



Premier of Victoria

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Mr Philip Slobom
Kew Cottages Coalition,
PO Box 2317,
KEW VIC 3101

Dear Mr Slobom

Thank you for your invitation to the rally this Sunday. I am not able to come but I would ask you to pass on the following points to the people who attend the rally who are concerned about the proposed redevelopment of the Kew Residential Services.

First, the Government is committed to acting in the best interests of the residents and has planned the redevelopment on the basis of their needs.

The redevelopment will take a number of years to complete. KRS residents are progressively moving to their new homes over time as their new houses are built on the site and elsewhere. By around the end of this year, approximately 100 residents will have moved and another sixty will move next year. Wherever their new home is located, residents will have continued access to the services available at Kew, including medical, recreational and therapy.

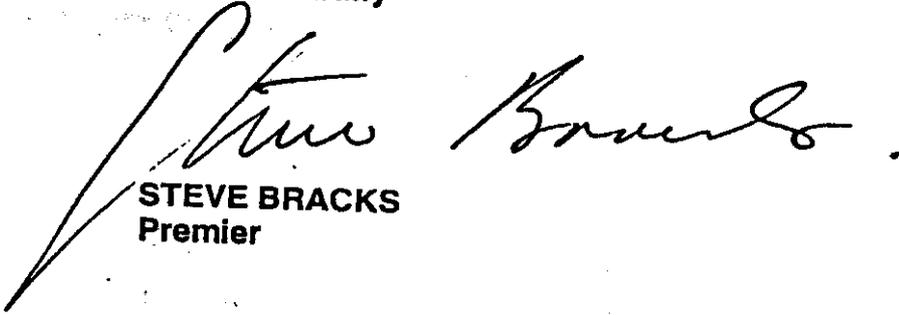
All funds from the redevelopment will be spent on providing improved facilities and services for people moving from Kew and any additional funds will go to other disability services.

Secondly, the strategic plan for the site has been approved by the Boorondara Council with significant amendments. The next stage is to produce a detailed plan for the development of the site that will be subject to further consultation.

Thirdly, although the new homes for those KRS residents who remain on the site have yet to be designed, I am informed that these will all be of one storey and built to the exacting disability standards as other community residential units. There will be some grouping of the community residential units on the site and some shared facilities but the Government will not create a new form of institutional care as there is strong evidence that the residents will be better off in community based care.

The Government understands the concerns of parents and relatives of current residents during this transition. There will be continuing consultation, over the coming months and years and the Government remains firmly committed to the best interests of the current residents.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Bracks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

STEVE BRACKS
Premier