



Minister for Community Services

Hon Lisa Neville MP

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Mr Brian Walsh
PO BOX 2317,
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Dear Mr Walsh,

Thank you for offering the opportunity to meet with you and Dr Grayson on the 10 October 2008 about the former Kew Residential Services. I am pleased that my Disability Adviser Ms Sue Spence and the Executive Director Disability Services Mr Arthur Rogers were able to meet with you on my behalf.

I have been briefed on the meeting in relation to the KRS site and broader disability services issues.

You outlined an idea to redevelop some of the buildings formerly used by Kew Residential Services as a major respite facility for people across Victoria. You also proposed the development of sporting and recreational facilities in conjunction with community and school groups as well as dental and specialist medical facilities.

The Government agrees with the continuing need to support families, carers and people with a disability in a number of ways including a variety of respite options.

We have opted to develop locally available respite services which include a range of options such as facility based (out of home) in-home and holiday respite. We have increased respite funding in 2008-09 by \$12.4m over 4 years. We have directed these supports to meeting the needs of people in their local communities. Further expansion of respite will continue to be provided, consistent with this approach.

We prefer facility based respite to be in smaller settings as research in Australia and overseas shows that people in smaller accommodation settings have improved care compared to larger congregate care facilities.

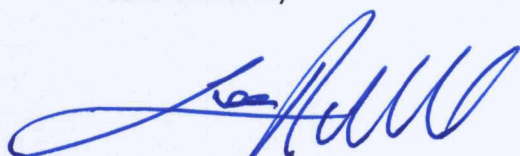
As part of the staged redevelopment of the former Kew Residential Services site there will be recreation facilities such as a small hydrotherapy pool, community rooms and rooms for visiting health workers.

The details are yet to be finalised but these facilities will be within the guidelines agreed at the commencement of the site redevelopment consultation process. This process included representatives from the Public Advocate, Community Visitors, advocacy groups and the Department of Human Services.

I trust you will appreciate the need to focus the continued expansion of disability services on locally driven responses and individually based support. This is why the Government has declined to develop larger more statewide focused facilities on the former site of Kew Residential Services.

Once again thank you for your ongoing representation on the interests of Victorian's with a disability their, families and carers.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Neville', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the left.

Hon Lisa Neville MP
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19/11/2008