

**MEDIA RELEASE**

Tuesday 6 September 2016

**Minister John Ajaka opens purpose-built home in Nowra**

The Hon. John Ajaka MLC, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services and Minister for Multiculturalism, yesterday officially opened 45 West Street, a purpose-built home for people moving to more independent lifestyles.

Staffed and managed by Life Without Barriers, 45 West Street is a five person accommodation comprising one, one bedroom and two, two bedroom villas, and was developed as part of the State's *Ready Together* program.

"The NSW Government is committed to ensuring that people with disability are able to maintain their independence, and actively participate in their communities," Mr Ajaka said.

"This commitment is exemplified by Ready Together, which is focused on what people with disability have told us they most want: control, flexibility, and choice in how they live their lives."

Director of Operations NSW/ACT for Life Without Barriers Mr Roderick Best said Life Without Barriers has worked in the disability space for 21 years and is passionate about helping people reach their goals.

"We seek to ensure people with disability have greater autonomy and independence in their lives, and we recognise that this can be achieved by building and managing accommodation services that meet the needs of those we support," Mr Best said.

"We are celebrating the opening of these new homes because they will offer greater independence for the residents, because they are more able to do the things they choose with support available to them as needed. The proximity to town means that shops and services are accessible to all residents and the villas themselves offer excellent spaces to entertain family and friends.

"Life Without Barriers has made a firm commitment to working with people with disabilities and 45 West Street demonstrates this in action. With the roll out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), people will be able to choose their accommodation and we are delighted to be involved in providing living spaces that will help people with disability reach their full potential," Mr Best concluded.

"I commend Life Without Barriers for its contribution to this beautiful home, and its commitment to the support and empowerment of people with disabilities," Minister Ajaka said.

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## ***About Life Without Barriers***

*Now in our 21st year, Life Without Barriers has supported thousands of people to live the best life possible and we are proud to champion opportunity for all. We are a not-for-profit organisation working in more than 300 communities to support more than 14,500 people to live their best life possible. Today, we are one of the largest providers of social services in Australia. We work with individuals, their carers and others in the community to ensure the best care and support is developed for each individual's needs. This includes working in partnership with the community, elders, government and private sector to improve the lives of the people we support. We believe in the rights of people and the importance of relationships. These foundations shape our unique approach to care and underpin our values.*

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