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Seton Villa launches major *Homes For Life* crowdfunding campaign Vital fundraiser to fit-out two new purpose-built homes for women with disability

Toasters, kettles, microwaves, shower handles, walk-in baths, furniture – these are just some of the essential items needed for two new purpose-built homes being built by [Seton Villa](#) for women with intellectual disability. And with the first home's completion date just five months away, Seton Villa is running a major crowdfunding campaign, [Homes For Life](#), to raise \$500,000 to fit out the Specialist Disability Accommodation homes in Ryde.

Homes For Life is a special crowdfunding campaign to support the finishing touches of their building program. The two new homes are the third and fourth in the Seton Villa community, built as part of its asset redevelopment program, designed to put independence and choice back in the hands of women living with intellectual disability. The homes are designed in line with the Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) Improved Liveability design standards.

“Seton Villa is replacing all its existing, ageing houses with brand new homes to SDA design standards, reflecting the value we ascribe to our residents,” explains Peter Gardiner, Seton Villa's CEO. “The much-needed funds raised by this crowdfunding campaign will turn the houses into comfortable and well-equipped homes.

“It's the finishing touches – like kitchen appliances, soft furnishings and outdoor settings – that will give these houses a real sense of home and help give residents greater independence. However, to fund these items, Seton Villa needs community support. Imagine the pride and pleasure the residents will experience being able to make a snack, help at mealtimes, enjoy a BBQ in the garden, and relax in the lounge room that has the look and feel of a beautiful family home.”

One of the homes, Leia's Place, was named by one of its incoming residents, Julie, 60, who is a big *Star Wars* fan. Julie's sister Aneta Kemp says Leia's Place “will make her a lot happier.” With a well-equipped, spacious kitchen in the new home, Aneta believes Julie will experience greater independence: “Julie likes cooking and has learnt to use a microwave and other kitchen appliances to make food for herself. It helps with her independence and choice.”

Leia's Place, due for completion in November this year, will have three bedrooms in the main house and a two-bedroom flat under the same roofline. The second house will feature four bedrooms and two living areas. Its construction begins in coming weeks.

Another resident of Leia's Place will be Liana, 59, whose sister Tanya Codd says “she is thriving” since she began living in a Seton Villa home in 2012. Tanya says that when one of their other sisters left home, Liana said she wanted her own place. “She wanted her own home and independent living just like her

siblings,” Tanya says. “She loves being in her own place. This new home will mean a lot to Liana. [It will provide] increased safety and mobility and I think will increase her independence, because they’re purpose-built homes. Liana will enjoy putting a part of herself into the home. For her to choose what she has throughout her new home and bedroom, will be so uplifting for her. This will be her first real opportunity to do that.”

Addressing specialist needs

Designed by Kennedy Associate Architects, a leader in SDA design, the new homes will address the housing needs of participants in the NDIS. “It’s uniquely special to have the opportunity to design homes that are specifically tailored to the needs of an individual group of people given that the vast majority of SDA housing is for mass consumption and is, as a result, more impersonal,” says Anthony Nolan, Partner at Kennedy Associate Architects. “The design of Leia’s Place has been carefully considered to optimise the opportunities of the site with good access to sun and an easy connection to the rear yard. A secondary smaller living area overlooks the front yard and provides a break from the social interaction of the main living room. The house has also been carefully designed to control privacy and ease of movement throughout the home.”

The homes are being built by Academy Construction & Development, and co-founder Ronnie Beaini calls it “the most amazing experience I’ve ever had as a builder”. “It’s exciting to be commencing the third and fourth properties that are part of Seton Villa’s asset redevelopment program. We’re proud to construct these purpose-built SDA houses for the residents of Seton Villa that will be spacious, light filled and incredibly high functioning,” he says. “It’s an amazing feeling knowing my team and I have contributed towards the resident’s happiness and comfort in a house they can call home. Making a difference to their lives is a very rewarding experience.”

The first of Seton Villa’s homes – Rosalie’s Place and Jenny’s Place – were officially opened in February this year. They are part of a major \$11 million+ investment plan by Seton Villa, which was founded by the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul. Seton Villa has been providing housing and supported independent living to people with disabilities in the Ryde area since 1966.

The crowdfunding runs until the end of July 2021. To donate, go to: setonvilla.org.au/how-to-help/homes-for-life/

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About Seton Villa

[Seton Villa](#) was founded by the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul, and the first residence was opened in August 1966. The original Seton Villa residence accommodated 20 ladies between the ages of 16 and 30 with the aim of encouraging and nurturing their development and potential. Residents were taught daily living skills, household chores, crafts and were encouraged to get involved in community, social and physical activities.

In May 1984, Seton Villa’s residents moved out of the original group residence into a series of shared homes throughout the local Marsfield community. This move was revolutionary for its time, empowering the ladies of Seton Villa to live in community while supporting their greater independence.

Today Seton Villa has seven residential houses to support the organisation’s Housing and Supported Independent Living services. Seton Villa is a small, tight community committed to creating a safe and dynamic

lifestyle environment for the ladies that is aligned to the guiding care model of active support which means 'working alongside' rather than 'doing for'. Seton Villa respect and nurture the rights of people with disabilities to be active members of the broader community while pursuing their personal interests and goals. Uniquely, Seton Villa's current residences only have female residents and carers, in order to maximise a sense of wellbeing and security.