

NATIONAL HOUSING CONFERENCE 2005

Designing For Disability

Author: Margaret Bryan
Design for Independence – Occupational Therapy
Department of Housing and Works

Presenter: Margaret Bryan

Abstract

Public Housing has been providing custom built housing for people with physical disabilities for over 20 years. The last decade has seen a huge increase in the number of housing units built and this is in line with changes in community attitudes and funding available for people with disabilities to remain or return to living in the community.

What are the important factors for people with disabilities when living in the community – is it the design of the property, location of the property, proximity to family and supports or a combination of all three?

This paper will explore the progression of accessible public housing. It will examine the processes within the department from specific custom designs to more universal designs. It will discuss the changing style of housing from single housing units to cluster style housing which offers greater social interaction as well as the great variety of internal features. It will also explore the internal processes of providing affordable and accessible accommodation from the use of internal to private architects as well as health professionals both within the department as well as the community.

Customer feedback and satisfaction plays an important role in ongoing provision of accessible housing – this has a direct impact on policy and best practice within the department.

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Contact:
Margaret Bryan
PO Box 620
Jolimont WA
0412 357 004