

Supporting submission for Wontama redevelopment to be maintained “as drawn” – Care Perspective

From a residents' perspective, the design of the proposed Wontama Village provides the most efficient and pleasant outcome. The current design has gone through extensive consultation with staff, residents, carers and community members all of whom are extremely satisfied and pleased with the proposed design. This includes aspects such as the benefits and opportunities that the environment and layout of residential living spaces and the “community” like facilities will offer to both the Wontama and Orange communities.

All floor plans and site relationships between houses have been reviewed by Professor Richard Fleming, a renowned expert in dementia specific care. Professor Fleming has provided consultation and direction in the design process to ensure that the current plan provides the most appropriate, supportive and effective environment in which to care for older people, and in particular those with dementia.

It is important in residential aged care facilities that residents are able to maintain links with the community and maintain a “normal” homelike experience. This is being facilitated by residents in household “A” being able to observe activity on both internal walkways and Byng Street as per the initially submitted plans. The current design also allows all residents to have a view of either gardens or outdoor areas. This important feature would be lost to residents if the house was relocated back from the street.

The internal environment involving the movement and pathways for residents would also be compromised if the house was moved backward from the street. This would create a more cramped environment with less garden area for the residents to enjoy. Additionally the relocation of house “A” backward from the street would decrease the available space that the residents could access and therefore create a more complex environment for them to move around which in turn has the risk of increasing the risk of residents becoming confused or falling.

Internal traffic flows for ambulance, deliveries, taxis and carers to pick up residents would also be reduced and could pose a risk to pedestrian residents moving around the site. The entire pedestrian and vehicular traffic flows have been optimised with the current design.

The internal layout of the houses also provides the optimal outcome with all residents having line of sight to common areas whilst maintain privacy in their bedrooms. The proposed current layout enhances resident independence and mobility. The design of House “A” would need to change significantly if the current plans were required to be modified from those already submitted. This would result in a household environment that is compromised and less able to support residents’ independence, mobility and normal living experiences.

Over the expected life of this redevelopment it is projected that over 2000 members of our community will live at Wontama Village representing around 4% of the current population. All projections such as census data predict an increase in the aged population into the future and this development will allow people to live full and enjoyable lives at our community at Wontama Village.

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