

LOCALS SYMPATHETIC TO BELMORE ST REDEVELOPMENT

A survey* of people living in the area surrounding Crowle Home in Ryde has shown that almost everyone polled (98%) felt that people with disability had a right to live within the community.

This is consistent with Federal and State government policy which stipulates that people with disability should no longer live in institutionalised/segregated accommodation.

Crowle Home, a residence for 27 people with disability in Belmore Street, Ryde, is old and unsuitable and needs to be closed down. A redevelopment is planned by Achieve Australia.

“For many people with disability, the opportunity to live in the community is prized and cherished,” Achieve Australia CEO, Anne Bryce, said. “The results of this survey are loud and clear. The local community sees the advantages of moving from segregated accommodation to social inclusion for people with disability.”

The Belmore Street proposal features apartments ranging from one to three bedrooms. A total of 470 units are envisaged, with 47 reserved for people with disability.

This innovative approach will deliver three important outcomes:

- It will more than double the number of people with disability who can live there (up to 60 people);
- The funding will come from private sources (putting less burden on the taxpayer);
- The resulting financial security will benefit those supported by Achieve Australia and their families by funding more housing within the broader community.

“Parking is available onsite, which means street parking will be better than the State government’s requirements,” Ms Bryce said. “All perimeter trees are to be preserved and more will be added. The heritage aspects of Crowle Home will also be preserved.”

In the recent survey, most people were in favour of this redevelopment, with only 28% against.

Of the people surveyed, 86% agreed that the chance to live in their own home is a dream come true for many people with a disability. Also, 83% agreed that living within the community changes the emotional well-being and level of confidence of people with a disability.

*This was an independent survey by Woolcott Research (n=300, with a maximum error at the 95% confidence level being + 6% (5.8%)).

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