

Minister for Community Services

Hon Lisa Neville MP

50 Lonsdale Street GPO Box 4057 Melbourne Victoria 3001 DX210081 www.dhs.vic.gov.au Telephone: (03) 9096 7500 Facsimile: (03) 9096 7818

e1278521

Mr Brian Walsh President Kew Cottages Coalition (KCC) 22A Fellows Street KEW 3101

Dear Mr Walsh

Thank you for your letter of 30 June 2008 detailing your proposal for the use of the remaining land on the site of the former Kew Residential Services (KRS).

The Development Agreement with Walker Corporation outlines the development on the site including further residential housing and new recreational and community facilities. This will provide further opportunities for integration of the former residents of KRS in this new area including the use of the new facilities on the site.

The Government is aware of the significant and important role of families in the support they give to their relatives with a disability. We are continuing to expand respite opportunities and consider these should be located throughout the community and be flexible, based on each family's needs.

We support the importance of continuing quality improvement and contemporary practice in disability but consider that this is best achieved through active connections with academic institutions, ongoing evaluation of current practice and through giving people with a disability and their families more choice and say about the types of support they require. This is also assisted through the implementation of the comprehensive quality framework that is being implemented in Victoria.

I am looking forward to the continuing development of the former KRS site and particularly the development of the new recreational and community facilities.

Thank you for raising this important matter with me.

Yours sincerely

Hon Lisa Neville MP Minister for Community Services 23/7/2008

