

Apartments for Life at Ocean Street Community Newsletter



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Dear Resident

As we move into another year, The Benevolent Society retains its enthusiasm for the Apartments for Life (AFL) project.

We are encouraged by a steady stream of positive feedback from supporters, reaffirming our belief that this project is a much needed new style of accommodation and care for older Australians.

These communications, via letters, emails and personal phone calls, are mostly from people who live in the Waverley or Eastern Suburbs area, although there are also some from people outside the district who are impressed with the benefits of AFL.

Quotes from some of these people are included in this newsletter.

They express sentiments that underscore why the Society is energetically pursuing the project. They understand that the project will make it possible for:

- residents to stay in their neighbourhood of choice;
- residents to retain as much independence as possible, but to draw on care services as required;
- people to move out of unsuitable housing to apartments designed specifically to meet the needs of older people;
- residents to interact with the local community of which they are part;
- a large portion of the apartments to be affordable to low income older people;
- heritage aspects of the precinct to be preserved.



It is vital that this project retains an unprecedented 40 per cent of affordable apartments for less well-off older people living in Waverley.

Yours Sincerely

Richard Spencer, Chief Executive Officer

Feedback from the community

We're big supporters of this project. The best feature is the affordability and choice that it offers; the facilities to residents are like no other institution and you don't have to move again – you're there for life. My husband has a few family members and I have none so (it) offers me security and peace of mind living in an area that I know best when he's no longer with me, and the same applies for him. We're hoping that this project becomes a reality for elderly retirees.

Julia and Karl, Bondi

We have lived in the Bondi area for more than 35 years and we are now getting older. As we reach our senior years, The Benevolent Society's Apartments for Life is a great idea for residents who do not own their own place as it gives us a chance to still live in the Bondi area and see our own doctors, shop in areas that we know and feel safe, and be near our families and friends.

Esmirna and Lyndon, Bondi

I am 77 years old, a self-employed teacher, without any family ties in this continent. I am in reasonable health, coping well in my third-floor unit. This is today. My tomorrows are a dream of a home where I can keep my independence, live in dignity and can access help, should I need it. Many of my friends in

this area – with family support – still prefer independence, not to become a burden on loved ones. We are anxiously observing the development.

Anna, Bondi

Congratulations to The Benevolent Society on this wonderful initiative. I have studied this area of aged care and this project will give older people what they say they want: to stay in their local community, in accommodation that will help them to stay as independent as possible.

This is not an experimental design, after looking at the proposal, it is based on good evidence from overseas models, has been researched in terms of economic viability. This is also the wonderful job that not-for-profits like The Benevolent Society can play - innovation and commitment to the community - rather than short term thinking based solely on economic models.

I believe it will be what the baby boomers will need and want - despite their denials that they will ever need it - this model may just save them from life in an institution. The community should support this great initiative.

Dr Ralph Hampson, Jewish Care Victoria



For more information see 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