



Artist impression of the Cheltenham project.

BUILDING CHANGE IN CHELTENHAM & FRANKSTON



Driven by a desire to get great outcomes for people, Stephen Vick from Guardian Living is one of the people working to

establish more homes in Melbourne for people with a disability.

Guardian Living is a family business, specialising in high-quality apartment-style homes for people with significant disabilities. Currently, Guardian Living is building 24 units across Melbourne, including 5 at their new Cheltenham site. This exciting project includes the construction of 5 units connected to a carer's residence, situated within a larger development of 50 homes.

The Cheltenham project will be complete by March 2019, and Guardian Living is now seeking tenants. Melba will provide 24-hour support to some of the new residents when the project is complete.

Stephen says of his process "I like having the opportunity to get to know the individuals who will live in each property. They're people my age, who have the same needs, wants and desires that I have, and some of them are currently living in nursing homes'. Stephen hopes to address the need for more housing opportunities in our community, through a range of different projects. In addition to his work with Guardian

Living, Stephen is leading a project in Frankston to develop homes for 7 people with complex support requirements who want to use the latest technology to live as independently as possible. He has secured an ideal site in a family area, well-connected to the community. The project will include plenty of communal space, vegetable gardens and outdoor entertaining areas to make it easier for residents to welcome friends and family. Stephen aims to create homes for people 'where I would want to live, and where I would want my kids to live'.

CEO REPORT



We all deserve to have choice and control in our lives, and this extends to the choices we make about where, and with whom we

live. For many members of our community, the ability to exercise this choice is complicated by a lack of access to suitable and affordable housing.

At Melba, we know that having a home of one's own is a key issue, and we have been working to establish more homes for people with disability. Having your own secure, affordable home is the 'Great Aussie Dream' that everyone shares. It is fundamental to having a good life.

Our 'Builders of Change' project will see the construction of 15 one- and two-bedroom units in Lilydale. This project will deliver affordable housing in the local community, with the supports that people with disabilities need to live as independently as possible. We are sincerely grateful to the many generous donors who have made this project possible.

Although this is very exciting, we also appreciate that there is an enormous unmet need for housing. For this reason, Melba is also working in collaboration with a range of other service providers, specialist property developers and stakeholders to address the shortage of suitable accommodation in our

community and create more opportunities for people with disability to live independently. In this edition of our newsletter, we get to know the people behind some exciting new housing projects, and we also hear from Penny Kendall – Melba's General Manager Community Living – about the importance of suitable housing, and what this means for someone with a disability.

We will continue to keep you updated as our various housing projects progress; please don't hesitate to contact our team should you have any questions.



Enjoying a BBQ together at Karden Disability Support Foundation.

KARDEN MERGER

We've now officially merged with Karden Disability Support Foundation!

Hayley, Sally and I recently met with a number of staff and people supported at Karden to celebrate. You can see from the photo above that there was a great vibe at the occasion, even marking the day with some new chalk art!

I have now had the chance to meet quite a few people who work at Karden and I've always come away impressed by everyone's attitude and commitment to their work. As we continue to get to know each other more over time we will be well-placed to share ideas and best practice.

The merger between Karden and

Melba has been a while in the making, but I'm sure it will be worth the wait and the effort. Together we can do even better for the people who purchase our services and, at the same time, offer additional opportunities for staff members.

Glenn Foard – CEO

INTERACTIVE AND INDEPENDENT LIVING IN KNOX CITY

Melba is pleased to introduce Manja Wirth and David Connors, the team responsible for an exciting new residential development in the Knox Central Activity Precinct.

Manja has significant experience in the disability sector, working with agencies and statutory bodies in a quality role.

It's this experience that has driven Manja to address the lack of suitable housing for people with disabilities, and she is excited to be part of the solution. 'Really, what excites me is that I can make a difference.'

Manja has partnered with David Connors – a builder with 35 years' experience in domestic and commercial projects, and contractor to the Victorian Building Authority. He is working to ensure that the '1 Jackson' project is 'at the forefront of what's available in terms of interactive technology and user

friendly fittings' so that people can live as independently as possible. '1 Jackson' will include 16 one- and two-bedroom apartments for people with a mixture of abilities and support requirements, including one overnight residence for support staff. The location is ideal - within 100 metres of Knox City, close to a community hub, shops, restaurants

and public transport. David and Manja hope to create a real community feel at '1 Jackson', and plans include shared indoor and outdoor spaces for events, celebrations and entertaining guests. Construction at '1 Jackson' is due to commence late 2018 with estimated completion in early 2020.



Main Image: Artist impression of the new development in Knox City.

Inset: left Manja Wirth and right David Connors.

A PLACE OF MY OWN



How important is having a place of your own? What does it mean to you to be able to choose where, and with whom you

live?

We sat down with Penny Kendall – General Manager Community Living – to find out more about the work her team does, and what this means to the people who purchase Melba's services.

What does housing mean for someone with a disability?

'A home empowers people to have a life of their choosing, where they can make choices that affect them and have control over their life.

Imagine being in your 40's with a disability and finding yourself living in an aged care home, surrounded by people who are at the end of

their lives. Imagine you are in the prime of your life, but you have nowhere else to go because of the specialised supports you need. Having a safe, secure and accessible home can change someone's life dramatically, and it's a fundamental component of living an everyday life.'

What does your team do?

'Melba's Community Living team is a Supported Independent Living (SIL) provider, we arrange all of the supports needed for people to enjoy an everyday life. This includes supporting people to access the community, provide personal care, supports to maintain and explore friendships and relationships, housework, cooking and all of the things that make up an everyday life.'

What is the current situation for people with disabilities who are seeking a home of their own?

'Really, it's a very dire situation, there's an undersupply of appropriate housing for people in our community. This is particularly difficult for people with physical disabilities – there is very little accessible and appropriate housing in existence that meets people's needs.

The good news is that we are working with several developers who have the vision and commitment to ensure there is more accessible housing to meet people's needs. Melba will play an integral role as the preferred provider of supported independent living, ensuring people are empowered to live a life which promotes choice, control and independence.'

Support our work today

To find out more about our projects or to ask questions about Melba, please contact **DAVID GLAZEBROOK** on 9212 0111 david.glazebrook@melbasupport.com.au

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SUPPORT SERVICES
Individuals with a disability leading everyday lives
INCORPORATING KARDEN DISABILITY SUPPORT FOUNDATION
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Father's Day Gift Hamper

The perfect way to treat Dad this Father's Day is to buy an Able Bake House hamper or gift bag filled with delicious, beautifully presented baked treats and gifts.

Able Bake House produce quality chilli sauce, hand baked biscuits, chocolate brownies, dukkah spice mix and a roasted peanut slab packaged in hampers, gift bags or sweet treat bags.

Delivered to your door, your purchase this Father's Day will bring a smile to Dad's face as well as the many people behind the scenes at The Able Bake House, whose lives you are changing with your support.

Orders can be placed by emailing or calling Kerry Kiff.

Hampers \$40 each and gift bags \$20.

Orders will be delivered, as arranged, during the week of 28th August.

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