**MEDIA STATEMENT [DATE]**

"As a church, we recognise that the opening of a safe injecting room is a compassionate response to helping those who are experiencing addiction or other issues with drugs. We all experience challenges in our lives, and hope for compassion and grace when we do. People experiencing challenges with drug use deserve the same compassion and grace that we would want for ourselves.

This new service opening in the city of Sydney is a great reflection of our shared commitment to respecting both the dignity and the wellbeing of every person. By providing a safe and supportive space for those battling addiction, we hope to offer not only practical assistance but also a message of hope and redemption. I ask all community members to embrace this opportunity to extend love and understanding, and to embody the teachings of compassion and service, so central to our faith.”

**Father Richard, Sacred Covenant Church of Sydney**