

Residents get a room of their own

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THIRTY-TWO residents of the new Weemala building at the Royal Rehabilitation Centre have their own room after nearly a decade of sharing.

The long-term residents moved into the residence at the Charles St entrance of the centre two weeks ago.

The old Weemala home on Morrison Rd, which celebrates 105 years of service next month, will be retained and made into a state-of-the-art research facility.

Construction of the residence began in September last year and the few things left to do include unpacking of belongings along with new furniture and landscaping.

The \$8 million project, funded by the centre and built by ADCO Constructions, consists of twin

two-storey buildings connected by a walkway, with 16 rooms in each wing.

Residents of Weemala, with those who depend on high levels of care occupying one wing and others who are more mobile and independent in the other, receive 240-hour a day attention from qualified staff.

The building will be officially opened on Monday, November 7.

The buildings are modern, spacious and have floor-to-ceiling doors and windows. They have lifts, airconditioning, timber and tiled floors.

Residents can socialise in several of the common rooms fitted with plasma TV screens and leather couches.

The independent residents live in self-contained rooms with a

kitchen fitted with electrical appliances at a low height so they are easily reached.

The residents were happy and relaxed in their new surroundings.

Jack, who has been a resident at Weemala for 34 years, said it was "bloody good living here". Vincent, a resident for 12 years, said the new home was perfect.

Bob said it he could not wait to put pictures on his walls.

Warren Allen, 65, who had a traumatic brain injury, has lived at Weemala since 1973.

He said he could "hardly get over it".

He is the resident painter and had set up his studio in the walkway between the two buildings.