

HOUSING INNOVATIONS UNIT UPDATE

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Stage 1 Construction Begins

Last week, work began on the first new homes to be built under Stage 1 of the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan's (ESP) Social Housing Initiative.

Construction began at Jireh House, a crisis accommodation facility in the State's south for women and children escaping domestic violence

Last year the essential service received a major setback when part of its main residential facility was destroyed by fire. \$1.5 million from Stage 1 has been allocated to restore the facility above and beyond its former glory.

Construction has started to add three additional two-bedroom units, three self contained bed-sits, a children's play area, kitchen, dining and lounge rooms to the remaining structure.

This project will employ 15 full time staff from a range of trades for the duration of the project, including three apprentices.

The three units will be ready for occupation by the end of October and the remaining construction work is on track for completion by the end of the year.

A further 54 new homes are set to commence construction under Stage 1 in the coming months.

Stage 2 Proposals Submitted to the Australian Government

The Housing Innovations Unit is pleased to report that the Tasmanian Government has submitted its list of projects recommended for funding under Stage 2 of the ESP Social Housing Initiative to the Australian Government for approval.

The recommended projects were identified from proposals submitted to the Tasmanian Government following a call for Expressions of Interest from the not-for-profit housing sector and a Request for Tenders from the building and construction industry.

The Tasmanian Government is now awaiting preliminary feedback from the Australian Government on its recommendations before formally advising proponents in writing if their project has been recommended for funding approval.

It is anticipated that proponents will receive this advice in writing late next week. De-briefing sessions will be provided for proponents upon request.

Final approval to proceed with construction will be granted by the Australian Government. It is anticipated this advice will be available in September 2009.

Repairs & Maintenance Delivering Results

The repairs and maintenance element of the ESP provides \$9.3 million to Tasmania for improvements to at least 500 properties.

To date, around 80 properties have received major renovations (e.g. new kitchen, laundry and bathroom) and a further 250 have received energy efficiency upgrades (e.g. insulation, draught stoppers).

The additional work has allowed Housing Tasmania to engage two new repairs and maintenance contractors, significantly boosting local employment.

In total, at least 166 properties will receive major renovations and 350 will receive energy efficiency upgrades by no later than 30 June 2010. Given the speed at which our contractors have been able to complete these renovations so far, we are on schedule to reach this goal well ahead of the 2010 deadline.

Our Contacts List

To receive regular email updates join the HIU's e-list by phoning Amanda Daly on 6233 5038 or email amanda.daly@dhhs.tas.gov.au.

Visit the Australian Government's Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan Website

For further information about the NBESP, including what's happening in education and community infrastructure, visit the Australian Government's NBESP Stimulus Plan website:

www.economicstimulusplan.gov.au



Above: A unit at Bedford St in Lenah Valley is gutted in preparation for renovation.