

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

10 October 2014

### **\$15 MILLION MT GRAVATT DEVELOPMENT TO GIVE SENIORS A NEW LEASE ON LIFE**

After 48 years in their Mt Gravatt public housing property, Terry and Adelle Steuart are on the verge of a new era.

The couple – who are both 83 years-old – are among the first in line for a nearby \$15 million development currently under construction that will provide high-quality, modern homes for Brisbane seniors currently living in public housing properties too large to maintain by themselves.

The new Bothwell street development, which will contain 57 purpose-built residences, is just around the corner, but another world away for the Steuarts, whose three-bedroom home and its sizable back yard are becoming increasingly difficult to look after.

Mr Steuart said the couple was excited about moving to a smaller, more manageable home that was also closer to their local library and shops.

“We just can’t keep up with the house like we used to and it just gets frustrating,” Mr Steuart said.

“After looking at the designs and videos we can see the new development is much more liveable for people in our situation who don’t want to be tied down in a house that is too big for them.”

There is also the likelihood that the Steuart’s old house will become the new home for a larger family on the public housing waitlist.

Mrs Steuart said their old yard would be fantastic for a growing family.

“We don’t need a big yard to play in anymore,” Mrs Steuart joked.

“It would really suit a young family with kids and I just hope they enjoy the house as much as we did.”

Located at 9-13 Bothwell Street, the development is the result of an innovative partnership between the Department of Housing and Public Works and affordable housing industry leader BHC.

Minister for Housing and Public Works Tim Mander said he was delighted to see community housing providers embracing the Government’s Housing 2020 vision.

“Over the past couple of years we’ve managed to reduce Queensland’s social housing waiting list by around 40 per cent, which is a great result but there’s still a long way to go,” Mr Mander said.

“As part of our Housing 2020 Strategy, we have committed to delivering an additional 12,000 social and affordable dwellings throughout the state.

“Partnerships with not-for-profit organisations like BHC will be a crucial part of hitting that target.”

BHC Chief Executive Officer David Cant said the new development would ensure seniors like the Steuarts could remain valuable and active members of a Mt Gravatt community they have contributed and connected to for decades.

“This is a very exciting project that really is a win-win for the whole community,” Mr Cant said.

“The development will greatly improve the lives of our senior tenants and enhance the Mt Gravatt area, while supporting the State Government’s dedication to providing innovative and sustainable affordable housing to Queenslanders that need it most.

“A key feature of the new residences will be a ‘community hub’, where residents undertake hobbies and interact with friends and other members of the Mt Gravatt community.

“Tenants will also have convenient access to the services of local business.”

***CAPTION:*** Terry and Adelle Steuart are among the first public housing tenants in line for a place in a \$15 million Mt Gravatt development currently under construction.

**ENDS**

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