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Direct land grant for Masonic Homes aged care facility

Employment and construction opportunities will be created by the Northern Territory Government’s decision to allocate land as a community grant to Masonic Homes for construction of an aged care facility in Nightcliff.

The land, the site of the old Tiwi Primary School, is adjacent to the Tiwi Retirement Village (also operated by Masonic Homes).

The new facility will provide 50 aged care beds.

Minister for Housing Kon Vatskalis said the $4.75m construction phase will provide opportunities for the local construction industry as well as creating ongoing employment.

In addition, he said the facility will improve the quality of life of the Territory’s senior citizens.

“This community facility is the fulfilment of an election promise from this government and is an excellent example of our commitment to providing aged care,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“Further, it also demonstrates the government is working hard to create employment and construction activity.

"Construction will now be able to begin this Dry Season, giving a timely boost to local business."

Masonic Homes, a non-profit organisation, won a 50-bed allocation and a capital grant of $750,000 from the Commonwealth in May 2001 through a public tendering process that included local input from the NT Council on the Ageing and Territory Health Services.

Masonic Homes chief executive officer John Birkill said local architects Latitude 12½ had been engaged for design work and invitations to tender for project management will be sent out in February.

He said the facility would offer a broad range of services including high and low care residential care as well as support services for community based aged people.

"Masonic Homes wishes to express gratitude to the NT and Federal Governments for allocation of land and grant monies to enable this project to go ahead,” Mr Birkill said.

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