

Kew Cottages Parents' Association Inc.

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MEDIA RELEASE

Unanimous vote of no confidence in Minister Garbutt's management of the Kew Cottages Redevelopment

At the Tuesday night Committee meeting of the Kew Cottages Parents' Association a motion of no confidence was passed unanimously.

The Association has advised Minister Garbutt and the Premier that it is bitterly disappointed with her response to our decision to withdraw from the Ministerial Forum on the KRS Redevelopment which commenced its work in late January 2004.

Outstanding issues requiring urgent attention remain unanswered, in particular:

1. Why are only 100 of the existing 460 residents earmarked to remain on site, in some cases their home for over 50 years?

Families of residents have clearly indicated that significantly more than 100 wish to remain on site as part of the new community.

2. Why, after nearly two years, has the work of VicUrban, the Government appointed project manager for the Kew Redevelopment, yet to be tabled for consideration by the Parents' Association and other key stakeholders?

The Parents' Association is greeted with "it's too early, it's too early", however our genuine fear is that it will soon be too late and families will be presented with a fait accompli. Surely, it's time for genuine consultation?

3. Why are the three accommodation options now being offered on site (the stand alone detached house, small clusters of detached houses, loose groupings of detached houses) not being made available to the 360 residents who will be relocated off site?

When families of residents moving off site have clearly expressed the wish for true choice, why are the three choices not being offered to them? Where is the equity?

As a matter of urgency, the Parents' Association is seeking a meeting with the Premier on key issues of the Kew Redevelopment, a project that was recently declared of "state significance".

President, Ian Whalley says, "*Surely a Labour Government should be sensitive to the needs of these most vulnerable members of the Victorian community and their families? The Parents' Association calls on the support of the Victorian community.*"

For more information, contact:

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