



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 13th February 2020

Ground-breaking new option in Dementia care opens today – Harbison Dementia Living

A ground-breaking new option in the way people living with dementia are cared for was launched today in the NSW Southern Highlands, with the official opening of [Harbison Dementia Living](#) by the Governor of New South Wales, Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC.

“Harbison Dementia Living will change the way we think about dementia,” said David Cochran, CEO of Harbison.

“Our model is based on the proven Butterfly model of dementia care – providing a home-like experience to support the independence, safety and comfort of people living with dementia who can no longer live at home.

“Our residents are encouraged and supported to participate in normal daily activities including cooking, gardening and doing the laundry. Being involved in familiar activities promotes a sense of wellbeing and independence,” Mr Cochran continued.

Harbison Dementia Living is located in the NSW Southern Highlands village of Burradoo (Bowral). The home consists of two separate households, capable of housing 15 people living with dementia in each. The major point of difference is that Harbison Dementia Living is designed like a large country home located in specially designed dementia-friendly gardens.

“It appears as a regular home, but the clever use of technology ensures the best care for our residents while maintaining a home-like environment. The building incorporates modern, unobtrusive safety systems including an Australian-first ‘smart’ floor that can detect falls, spills and movement,” said Mr Cochran.

Harbison is a community-owned organisation, which has been dedicated to providing aged care services to the Southern Highlands for over 60 years, and Mr Cochran revealed today that the new Harbison Dementia Living service will really help make a difference in the lives of older people.

“The guiding principle of our model of care is that feelings matter most. Dementia may rob you of your memories or cognitive ability, but it doesn’t rob you of your feelings. Harbison carers are trained to make emotional connections with people and ‘do living’ together, rather than relying on outdated task-based schedules.

“The home is designed to support the therapeutic benefits of involving residents as much as possible in normal daily activities, to provide a sense of purpose and independence in a safe and familiar setting. Care is unobtrusive, like the safety and security systems designed into the building. The aim is to move away from delivering care and allowing people to experience care,” Mr Cochran continued.

On her tour of the facilities and official ribbon cutting ceremony today, the Governor of New South Wales, Margaret Beazley, praised Harbison for identifying the need for aged care in the region and raising their own money to open Harbison Dementia Living.

“Harbison Dementia Living is more than just a place for people to reside, it’s a place to live. Dementia is a rapidly growing challenge and Harbison chooses to take on the challenge. We encourage people to become better educated about dementia to ensure the Southern Highlands becomes a more dementia friendly community,” concluded Mr Cochran.

Harbison Dementia Living has just had its first residents move in and is accepting new residents from the Southern Highlands, Sydney, Canberra and the surrounding regions. For more information visit www.harbison.org.au or phone (02) 4868 6200.

MEDIA CONTACT: For more information, images or interviews contact Lauren Griffiths, Threesides, on 0417 409 264 or lauren.griffiths@threesides.com.au

MEDIA BACKGROUNDER – Harbison Dementia Living

- Harbison is a community-owned organisation, which has been dedicated to providing aged care services to the Southern Highlands community for over 60 years.
- Harbison Dementia Living features include:
 - Small-scale living with maximum 15 residents per household.
 - A range of room choices.
 - Premium king single garden or courtyard bedrooms with private bathrooms.
 - Premium suites with a sitting room, private bathrooms, double beds, smart TV, private verandas.
 - Every bedroom door is unique to assist wayfinding and create a sense of arrival.
 - Imported ergonomic anti-microbial age and dementia friendly bathroom fittings.
 - Pergolas, raised vegetable gardens, country-style sensory gardens, outdoor seating areas, hills hoists, men's shed and pathways to encourage sunshine and fresh air.
 - Central communal kitchen with Miele appliances designed to involve residents in the meal experience and provide cooking as an activity.
 - Communal dining room designed to encourage social interaction.
 - Dementia-friendly laundry designed to allow residents to participate in this comforting day to day activity.
 - Central lounge activities space with special tactile dementia friendly furniture.
 - Choice of fully refundable Government guaranteed accommodation deposit or daily accommodation fees.
 - Sitting room.
 - Dementia friendly fireplaces.
 - Unobtrusive state-of-the-art safety systems.
 - 24/7 specialist dementia care.
 - 24/7 onsite registered nurse.
 - Clinical Psychologist on staff to support mental health and wellbeing and management of responsive behaviours.
 - High staff to resident ratios.

- Permanent or respite care.
- Harbison is based a short distance from Bowral – across two locations in Burradoo and Moss Vale - and they offer a complete range of aged care services including independent living, residential aged care, specialised dementia care and respite care.
- Harbison abide by their four core values of respect, optimism, authenticity and dedication.
- Harbison Dementia Living is located at 2-10 Charlotte Street, Burradoo NSW.
- For more information, visit www.harbison.org.au or phone (02) 4868 6200