



Bedford[™]

Media Release

June 2011

Bedford hands over the keys to a new life

Fifty-year old Kevin Longman has lived a life of limited independence but now thanks to Bedford he is one of four individuals to recently be handed the keys to a new start through the 'Homes for 100' programme, a joint initiative between Bedford and the State Government.

On 28 June, Bedford will officially celebrate the opening of three new homes at Lightsview, a joint venture project of CIC Australia and Land Management Corporation, in an initiative aimed at improving social inclusion in housing for people with disability.

For Kevin and his family, the news that he would be living at Lightsview was an exciting announcement.

"The opportunity for Kevin to move into this home is such a good feeling," Kevin's sister Debbie Brown said.

"Kevin has never had choices in his life but he deserves the best including the opportunities that everyone else takes for granted. He deserves the chance to be part of this new home."

While Kevin has limited speaking abilities, Ms Brown said "new house" was all he could talk about. Since 2002 when his mother passed away, Kevin has lived in supported accommodation with CARA and at his sister's home on weekends.

Now through Bedford's 'Homes for 100' programme Kevin will move into a five bedroom group home with three other residents where staff will provide 24-hour support care.

Kevin's housemate-to-be, Rachel Huddy, is another person who will benefit greatly from the new home.

"Rachel first moved into supported care when she was young and now at the age of 46, after numerous unsuitable housing arrangements, she is delighted to be moving into her new Bedford home," Sue, Rachel's mum, said.

"I am extremely grateful that Rachel has had this opportunity and can finally be happy in her own home."

Custom-built to meet the needs of people with disability, the new home features wider corridors and doorways, step less entries, larger bathrooms, modified kitchen, lifting equipment and grab rails.

Bedford Chief Executive Max Dyason said the house was the fifth high support group home to be built as part of the 'Homes for 100' programme.

"'Homes for 100' is a vital programme that recognises the diverse needs of people with disability and the benefits that come from being part of the wider community," Mr Dyason said.



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“As part of ‘Homes for 100’, we are proud to say that we’ve helped to house over 70 people with disability across regional and metropolitan South Australia.

“There is nothing more gratifying than seeing the smiling faces of people who are excited about the opportunities and possibilities of living in a new home.”

The remaining two properties on Light Terrace at Lightsview are courtyard homes that will house people with low to medium support needs.

Bedford background: Visit www.bedfordgroup.com.au/news_and_info

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