Minister for Housing John Ah Kit today opened the Northern Territory’s newest and most innovative seniors’ village in Alice Springs.

The $3.4 million village, in the suburb of Gillen, comprises 18 two-bedroom units in cluster-style, appropriate and modern design style accommodation. The project was announced in November 2001, with construction beginning in July last year.

The construction of the village was partially funded through last year’s sale of the Cawood Court public housing complex. The NT Government will retain ownership of the village.

"Our senior citizens are a very important part of the Territory community, and this Government is committed to providing an environment where everyone can feel safe, comfortable and independent," Mr Ah Kit said.

"This particular complex is one of several low-density, ground level village-style developments in the Territory specifically for seniors who meet the public housing eligibility criteria."

The Coconut Grove village was the first of the cluster developments to be finished, followed by the Wanguri village, and the Leanyer seniors’ village which was opened last year.

The seniors’ village at Gillen incorporates the latest design concepts and features including wheelchair access and low internal fittings to make life more comfortable for residents.

"My Department provided recommendations to architects – recommendations that came straight from seniors already living in similar accommodation.

"These include planning of internal spaces to suit residents or visitors with walking frames or wheelchairs; floor and ground surfaces with non-slip finishes; sheltered outdoor living spaces; sheltered path of travel from carports to front doors for protection from rain; and the use of light colours for roofing and walls to reflect heat," Mr Ah Kit said.

"The internal and external colour schemes also reflect that of the Red Centre and promote a feeling of individuality within the small community."

All residents have moved into their new dwellings.