

redevelopment news

keeping you up to date with improvements at David House



Issue 2 March 2008

David House Communication Project

This newsletter is designed to keep you informed about the redevelopment of the current buildings at the Yarraville site (David House) and to provide an environment to support the future direction of the redevelopment.

With this aim in mind, the David House Communication Project has been set up to find out your thoughts about the current Yarraville site (David House) facilities as well as future themes and opportunities. Facilitated by Lynne Cazaly of Cazaly Communications; the Project included some interviews and focus group meetings to obtain feedback and comments from internal and external stakeholders.

Questions and themes about the Day Service were explored, as well as what the David House site was used for and the impact of change at the David House site elicited some meaningful responses at the meetings. Responses regarding the following themes around change include :

- **Benefits of a new building**– parents are glad that the fruits of their earlier labour are being realised, looking forward to having a community centre and to develop stronger connections in the space.
- **The Redevelopment**– the building design will affect the use of the building. The direction of flexibility is positive, change has been needed.
- **Staff**– ideas around staff roles and training– to become community builders rather than remaining instructors. Suggestions to plan with people, sit, listen, have conversations and develop feedback.
- **The building and facilities**– participants need easier access. Tailor the new design to a multifunctional community centre.
- **Programs**– request for more weekend and evening activity, and link *annecto* programs and departments to provide help for David House participants. Participants commented they wanted to see the day program develop from a 'school' type program to a 'centre' based program to encourage participants to access community based activities and learning.
- **Community inclusion/ Community Hub concept**– The David House site is part of the neighbourhood, not an institution. The redevelopment will help stop the segregation of people with disabilities from people without disabilities and will help promote and raise awareness of people with disabilities and the work *annecto* does. Discussions included options to integrate the community with the David House site, and to make it more accessible to the community and to community groups. For instance the venue could be hired out for example during elections, existing and future links such as a Men's Shed, the local primary school and a mother's group.
- **Image and Branding**– promote what we do in the community more. The new building design's entrance fronts on Williamstown Road which will create a positive presence for *annecto* and to facilitate organisational branding. Suggestions to keep the David House name and add a tagline.

See next page...

Proposed courtyard of the new building at the David House site



Have your say

A workshop comprising David House participants, parents and external stakeholders will be held in the near future to look at questions, opportunities or concerns about the future use of the new buildings, the programs and possible future changes. We would like to hear from you, to give you the opportunity to put forward your comments, thoughts and views in creating a new direction for the future of David House. Please include very specific comments regarding the following themes. Include the reasons why and how you believe these changes (if any) need to be made. Your comments will help direct the workshop focus.

The Redevelopment: what are the best ways to communicate developments during the rebuilding to parents and participants of the David House site. What are your thoughts about the Community Hub concept? If this model is taken up– is there a need for an additional tagline to the David House name?

Staff: what type of staff training would you like to see our staff develop, how would this training benefit the people who attend David House site. Is there a greater need for consultative specialist and health professionals to visit David House site for both participant and carer learning? Professionals like speech therapists, behavioural therapists, dietitians, artists-in-residence programs.

Programs: What programs are we doing well and why? What changes are needed in the current programs and why?

Community inclusion: we have mentioned including Men's Sheds and Mother's groups at the David House site. What external community groups and partnerships would you like to see get involved with the David House site and people.

Image and Branding: What images/ description would you want to see connected with David House site? Why? We may be looking for 'ambassadors' who will represent the face of David House, and whose parents/ carers will speak at launches and functions at David House. Would you be interested in putting forward you and your family as 'ambassadors' for David House? What do you think of the continuation of the name David House? Considering future use of the site, is there a need for another tagline added to the name? If not, why not, and if so, why?

Thought starters

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Please RSVP your comments by COB Wednesday 9 April to Di Erlichman, *annecto* Marketing and Communications coordinator on 9687 7066, or email: di.erlichman@annecto.org.au.

Aims and Objectives of the Redevelopment

The objectives of the project are:

- To support participants to have greater involvement in the community by redeveloping the facilities as a base for activity, not a place for activity
- To directly improve the lives of 90 to 100 participants in the *Futures for Young Adults* and day programs.
- To improve accessibility for the 200 people with a disability and their families who access respite, accommodation outreach, supported accommodation and planning services under *Support and Choice* and who visit the Yarraville site (*David House*)
- To provide accessible, affordable and appropriate facilities for *annecto's* partners and community, including formal and informal spaces
- To improve the safety, efficiency and accessibility of the Yarraville site (*David House*)
- To contribute to the pride and well-being of people in the Western suburbs by increasing the attractiveness of the Yarraville area