

Apartments for Life at Ocean Street

Community Newsletter



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Dear Resident

Recently staff from The Benevolent Society sat down with a number of older long-time Waverley residents to discuss their thoughts on how to make Apartments for Life a great place to live and to visit.

They are all active and independent people who know that, if they want to stay that way, they may have to consider moving to more suitable accommodation, preferably staying close to family and friends.

All spoke positively about the Apartments for Life model proposed for Ocean Street – they were particularly impressed by the fact that it will include community activities and facilities.

Recently, ABC Television's 7.30 Report explored the issues of the nation's ageing population and the goal of most Australians to retain their independence throughout older age.

Interviewed in the story were a Bondi Junction couple, both in their 80s, who said that they did not want to leave the area if their health deteriorates and they need higher levels of care.

"You see what people are put through, you know, the anxieties, the emotions and this is not just the individual, but their relatives too. You know, they don't want to lose contact with their parents or with their family members."

Another older Bondi Junction resident explained why she had put her name on the list of prospective Apartments for Life residents: *"One of the elements that's so important is that I will still be able to visit my own doctor, I know the pharmacy that I prefer, I know the dentist I like and they're all here. It's not a good thing to have to leave your environment."*

Apartments for Life is all about enhancing the lifestyle of older Australians, so they have more choice about where and how they live.

Sincerely

Richard Spencer
Chief Executive Officer

Poll supports Apartments for Life

Independent research has revealed that a majority of the residents of the Waverley area are supportive of the community benefits of the Apartments for Life model.

Some 88 per cent of people polled were positive about the Society's plan to offer affordable housing to older people as part of the project.

And two thirds of people who were aware of the project plans were either in favour or else did not have strong feelings about it.

Seven per cent of people polled expressed opposition to the project.

"Among those aged 50 years and older, the majority said they would be in favour of the project – and it's easy to see why," said the Director of Galaxy Research, David Briggs.

"The majority of these older residents would consider this style of accommodation and care for themselves.

"As many as 71 per cent of those aged 50 years and over who live in Bondi clearly appreciate the opportunity that the development will provide in allowing them to remain within the local area."

This research was commissioned by The Benevolent Society.

Amended plans for Apartments for Life were submitted to Waverley Council on 11 March, and are currently under consideration.

Our plans

The Society's plans, lodged with Waverley Council, take into account the local medium-rise built environment. The design and mix of buildings within the proposed project will guarantee the preservation of the Victorian-era Scarba House, the landscaping of the historic gardens, the provision of community facilities and a significant amount of open space for general community enjoyment. The buildings have been located on the site in such a way as to minimise their impact on neighbouring properties.



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