



The Place To Be

Media release

From the Minister for Aged Care

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JENNINGS DIGS DEEP FOR NEW WANGARATTA NURSING HOME

Residents in public aged-care in Wangaratta will move from six-bed wards to single or double rooms with ensuites, Aged Care Minister Gavin Jennings said in Wangaratta today.

Mr Jennings today marked the start of work on the 62-bed nursing home, an \$11 million Bracks Government development which replaces two outdated wings of the Wangaratta Hospital.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier Kaye Darveniza MLC said the State Government provides around 40 per cent of aged-care residential places in rural Victoria and some 16 per cent of total places across the state.

“We have ensured through the 2006-07 Budget that every public sector residential aged care centre in Victoria meets Commonwealth 2008 certification,” Ms Darveniza said.

Ms Darveniza said the new 62-bed centre provides for the highest possible standard of residential aged care for residents.

“At present, residents are in shared accommodation of four or six in each bedroom. Next year, their new home will have one or two residents in each bedroom with ensuites in all.

“The new building will improve residents’ privacy, comfort, security and safety as well as provide a better workplace for staff,” Ms Darveniza said.

The Roman Catholic Trust of Sandhurst provided the land for the centre to the Department of Human Services on a long-term lease. The Catholic Church has not only assisted this development by making this site available, but is a major provider of residential aged care in Wangaratta.

The new centre will include two extra beds designated for respite services. These beds will be possible due to project savings that came with not having to purchase land.

Mr Jennings said the project demonstrates the commitment of the Bracks Government to providing high-quality aged-care to all Victorians, whether they live in the city or the country.

Mr Jennings said the Northeast Health Wangaratta facility was the Bracks Government’s largest single commitment from its 2005 aged-care budget. The project had taken time to identify an appropriate site and to deal with planning matters.

Mr Jennings said steps have been taken to ensure the best possible traffic flow in and around the project site at the corner of College and Phillipson Streets, Wangaratta.

“Since 1999, we have invested \$396 million in new public sector aged-care facilities, refurbishing 1832 places in 43 centres across the state, 39 of these in country areas,” he said.

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