



Concerned Residents for West Kambah

Replacing ‘God’s waiting room’ with active aged care

A Kambah-based community group, CROWK, is urging the ACT Government to seize the opportunity to develop and showcase a leading edge aged care facility in Kambah.

CROWK Vice-President, Geoff Pryor said today that the former Mt Neighbour school site was ideally placed to house an aged care development based on holistic determinants of health such as life-long learning, and engagement and interaction with the wider community, including nearby schools.

“The Government is currently going through a consultation process on use of former school sites and we understand that developing the Mt Neighbour site for aged care may be on the agenda,” Mr Pryor said.

“This would give our region a rare opportunity to throw out the ‘God’s waiting room’ model of passive, walled retirement villages and replace it with an ecologically smart development that encourages active engagement between elderly Australians and the wider community.

CROWK - Concerned Residents for West Kambah – has received funding from ACT Health Promotions for a three year project aimed at involving the community in fostering environmental and social sustainability in West Kambah and Weston Creek.

“Recent research suggests that the emphasis in aged care should turn to quality of life rather than focus just on quality of care,” Mr Pryor said.

“CROWK would like to see the Government take the opportunity to develop a visionary open and active facility for our older citizens on the former Mt Neighbour school site.

“Such a development would ensure the site continues as a valued regional resource making a positive contribution to community health.

“This is directly in line with CROWK’s objective of helping our region develop into a precinct where environmental and social wellbeing is high on the agenda.”

Mr Pryor said the former Mt Neighbour school was situated on a major bus route close to other schools, shops, playing fields and housing.” This provides an ideal focal point for community exchange and activities involving people of all ages,” he said

“Development of an aged care facility on the site should encompass environmentally and socially sustainable design of buildings and surrounds. This would aim to encourage joint involvement between residents and the community ranging from gardening to creative, social and educational community activities.”

Further information

Geoff Pryor

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