

Hunter Residences redevelopment update

Dear Colleagues,

The NSW Government is in a position to announce that the building phase for the Hunter Residences redevelopment program is commencing in September 2018. The first houses are expected to be ready for residents from July 2019.

As we told you in December 2017, the timing for the redevelopment of the Hunter Residences has been impacted by the changes associated with the introduction of the NDIS.

With full rollout of the NDIS in NSW from 1 July 2018 and Commonwealth funding certainty for Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) these funding issues have been stabilised and the next stage involves Home4Life being the SDA provider for the Hunter Residences.

Home4Life brings together two Tier 1 community housing providers, Compass Housing and BlueCHP.

We are also pleased to announce that Lighthouse Infrastructure, an experienced Australian-based institutional funding partner, will also be on board.

Lighthouse Infrastructure invests in sustainable infrastructure assets. It strongly believes in environmental sensitivity and social responsibility, investing in assets which provide essential services to communities and contribute to the public good.

The NSW Government's priority is to make sure that the individual needs of Hunter Residences clients are met when building and moving them into modern community living.

The NSW Government will only move clients into group homes when transition preparation has been completed. Our highest priority is to ensure that clients make a safe and smooth transition to community living.

A select tender for Supported Independent Living (SIL) provision will commence later this year. Similar to other transfers, families will have an opportunity to meet with potential SIL proponents prior to any final decisions being made.

During the building phase of the Hunter Residences redevelopment program, FACS will continue to operate Hunter Residences. The NSW Government is committed to maintaining the quality services during this transition period.

With these goals in mind, we need to retain not only our valued Hunter Residences direct care staff but also a range of support positions focused on areas such as support services, facilities management, learning and development, human resources, work health and safety, service improvement and transition planning.

At this time it is also our goal to support the development of the capacity, on-going learning and wellbeing of our staff.

If you have any questions about today's announcement please speak with your manager.

We understand that this announcement might be confronting and encourage those needing additional support to contact the free and confidential Employee Assistance Program on 1300 337 068.

Regards,

Pam Brunner
Executive Director, Disability Services