

Newsletter No.6 July 2009

my future my choice is a joint Commonwealth–State government initiative that aims to provide better living options for younger people with a disability living in, or at risk of entry to, residential aged care.

More new houses are being developed...

A further 48 new accommodation and support places will be built for younger people living in, or at risk of entry to residential aged care.

This is in addition to the 40 accommodation and support places already under design and construction, and the first home for 6 younger people, which opened last year.

These new accommodation and support places will provide innovative housing and support to maximise the outcomes for younger people living in, or at risk of entry to residential aged care.

The new houses and units will be located across rural regions, as well as metropolitan areas.

Many of the new services will be split housing or unit developments, allowing people to live in smaller groups with separate living areas in which residents can entertain family and friends.

The following table displays where the new houses and units will be built, who the service provider will be and what stage in the design and construction process the project is at.

Location	Service Provider	Status
Eastern Metropolitan Region		
Balwyn	Scope	Opened in Feb 2008
Glen Waverley	Wesley Mission	Land secured, construction commenced
Bayswater	To be announced	Land secured, in design phase
Southern Metropolitan Region		
Noble Park	Yooralla	Land secured, design completed, currently in town planning
McKinnon	Multiple Sclerosis Limited	Land secured, design completed, construction to commence in August
Berwick/Hallam	Wesley Mission	Land search
Frankston	Focus	Land secured, in design phase
North & West Metropolitan Region		
Altona	Yooralla	Land secured, in design phase
Alphington	Villa Maria	Land secured, construction commenced
St Albans	Gellibrand Support Services	Land secured
Whittlesea	EW Tipping	Land search
Barwon South Western Region		
Belmont	Karingal	Land secured, design completed, construction to commence in August
Grovedale	Scope	Land secured, design completed, construction to commence in September
Loddon Mallee Region		
Bendigo	Scope	Land search
Gippsland Region		
Moe	EW Tipping	Land search
Bairnsdale	To be announced	Site identified
Grampians Region		
Sebastopol	McCallum Disability Services	Site identified
Horsham	To be announced	Land search
Hume Region		
Shepparton	Goulburn Valley Centre Disability Services	Land secured
Wodonga	EW Tipping	Land secured

Resident selection

my future my choice is working alongside regional Disability Services to identify people who can be offered the opportunity to move from aged care into the new units and houses. Younger people at risk of admission to residential aged care are also considered.

The process includes the following steps:

- a profile for each new house is established detailing the level of staff support, the location and specific features.
- a list of potential residents is created using information collected through the *my future my choice* planning process and the regional Disability Support Register.
- a regional panel is then formed to recommend new residents, based on priority and compatibility factors. The panel includes Disability Services, the service provider and an independent representative.
- the offer is made and the person (with family members if they like) has the opportunity to meet with the service provider and find out more information about the accommodation. They have about 2 weeks to decide whether to accept the offer. If accepted, the service provider will work with the person to support their transition.

New residents may have an opportunity to be involved with the selection of décor and furnishings.

Residents who move into these new services will be able to live with people closer to their own age. They will also receive individualised supports to assist them to access community activities and pursue their own interests and life goals.

People who are not recommended to these services will remain on the Disability Support register and will continue to be considered for future support options which become available.

Improving the way that health and disability services work together

A key objective of *my future my choice* is to prevent younger people from entering residential aged care. Data indicates that a large number of younger people who enter aged care, do so from hospital or rehabilitation services.

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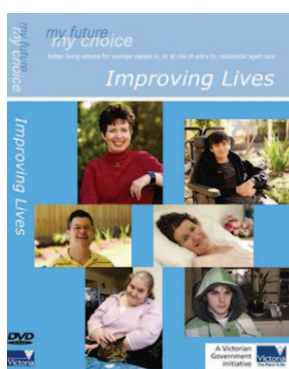
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Work has therefore been progressing in partnership with Metropolitan Health services to improve communication and planning between health services and Disability services. This work is intended to improve the discharge experience and outcome of younger people with disabilities who are in hospital.

Key principles have been developed to further this work. Regional Disability Services and Health Services staff are now working together to identify how they can ensure the principles are reflected in the way they work with each other and people with disabilities.

Improving Lives DVD



A community education DVD *Improving Lives* has been developed by Disability Services to illustrate the impact that the *my future my choice* initiative has had on the lives of some younger people living in, or at risk of entry to residential aged care.

This DVD has been distributed to younger people with disabilities living in residential aged care, disability service staff and health professionals.

You can view the DVD online at:

www.dhs.vic.gov.au/ds/myfuturemychoice.

Further information



If you wish to discuss your personal circumstances, please call the department's Disability Intake and Response Service on **1800 783 783** or TTY **1800 008 149** and ask to be connected to your regional service.

my future my choice contact details



General enquiries can be directed to: **(03) 9096 8724**.



The Disability Services website has further information at: www.dhs.vic.gov.au/ds/myfuturemychoice



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