

NEW FARM

Project caps elderly rent

Bill Johnston

GROUPS JOIN TO DEVELOP BLOCK TO KEEP RESIDENTS LOCAL

AT A GLANCE

Bluecare and BHC, both not-for-profit organisations, are developing the Bluecare Bowen Court retirement village site in Bowen Terrace. The building dates from the 1960s. The core structure will be kept intact as it is transformed into 51 units able to house 54 elderly residents. The units will be completed in September

TWO not-for-profit groups have joined to develop a 51-unit block in New Farm in a \$12 million project to help address the shortage of low-cost housing for the elderly. Service provider Bluecare and housing company BHC are refurbishing a 1960s building in Bowen Terrace into 48 one-person and three two-person apartments.

Rents will be capped at 80 per cent of market prices, with the remaining 20 per cent provided by the Commonwealth and State government-funded National Rental Affordability Scheme. Bluecare property services director Frank Riley said there was an ongoing need

for housing for the elderly in the city fringe. "It's going to be predicated by the growing ageing population," he said. "There's a shortage of affordable housing. "You've only got to look around to see plenty of units going up but whether they (the elderly) can afford to

live in them is a another matter." BHC's John McAuliffe agreed. "All we want to do is develop more of this for our community," he said. Older People Speak Out president Val French said single pensioners struggled financially.

"A lot of people are forced to move from the area they've lived in and go further out due to rising rent," she said. This meant they lost their sense of community. Queensland Housing Minister Tim Mander said the New Farm project was a win for elderly residents.