



Photo: Progress at our Anderson Street site.

Cheltenham and Lilydale housing developments

We're excited to announce that construction of five units in Cheltenham built by Guardian Living is almost complete.

These five units in Cheltenham are connected to a carer's residence, situated within a larger development of 50 homes. It will be a new service in which we will provide 24-hour support to some of the new residents.

In addition, we're pleased to report that construction on the Anderson Street site in Lilydale is now underway. This project will construct of 15 one and two-bedroom units, that will enable people to live more independently and participate fully in community life.

In 2014, Melba purchased an ideal site on Anderson Street - previously belonging to the Uniting Church. In 2016, we established the 'Builders of Change' partner program to help raise funds for the Anderson Street project. In late 2017, we achieved our target, raising the necessary funds. Thank you to all who donated to 'Builders for Change' and for helping to make this a reality.

Specialist Disability Accommodation reforms welcomed by Melba

A recent announcement made by the Federal Liberal National Government about Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) reforms for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) has been welcomed by Melba Support Services.

The Liberal National Government announced reforms which introduced immediate changes that aim to improve choice and control for eligible NDIS participants, build market confidence and drive stronger investment in SDA.

As outlined in the SDA reforms announcement, when the NDIS is fully rolled out, it is expected that almost \$700m in SDA payments will be made each year to support almost 28,000 participants requiring a specialist housing solution.

Through these recent SDA reforms, for the very first time, SDA funding can be included in participant NDIS plans up front. This means people can go and find somewhere to live with the confidence and assuring that the funding is already in their plan.

The result of these SDA reforms should mean that we avoid the current situation where people are unsure if they actually are eligible for SDA funding, and can plan for their housing goals in a clearer, and hopefully, in a quicker way. If you would like any further information, please contact us on 03 9212 0100.

