Homes for growing town

Corey Sinclair

CONSTRUCTION of a new $86 million housing project will bring 25 new homes to Alice Springs.

Chief Minister Adam Giles has welcomed the start of work on the project as Alice Springs is in desperate need of housing and construction projects.

The development will include 14 three-bedroom units and 11 two-bedroom units, built as detached and semi-detached dwellings.

The properties include open plan living, ergonomic kitchens, ensuites, separate laundries, built-in robes to all bedrooms and double covered car parks.

They are all planned as low-rise, single storey buildings to minimise any visual and social impact on neighbouring properties.

“This development on Larapinta Drive is great news for the local economy,” Mr Giles said.

“The development is expected to take about nine months to complete with up to 40 workers on site.”

Mr Giles said it was another example of the Country Liberals’ commitment to the Alice Springs construction industry.

“I am planning for the future of the town and new housing stock is critical,” he said.

Local company Probuild NT has development approval for the 25 residential units.

Purple House uses kidney day to urge folks to have check-ups

Sasha Petrova HEALTH REPORTER

NOBODY knows the importance of kidney health more than Central Australia’s Purple House.

Yesterday, the award-winning organisation celebrated World Kidney Health Day by opening its doors to patients and members of the public.

“Our Open Day (was) in line with World Kidney Health Day and (was) also the launch of the Kidney Health Film which will be on YouTube,” said Purple House’s Director of Nursing Deb Lillis.

The film explained causes of renal failure, of which Ms Lillis said there were five stages.

“Stage five is known as end stage and that’s where you have people having to dislocate from the community and receive dialysis in town.”

“Stage five numbers are turning up for dialysis when we have the biggest renal unit in the Southern Hemisphere. If everybody turned up for dialysis when they had to, there would not be enough machines.”

Purple House served healthy tucker yesterday, took people’s blood pressures, provided basic monitoring and had health professionals on standby to answer any questions and address concerns.

“It’s all about early engagement. The most important thing is to keep talking,” Ms Lillis said.

“People feel right until the end … even if they’re at stage four going into five. People are very strong out here and tend to just soldier on,” she said addressing people to have regular check-ups.

Recylclabill service a hit with residents

THE long wait for household recycling bins has ended with an Alice Springs man taking the matter into his own hands.

Known only as Bill, the resident set up a company called Recylclabill which supplies yellow bins to residents and takes them to the Waste Management Facility once full.

In exchange for his services, Bill collects the 10c refund for individual recyclable containers, as instigated by Alice Springs Town Council.

Nathan Roberts was among the first to receive a Recylclabill bin and said the tip refunds were a small price to pay for such a great service.

“I heard about the Recylclabill bins on the Alice Springs Buy Swap Sell Facebook page a little while back,” he said.

“The guy was offering to provide the bins for people in the local area and said he would come around every now and then to collect the bins, take them to the dump and return them.”

“He collects the 10c refunds … I honestly don’t mind because it’s a small price to pay for his services and it definitely saves me the hassle of having to take it myself,” Mr Roberts said.

Bill was unavailable for comment.

Purple House

Yesterday, purple Hilton, Spinifex Room, 24th March 2014

ProBuild’s Mick Betteridge, Ashley Warner, Phil Dandy, Chief Minister Adam Giles and Angie Bainand inspect plans.

Picture: COREY SINCLAIR

Northern Territorian Government

Alice Springs Hospital

Patients, Families and Carers Forum

Alice Springs Hospital is hosting an open event for patients, their family members and carers.

We want to talk to patients, their family members and carers who have recently been to the Emergency Department or admitted to hospital. If that is you, we would love to hear from you about how we can make Alice Springs Hospital better.

When: Monday 17 March 2014 from 2pm to 4pm
Where: Alice Springs Town Council - Andy McNeil Room

Light refreshments will be provided.

To register your attendance, please RSVP by contacting Anne Hughes at anne.hughes@nt.gov.au.