

DARREN CHEESEMAN MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR CORANGAMITE

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

As Member for Corangamite, I am very pleased to support Freedom Housing's trial in the Barwon Region.

It is my understanding that Freedom Housing's innovative trial would "road test" the model with a view to refining it for people with disabilities.

I further understand that Freedom Housing are looking in the future to be supplied by the private enterprise housing industry sector, and it is a model that is designed to be privately owned /leased. It will not be reliant on state funding, unlike the current state funded institutional models of accommodation.

The proposed trial will:

- Be over an 18 month period following construction.
- Involve 4 volunteer households, in which there is a person/s with disabilities in each.
- Include the involvement of several registered care providers, and disability advocate NGO's.
- Enable DisabilityCare Australia to monitor all aspects of Freedom Housing.
- Include input from Otway Health.
- Include university academic disability researchers.
- Invite the Department of Human Services and other government authorities to participate.
- Enable the optimisation of the architectural design, the fit out, and the operational methodology.
- Provide Apollo Bay with private (non-institutional) housing, suitable for families to live with – and care for - their disabled loved ones.
- Draw private investor market interest, in order to provide future housing specifically for the disability sector.
- Include on-going surveys of all concerned: these will be forwarded to DisabilityCare Australia.
- Include the active involvement of Colac Otway Shire.
- Make Freedom Housing 'market ready'.

I wish Freedom Housing every success with this innovative and exciting trial which will allow people with a disability access to quality housing tailored to their needs.

Yours sincerely,



DARREN CHEESEMAN MP
Federal Member for Corangamite

