

Media Opportunity

29 June 2021

Foundation Housing to commence work on more housing for people with disability

Foundation Housing Ltd is about to start building two four-bedroom Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) homes in Bassendean. When finished the homes will accommodate six Activ customers with disability, with room for carer support.

The Minister for Housing, the Hon John Carey MLA will attend a special ceremony to turn the first sod on the property. Media are invited to witness the event:

Date: Thursday 1 July 2021
Time: 9:30am
Location: 7 Carman Way, Bassendean

According to the WA Housing Strategy 2020-2030, more than 1300 people were estimated to need Specialist Disability Accommodation in 2019. Foundation Housing currently houses 476 people living with a disability, with 171 properties assigned especially for people living with disability. This investment will increase that number, and will be the first property built by Foundation Housing specifically to meet 'High Physical Support' design requirements under the NDIS.

Foundation Housing is working closely with Activ on the project, to ensure the houses are well suited to the individual customers. Special needs equipment in the houses will include structural provision for hoists and rails, an uninterrupted power supply, and smart wiring to enable automated control of blinds, heating, lighting, gates and communications.

Chris Smith, CEO of Foundation Housing will host the event on 1 July.

"This project represents a significant investment in Specialist Disability Accommodation for Foundation Housing, and will give the six tenants the opportunity to share a home that is suited to their needs. It has been terrific working with Activ and their customers on the design, which includes features such as a raised garden bed between the two houses, and a walk-in bath," Chris explained.

Activ's Executive Manager Operations North, Michelle Bilson, is really excited about what this development means for the residents moving in.

"Working with Foundation Housing has been great. Our customers have been involved in the design process, ensuring that their individual accessibility requirements are met. Once built, these modern, specialist homes will greatly improve the living standards of the residents," Michelle said.

The houses will have a seven star environmental rating, with a rainwater tank, solar panels, battery backup, and double glazing on all windows.

The future tenants, who are all friends, are looking forward to moving into their new homes in 2022.



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About Foundation Housing

Foundation Housing is the largest Community Housing Organisation in Western Australia, with expertise in property development and management, as well as tenancy management and support. It manages a portfolio of homes worth over \$650m and has ownership interest in more than \$200m of assets around WA. The organisation currently provides housing for 3255 people, of whom 476 live with a disability.

About Activ

Activ is the largest disability support provider in Western Australia, providing individualised services for people with intellectual disability. Services offered include accommodation, community, employment, training and education, short-term accommodation and behaviour support. Activ was founded in 1951 by a group of families who wanted more for their children who lived with disability and had become marginalised by society. Today, Activ supports more than 1,900 individuals and their families across WA.