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MEDIA RELEASE

28 July 2010

Partnership the key to independent living in new social housing

Bernie Murphy, Chief Executive of Affordable Community Housing, today welcomed tenants to new social housing in Bass Hill constructed under the Federal Government's Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan.

While thousands of homes are being built with Stimulus funding, this is social housing with a difference.

The seven townhouses at 1–5 Hilda St are home to 13 tenants, four of whom are able to live in a community setting thanks to round-the-clock help from staff of the Royal Rehabilitation Centre, Sydney.

“There has been collaboration from the beginning to ensure that the disabled tenants, who have either brain or spinal injuries, can live as independently as possible”, said Mr Murphy.

“Affordable Community Housing, the Royal Rehabilitation Centre and Resitech got together to work on the design of two three-bedroom units at Hilda St.

“The design, which features wheelchair accessible showers and rooms large enough for specialist furniture, gives the tenants a secure environment.

“Staff from the Royal Rehabilitation Centre are on hand 24x7 to support the tenants and provide services such as meal preparation. They have an office in one of the units.

“Affordable Community Housing has had a long partnership with the Royal Rehabilitation Centre and is delighted with the independent living arrangements we have at Hilda St.”

Tenant Peter Cridland has moved with others in his townhouse from nearby accommodation that had been modified rather than purpose-built. He's emphatic in praise of his new home.

“Everything is perfect”, says Peter, who particularly enjoys sitting in the morning sun in the townhouse garden.

About Affordable Community Housing Ltd

Affordable Community Housing is the merged businesses of Cumberland Housing Co-op Ltd and Western Suburbs Community Housing Ltd. AHCL is one of New South Wales largest social and affordable housing providers with over 1,500 homes under management and providing more than 4,600 people with houses and home units.

Geographically diverse Affordable Community Housing offers housing through out the Sydney Metropolitan Area. AHCL is classed by NSW Housing as a Growth Provider under it's 'Planning for the Future' 5 year growth strategy. Affordable Community Housing intends to become the single largest affordable housing provider in Australia.



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The Australian Government is investing almost \$1.9 billion dollars as part of its Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan to deliver around 6,000 social housing homes in NSW.

On top of this, the NSW Government is also investing a further \$1 billion to deliver an additional 3,000 homes for those most in need, providing a much needed boost to public housing and housing administered by the not-for-profit community sector.

Affordable Community Housing is a not-for-profit organisation that provides housing for more than 6,000 people in 16 local government areas across the Greater Western Sydney Region.

Media contact: Bernie Murphy, Chief Executive Affordable Community Housing, telephone 0434 314 334.

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