

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **More places to live for young people with disability in Melbourne's north**

At Whittlesea, north of Melbourne, more young people with disability now have a place of their own following the opening of a new supported accommodation service developed as a partnership between Life Without Barriers and Active Community Housing Ltd.

The opening was made possible through \$1 million in capital funding from the commonwealth government's Supported Accommodation Innovative Fund (SAIF) program for the project to be developed by Active Community Housing, and \$3 million over three years from the Victorian state government for Life Without Barriers to manage the house.

"This is a fantastic new facility that will improve the lives of people with a disability by offering more opportunities to fully participate in their community," Claire Robbs, Chief Executive of Life Without Barriers said.

"This project is the evidence of what can be achieved for the community when we work together. These young people will rent their own permanent, affordable unit as they transition to adulthood, with 24 hours support staff available on site.

"The funding we received for this project provided a great opportunity to design and build homes for people with disabilities to live with maximum independence in the community. Five young people with complex needs will call this place home, living in brand new one or two bedroom units." Said Chris Glennen, CEO, Active.

"We look forward to working on more projects like this that support people to live independently in the community as the National Disability Insurance Scheme continues to roll out.

Minister for Disability Services and Reform Mary Wooldridge said the new homes deliver on part of a \$30 million investment from the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments.

"This is fantastic for the residents of the new homes, who will receive 24 hour support in an environment that promotes their independence and participation in their local community," Ms Wooldridge said.

"Planning for these homes commenced as part of the Naphine Government's commitment to deliver better and more innovative supported accommodation options for people with a disability."

Senator Mitch Fifield, Assistant Minister for Social Services, said "I congratulate Active and Life Without Barriers for the important work they do in helping to break down the barriers to independence that people with disability often face. It is projects like these that help to ensure people with disability can receive the support they need to more fully participate in economic and community life."

Mrs Robbs said this tailored housing and support model is in line with the National Disability Insurance Scheme aspirations for young people to have every opportunity to leave their family homes and be supported to have an independent life in the community.

For more information please visit [Active Community Housing](#) for more information about the Whittlesea New Beginnings Project.

For media comment please contact Kristie Brown, Life Without Barriers, 0458 592 828.