

# Apartments for Life at Ocean Street Community Newsletter



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## Dear Resident

Research reveals most older people prefer to live in their own homes throughout older age. They want to live as independently as possible, continuing to do the things they enjoy and stay connected to their community.

Unfortunately, as many families are aware, the reality is that a number of difficulties get in the way of these preferences when health problems arise. They include:

- the design of their home (e.g. too many stairs, bathroom unsafe)
- no longer able to manage repairs, maintenance and gardening
- location (e.g. difficult to get to shops, doctors, see friends and family)
- living alone (e.g. after their partner has died)
- families/friends unable to provide enough help (they don't live close by, they have other responsibilities, they are also elderly)
- if renting, can no longer afford rent increases.

Three years ago, The Benevolent Society, as part of its mission, took a long, hard look at these situations, against the backdrop of Bureau of Statistics projections that these problems are only going to get larger and more widespread as the population ages.



*Humanitas, the Netherlands*

We've recently published a new report on Apartments for Life in The Netherlands, the highly successful and innovative housing complexes for older people that inspired our proposal. It's a fascinating read that explains how living in Apartments for Life differs from traditional forms of retirement and aged care housing.

For a copy of the full report, *Apartments for Life in Australia: Lessons for Australia from Humanitas in the Netherlands*, see [www.bensoc.org.au](http://www.bensoc.org.au) or ring us on 9339 8000 and we can send you a copy.

Yours Sincerely

Richard Spencer  
Chief Executive Officer

## Addressing key issues

The Apartments for Life project is in step with Waverley Council's Social Plan and Housing Plan, addressing such crucial issues as the need for:

- provision of accessible, affordable and secure housing for older people;
- more aged care services;
- promotion of healthy ageing;
- support for older people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; volunteer and lifelong learning activities; and,
- strategies to combat social isolation.

### Traffic

Many people have asked about the parking arrangements in our proposal. The project plans reflect the advice received from independent traffic assessors.

A total of 110 on-site underground parking spaces will be provided with entries from Ocean Street and Wellington Street.

The experts confirm that this number will meet the needs of site residents, their visitors (family, friends, paid care workers) and staff, and also relieve the pressure on on-street parking in the area.

At the same time, the plans have also taken into account important goals for achieving environmental sustainability - a minimum of three spaces will be set aside

for a car-sharing scheme that can be used by local residents.

The number of parking spaces takes into account State Government and Council planning guidelines. It also reflects the fact that car ownership among older people in Waverley is lower than in the population generally.

### International interest in our plans

Countries in many parts of the world are grappling with similar issues to Australia about how best to support a growing older population. The Benevolent Society's plans for Apartments for Life at Ocean Street will be a topic of discussion at two major international conferences in July, in England and in France.



*Humanitas, the Netherlands*

**For more information see [www.bensoc.org.au](http://www.bensoc.org.au) and click on Apartments for Life at Ocean Street, or contact Lindy Ryan, The Benevolent Society: 9339 8000 or [oceanstsite@bensoc.org.au](mailto:oceanstsite@bensoc.org.au)**