



## **Kingsville - The Redevelopment Begins!**

People are increasingly choosing to remain in the community and be cared for within their own home for as long as possible.

To support the older people's choice to remain at home, our priority must be to develop services and facilities which enable older people to remain at home safely and in connection with their community.

Today, Australian people aged 65 years old have a 50% chance or risk of entry to residential care in their lifetime (Treasury data). This data is based on a population of over 65 year olds today, many of whom are in their traditional homes which are poorly configured to manage risks and to enable people to remain at home with serious disability.

In many countries which have different models of care the risk of entering residential care is as low as 10%. Thus the vast majority of older people are able to exercise their choice to remain living independently for their entire life.

Uniting Aged Care Victoria & Tasmania has heard and understood older people wish to remain within their community and to live in their own home as long as possible.

UACVT also understands that with the rapidly growing number of older old people, ie, over 85 years old, the prevalence of dementia will quadruple over the next 40 years. Last week was Dementia Awareness Week and it is important to recognise dementia is THE major reason for people entering residential care. In fact half the people who cease living independently to enter residential care do so because they suffer from dementia.

It is also known that currently older people have very poor access to services and facilities which will assist them to 'actively age'. That is, services and facilities where they can exercise, receive information which enables them to manage chronic diseases such as diabetes, vascular disease, etc, services which support them planning for their future (advanced care plans, financial counselling, etc) and support to come together so they are not socially isolated.

It is essential for psychological and spiritual well being to be part of a supportive community.

Today we are celebrating the commencement of construction of facilities which will support for older people to choose how they wish to live as they age. Their choice will be our priority.

We are going to build community facilities where older people will come together and enjoy active ageing and rehabilitation services. Also within the community care component there will be staff who will assist older people who have community care packages in the local area or on this site.

We will build high quality apartments where older people can live for life. These apartments have been designed and wired to ensure older people can remain in their apartment for as long as they choose - certainly with high levels of disability.

People within their apartments will be able to purchase or receive, under Commonwealth care packages or privately, services which support them to remain at home.

We will build a 68 bed residential aged care facility. If people in the apartments or the local community can no longer remain within their homes they will have access to a state of the art residential facility staffed by highly trained Uniting Aged Care Victoria & Tasmania staff.

Within this residential facility there will be a specialised dementia unit of 17 beds.

During the planning phase and now during the 14 months of construction UACVT will work with the community, to ensure our models of care and staffing are culturally sensitive and are providing services which reflect the diversity of the local community's aspirations.

Of course the planning and development of a state of the art facility requires team work.

UACVT has a fantastic team who have worked together to get us to this point - many thanks to Glenn Cottee, (and his team Madelin and Angelina) Gae Hewitt, Peter Folliot and Michael Robinson. This project is the first major development for this organisation and our team has developed many new planning and analysis tools.

We have expert partners in this project to whom we are also very grateful and who have made a major contribution. I particularly acknowledge the architects, Thomson Adsett, Chris Straw and his team are internationally recognised for their expertise in aged care and for their contribution to the aged care industry.

We look forward to working with ADCO Constructions who have been awarded the contract to build this \$36 million project. ADCO won this contract through a very competitive process and I am sure their reputation for on time, on budget high quality buildings will be borne out in this project.

The Uniting Church in Australia's long term commitment to older Australians is again demonstrated by their investment in this development which will set a new benchmark for future aged care developments. It will meet current needs and it will meet older peoples aspirations for the future.