

# HOPES Quarterly Update



April/May 2005

**HOPES Inc. (Housing Options Providing Extra Support), PO Box 840, Kingston. Tas 7050**  
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Welcome to the 'new look' HOPES Update! The change of format has been made to simplify production and make it easier for emailing. Your feedback is encouraged.

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## Rosny Village:

Following a meeting with a representative from Clarence Council, the three groups currently involved in the Rosny Village concept (Southern Co-housing, Association of Christian Homes, and HOPES) have prepared a short 'vision' statement, which will accompany a revised sketch plan, to be submitted to Clarence Council in the next month.

As previously mentioned, the project slowed (mainly due to the finalising of slip road arrangements) and rezoning issues are currently being explored by Clarence Council with a consultant. Final expressions of interest are unlikely to be sought before the end of the year.

However, we need to be ready when that time comes so there is considerable work to be done regarding recommended ownership and management arrangements between the three groups, as well as determining options for financing.

A submission was forwarded to the Tasmanian Community Fund for a project officer to progress the project to building development stage but results of that submission will not be known until June.

The major difficulty at this stage is developing partnerships with all tiers of government and seeking funding, when all we have is an abstract concept and no guarantee that the land will be made available to us.

At the last HOPES meeting it was agreed that we should continue to look for other suitable sites to develop a stand alone co-operative living project, in case the Rosny venture fails.

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## Website and Publicity Package:

Thanks to the generosity of HOPES' Committee Member James Goodrick, we now have an official website – currently undergoing some minor modifications, which should be finalised by the end of May. The website will include an interactive opportunity for people to pass on suggestions, criticisms, and issues of concern to help with our future planning – so, give us a week or two, then become a regular visitor at [www.hopes.org.au](http://www.hopes.org.au) We are also producing a CD-ROM, to make up a publicity package, for distribution during the second half of the year.

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## Young People in Nursing Homes:

The plight of young people in nursing homes, and those in danger of living there, has received recognition at both state and federal level in recent months. However, this has mainly been reflected in the establishment of yet more 'committees' and 'research projects'.

**At State level:** The departmental Young People in Nursing Homes project worked with the Commonwealth Dept. to prepare and distribute a questionnaire to young people currently living in nursing homes. However, the survey was sent out with an incorrect phone contact number, and few responses were received in the allotted time span. No further report has been received. The departmental project representatives are also involved in a National Administrators Working Party – but more of that in the Commonwealth section.

The Legislative Inquiry into Young People with Neurological and Acquired Disabilities, who Live in Institutions – completed the enquiry phase at the end of last year, and a report was expected by March or April. However, nothing has been released at this stage (perhaps we will see something now that the state budget has been handed down!).

**At Commonwealth level:** The National Administrators working party (mentioned above) is conducting a Younger People with High Clinical Needs research project, to be undertaken by Australian Healthcare Associates. To assist in this process a 'reference group' has been established, comprising representation from each state. However, the reference group has a very limited role to play, as indicated at the inaugural meeting, where members were told there would be no regular meetings, just information sharing at particular 'milestones' (see summary of notes on the website, courtesy of Bronwyn Morkham from the National Alliance for Young People in Nursing Homes).

The research project's target group consists only of people less than 50 years of age who are eligible for services under the CSTDA, require high levels of nursing related supports and who live in residential aged care with an RCS of 1-4 (where it RCS 1-4 = high support needs) or have been assessed as eligible for RAC by ACAT as needing high level care. The Legislative Council Inquiry into Aged Care (which had reference to younger people in its terms of reference) has been conducting hearings throughout Australia, and HOPES supported its original submission at a hearing in Glenorchy a couple of weeks ago. No date has been given for release of their final report.

The National Alliance has received information that the Prime Minister wants this issue included in the COAG discussions on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, so urgent discussions are being held on strategies to gain media attention for this.

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## Tasmanian State Budget:

The State Budget, handed down on 19<sup>th</sup> May, offered additional funds for disability, but most of this was covering costs of existing services, or one off response to crisis situations:

- \$15m to ensure continuation of services to 55 clients through group homes, intensive support services and ABI accommodation options
- \$14m for additional 76 Individual Support Packages (although there are 200 on the waiting list)
- \$7m for 5 new or redeveloped group homes and a two bed unit for people with ABI (to move two people out of an acute hospital, where they will have been for over 12 months longer than necessary).

There was no mention of innovative trials or community partnerships; only reference to \$600,000 to build the two bed unit – what cost support in such a situation?

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## What will happen...? Information session:

With no government future planning in place, primary carers are left constantly worrying about what will happen to the person in their care when they can no longer cope, or need a lengthy hospital stay, or die; while being told by the bureaucrats that they should 'plan for the future'.

Perhaps one way to publicise the magnitude of this situation is to hold a well advertised information session – with a panel consisting of representatives from Disability Services Co-ordinators, The Public Guardian, The Public Trustee, Aged Care Assessment Team, Centrelink etc. Apart from answering some common questions (e.g. how/when do I transfer enduring power of attorney), it may also be a way to highlight the lack of choice and the number of people affected.

This suggestion will be included in the next HOPES meeting agenda – and thoughts are welcome from everyone.

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## Meeting dates:

HOPES meeting dates for the remainder of the year are tentatively on the following Fridays:

3<sup>rd</sup> June, 1<sup>st</sup> July, 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2<sup>nd</sup> September., 7<sup>th</sup>October, 4<sup>th</sup> November and 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

Meetings are generally held at 4.30 p.m. (as suggested by a majority of committee members) at TASCARE, Main Road, Derwent Park (opposite the Carlyle Hotel).

However, times and dates are subject to change on occasion, so 'next meeting' should be checked on the website, or by phoning TASCARE on (03) 6272 8265.

HOPES meetings are open to all members.

[www.hopes.org.au](http://www.hopes.org.au)