



Perry Mills  
& Associates



## Social Housing

Therapeutic gardens promote rest and calm



## Project Specs

- Client:** Salvation Army Housing,
- Client:** Architect Baumgart Clark Architects
- Builder:** Spense Constructions
- Location:** Grovedale, Victoria
- Date:** 2020
- Budget:** \$20k

## Our Approach

We believe that landscape can contribute important benefits to the management of managed accommodation facilities such as this medium-term crisis accommodation project for Salvation Army Housing.

To avoid crime-related issues we started by implementing Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) ideas such as maintaining slight lines and visibility, managing access appropriately, using thorny/prickly plants under windows and non toxic plants as we do in playgrounds.

We wanted to create a space that is therapeutic, restful and calming, so we featured aromatic plants and herbs, eg Rosemary, Lemon Balm.

We used trees that create quality shade yet allow winter sunlight through, and we included community space to facilitate informal social networking around communal worm farm composting, BBQ, smoking area and provision for childrens play.

The planting theme leans towards use of glossy green 'exotics', in preference to natives, as using familiar, attractive plants has been shown to be appreciated by many people.

The private open spaces 'backyard' areas will be largely managed by the tenants and so using plants that target demographic of tenants could 'relate' to was a key element..

The planting and landscape theme prioritises low-maintenance through the use of drought tolerant plants that are resistant to damage. For instance tufting grasses/ lilies with no main stem to get broken and plants that respond to hedging that will resprout from damage.

To ensure that the landscape established well and would thrive in a low-maintenance environment we encouraged the clients to include a fully-automatic irrigation system with remote monitoring and control capability.

PM&A prepared concept plans for discussion before developing the design for council approval, preparing full documentation for tendering and construction, and provided construction-phase inspections and services.

Perry Mills & Associates  
**Landscape Architects**  
0428 848 646  
perry@perrymills.com.au  
www.perrymills.com.au

