastructure

The redevelopment has also been designed with long-term sustainability and environmental responsibility in mind, including:



Extensive solar integration



Rainwater storage systems



Energy-efficient building systems



Native landscaping



Wastewater treatment systems



Preservation of significant trees and natural surroundings

Community & Economic Impact

Each Assistance Dog partnership creates measurable and lasting social value.

Per Assistance Dog:

- Approximately \$50,000 program investment
- Approximately \$575,000 measurable lifetime economic value
- Reduced pressure on health and social systems
- Increased independence, participation and wellbeing for recipients
- At sustained scale, the new National Training Centre is projected to generate:
 - Approximately \$69 million lifetime value annually
 - Approximately \$690 million over a 10-year steady-state period

***"This redevelopment is about more than buildings. It is about creating life-changing partnerships for more Australians, for generations to come."* - David Horne, CEO**

Building the New Home of Extraordinary

This project is being made possible through the generosity of donors, partners, volunteers and the wider community. To learn more, follow the redevelopment journey or support the National Training Centre campaign:



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