



Media Release

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Celebrations as Project Independence opens its 2nd House at Harrison and announces key funding sourced for Phillip

Over the last week a new era has begun for future residents of Project Independence with the opening of the Project Independence homes at Latham and Harrison

Minister for Housing Yvette Berry, Minister for Disability Chris Bourke, Minister for Higher Education and Training, Ms Meegan Fitzharris and Joy Burch MLA all joined the Board of Project Independence as celebrations were held at the Harrison and Latham residences over the last week.

Joseph Yeung, Director Project Independence, said: "It was great to see the construction fences gone and the houses ready for residents to make into their home."

Minister Berry acknowledged Ms Burch for pushing forward the Project and for maintaining her support and enthusiasm. Ms Burch said she was glad that she had "pounded the corridors to get the project off the ground" and committed to supporting Project Independence in future ventures.

Future residents Leon Leary (Lee) and Rhys Hill both made a moving speeches which highlighted the excitement and the want of their new lives as home owners when they move in to the PI homes.

Project Independence Chair Glenn Keys said: "There is a long list of people who have helped Project Independence reach this milestone and the Board is grateful for your support. With residents on the verge of moving into the current PI homes it is time for Project Independence to start planning for future houses, with Phillip the next site on the Board's agenda."

Project Independence has received a \$300,000 funding boost from the Snow Foundation in addition to a \$100,000 loan. Snow Foundation CEO Georgina Byron said: "There is a real need for the kind of accommodation that Project Independence is delivering for people with intellectual disabilities, which enables them to be truly independent in a safe, purpose-built environment. We look forward to being at the launch of the Phillip Home and to welcoming new residents there in the future."

Rhys Hill Future Resident



Lee Leary Future Resident



Glenn Keys, Graeme Innes



Meegan Fitzharris & Chris Bourke

ENDS

For further enquiries please contact: Rachel Waddington Project Independence Program Coordinator **T** +61 (0)2 6203 9500

M +61 (0)417 286 219 **E** rachelwaddington@projectindependence.com.au