



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon. Kristina Keneally MP

Member for Heffron
Minister for Ageing
Minister for Disability Services

The Hon. Barbara Perry MP

Member for Auburn
Minister for Juvenile Justice
Minister for Western Sydney
Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship

Thursday 7 August, 2008

\$3 MILLION FUNDING BOOST FOR LIDCOMBE DISABILITY SERVICE

The Lemna Government today announced an additional \$3 million for the redevelopment of Ferguson Lodge, which supports people with spinal cord injuries, their families and carers.

Minister for Disability Services, Kristina Keneally, and Member for Auburn, Barbara Perry, today said the funding boost would assist ParaQuad NSW in their plans to redevelop the building.

“This \$3 million injection of funds, on top of the \$2.5 million already allocated by the NSW Government, will significantly improve the lives of those living at Ferguson Lodge,” Ms Keneally said.

“The new complex will provide more modern and specialised accommodation for 24 people with high-care needs and 16 people who are able to live more independently.

“Short term respite beds are also available to people with a spinal cord injury to give them a change from their normal routine or should their carer become unable to care for them.”

Ms Perry said that the facility was a big win for people who live in the electorate of Auburn and surrounding areas.

“ParaQuad’s premises have remained almost unchanged since opening in 1979 on the grounds of the former Lidcombe Hospital,” Ms Perry said.

“The additional funding will lock in the delivery of a state-of-the-art Ferguson Lodge service for residents.

“The respite beds are particularly welcome news, which will provide families and carers of people with spinal cord injuries with a much needed break from their caring responsibilities.

CEO of ParaQuad, Max Bosotti, said that the new service would make a real difference.

“Ferguson Lodge is the largest of our accommodation services, offering a home and a place of respite for people with spinal cord injury in a well equipped community setting,” Mr Bosotti said.

Ms Keneally said the additional funds will complement the supports put in place through the Lemna Government’s 10 year plan for disability services, *Stronger Together*.

“This additional funding is on top of the \$1.3 billion commitment the Lemna Government has made to improve the lives of people with a disability under our *Stronger Together* plan,” Ms Keneally said.

The NSW Motor Accidents Authority is also proud to be a partner with ParaQuad and DADHC in the redevelopment of Ferguson Lodge and has committed \$5 million to the project.

Media Contact: Phil McCall - 9228 5188 or 0438 619 987

Page 1 of 1