

Apartments for Life at Ocean Street

Community Newsletter



Issue No. 7, September 2008



Dear Resident

The Benevolent Society has been working for some time on plans for a new form of housing for older people on our site between Ocean and Wellington Streets, Bondi.

The Development Application for our Apartments for Life at Ocean Street project is now with Waverley Council. Visit our website (www.bensoc.org.au) where you will find a lot of information about the project, including the DA documents.

This edition of our Community Newsletter also gives the results of a survey of the views of people aged 50 and over, about care and accommodation for older people.

Sincerely

Richard Spencer
Chief Executive Officer

The facts

Apartments for Life will address a lack of affordable housing in Waverley that is appropriate to the needs of older people, as well as a lack of sufficient local options for frail older people who need support and care.

The proposed Bondi location is ideal because it is 10 minutes walk to local shops, services and public transport on Bondi Road, next to Dickson Park, and a short bus ride to recreational facilities, shops and services at Bondi Junction and Bondi Beach.

Research indicates that older people prefer to maintain their independence in their own homes. Those that move to residential care (a nursing home or hostel) often do so not through choice but because they have no alternative.

The Apartments for Life model of housing, care and support for older people was developed in The Netherlands in the mid 1990s, where it has been a great success in helping older people of varied financial means remain in their area of choice as fully part of their community, and receive care and support when needed.

Experts say project is overdue

Professor Hal Kendig, Research Professor of Ageing and Health, Sydney University:

“The Benevolent Society’s project has come at a crucial time.

What is important is the provision of cost-efficient and appropriate accommodation and care – residents receive what they need when they need

it, no more or less, and without them having to move house.

“The Society’s concept has multiple other advantages, including the freeing up of housing for younger families, as older individuals and couples take up the Apartments for Life style of accommodation.

This will lead to a potential increase in the local government area rate base, and, vitally, the contribution of older people who have lived for a long time in that area will not be lost.”

Professor Tony Broe Professor of Geriatric Medicine, Prince of Wales Hospital:

“The Benevolent Society proposal to provide innovative affordable housing in Sydney’s Eastern Suburbs brings Australian housing for older people into the 21st century.”



Polling reveals older Australians favour more options

A majority of Australians aged 50 years and above believe the future must offer alternative forms of care and accommodation.

The research, conducted for the Society by independent firm Galaxy Research, involved 1,000 people across NSW. The main findings:

- Older Australians know enough about nursing homes to have formed the opinion that a new style of aged care accommodation is required.
- Overall, 29% of those aged 50 years and older believe that they know a lot about nursing home accommodation. A further 59% know a little. Only 12% claim to know nothing.
- Currently just 11% of older Australians would ‘happily’ move into a nursing home in the future. A further 11% would do so ‘reluctantly’.
- Residents in Sydney are the most negatively disposed towards nursing homes and those in regional and rural areas are the most positive.
- Nursing homes do not appeal to the Baby Boomer generation. As many as 75% of the over 50s would only move into a nursing home if they had no other choice.
- People who have worked in a nursing home are the most negatively disposed to this style of accommodation. Of this group 83% would only move into a nursing home if they had run out of options.



For more information see www.bensoc.org.au and click on Apartments for Life at Ocean Street Project or contact Sarah Fogg, The Benevolent Society: 9339 8000 or oceanstsite@bensoc.org.au