

HOPES Quarterly Update



January 2005

HOPES (Housing Options Providing Extra Support) is committed to the development of:

- ◇ Appropriate accommodation
- ◇ Adequate support
- ◇ Suitable lifestyle options

for people with acquired disabilities or neurological conditions

For Your Diary

HOPES - Where are we now?

Next HOPES Committee Meeting

Friday 25th February
1.00 pm
TASCARE,
Main Rd.
Derwent Park.

(our thanks to TASCARE
for their hospitality)

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Since HOPES was established in the 90s, each year has started in positive fashion, with thoughts of progress in the months ahead - then ended back where we started. Let's hope 2005 will prove the exception!

Our positive starting points this year are:

- An initial architect's concept sketch of our proposed 'village', for the Clarence Council land at Rosny. Although this project is in the very early stages and may never come to fruition, we now have something concrete to show and discuss, and the basis on which to build a possible support system with the other groups in the partnership – Southern Co-housing, and Association of Christian Homes for the Aged. A representative from each group, plus the architect, will be meeting with Greg Walker from Clarence Council next week, to get feedback on the initial concept before further work is done. A draft outline of the overall proposal will then be prepared for the HOPES Committee to discuss. On the down side, we have no confirmation that the Council will release the land to us, or (if they do) what price they will be asking – and we are unlikely to have answers to these questions until the second half of the year.
- State Parliamentary Inquiry into Young People with Disabilities is now reaching the final report stage. When released this report will, hopefully, give us a platform to lobby for the support we need. However, we must be ready, to ensure that we maximise our publicity opportunities. Although the government will not be obliged to respond to any recommendations, the report will act as a credible basis for any funding submissions we make.
- The Commonwealth Inquiry into Aged Care has resumed and, when completed, should assist with lobbying at Federal level.
- The Young People in Nursing Homes National Alliance has met with Minister Julie Bishop, and discussed the level of need throughout Australia, as well as the problems associated with the Innovative Pool Funds. Julie has agreed to discuss the issues with the individual states, and attempt to find a way to offer more flexible options. At present the funds are restricted to younger people moving out of aged care nursing homes, and in most cases only offer support for two years.

Committee 2005

David Pearce (Pr)

Sue Hodgson (VP)

Mary Langdon (Sec)

Barry Titmus (Tr)

Deborah Byrne

Ros Geeves

James Goodrick

Geraldine Harwood

Gina Juhasz

Eliza White

(cont.)

- The State Disabilities Services also has a Young People in Nursing Homes project. The latest endeavour is a survey for YPINH which was distributed by the Commonwealth Dept. of Family and Community Services. The survey is intended to identify issues which could be addressed to improve the lifestyle of those living in aged care facilities, and to gauge what alternative accommodation options this group of people feels should be offered to people with disabilities. The survey has several flaws and is unlikely to produce relevant answers for those currently in danger of being placed in a nursing home, but it may result in minor improvements in the area of equipment, transport, and community access. One can only hope so, as these issues should have been addressed many years ago.

Publicity Package

After some initial hiccups with video footage, we now have the basis for a CD-ROM, thanks to the efforts of James Goodrick and some Job Futures participants.

At the beginning of the year James left Job Futures for new challenges and we certainly wish him well in this new venture. James has been a great supporter of HOPEs during recent years and has given us plenty of useful advice – a situation which we hope will continue in his new position!

The website has been revamped again, thanks to Job Futures participant Andrew Matfin, and is just about ready to roll out to the public. Alan McRobbie has taken over the position at Job Futures and we hope to continue our association with that organisation too.

Planning Meeting

Members attending the planning session on 28th January decided the immediate priority was to complete a publicity package, which can be used to improve our profile, and to support funding submissions.

With this in mind, it was agreed that all resources should be updated and/or completed (e.g. website, CD-ROM) by the next meeting – on Friday 25th February.

Website Details

If you would like to know more about us, are thinking about joining us, or would like to contact us – check out the website, temporarily found at

www.jobfuturestas.com/hopes

We welcome your comments.