

**REMARKS BY THE HONOURABLE PETER UNDERWOOD AC,
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA AT A TURNING OF THE FIRST SOD
CEREMONY TO MARK THE START OF CONSTRUCTION OF THE FAIRWAY
RISE RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY, CLARENCE,**

WEDNESDAY 22ND JUNE 2013.¹

Good morning everybody. May I say what a pleasure it is for me to be here this morning, ready to turn the first sod to mark the start of construction of the Southern Cross Care residential care facility as an important addition to the Fairway Rise Lifestyle Village?

Southern Cross Care Tasmania is a highly respected aged care provider. It has residential care facilities in Hobart, Launceston, George Town and Somerset with a varied choice of locations in the two major cities. Its latest project is this Fairway Rise Lifestyle Village which, as you can see, is well underway. I understand that, when complete, it will comprise 82 independent living units, of which 29 are already completed. But for those who are unable to live independently, a residential care facility is required and this one, to be built by Fairbrother, will have 67 beds with a possible later extension to 90, subject to the Commonwealth issuing the additional 23 licences that will be required.

“If there is one constant with Australia’s population [it] is that we are all growing older and that the elderly are outstripping the young.”² According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics from June 30 1992 to June 30 2012, the proportion of people aged 65 and over increased from 11.5 per cent to 14.2 per cent. During the same period, the proportion of

¹ Wednesday, 22 May 2013

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<http://www.agedcareinsite.com.au/pages/section/article.php?s=Management+%26+Finance&idArticle=25295>

the population aged 85 years and over has more than doubled from 0.9 per cent to 1.9 per cent of the total population. Those statistics are mirrored in the population in the Municipality of Clarence. Clarence is Tasmania's second largest city. The 2006 Census indicates that between 2001 and 2006, the fastest growing age group in Clarence was people aged between 55 years and 64, whilst, during the same period, the 25 – 54 year cohort declined. More importantly, over the same period the proportionally fastest growing generations were the “baby boomers” aged 49 – 50 years, and veterans aged 75 – 89 years. In Clarence today, there are 8 people aged 65 or older for every 10 children aged between 0 and 14 years, and the forecast is that in less than 10 years that ratio will grow to 17 older persons for every 10 children.³

So, what better place than right here for Southern Cross Care to build a Lifestyle Village and equip it with recreational facilities and a Residential Care Home? The answer is obviously none and so it is not surprising that the project has the full support of the Clarence Council and the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. Having experienced the angst of persuading an elderly relative that the time had come when she was no longer able to live independently and needed to move into residential care, I know how important it is that that residential care be in the area where the resident has always lived and with which he or she is familiar. The statistical information to which I have just referred demonstrates that, not only is there a growing need for aged care facilities, but that that need exists right here in the Municipality of Clarence. More and more people these days are downsizing and moving into lifestyle villages like Fairway Rise where

³ Information supplied to Government House by Mr Ian Adams, Southern Cross Care (Tas) Inc..

shopping facilities, public transport and recreational facilities are either on site or close by. More importantly I think, is the fact that people who choose to live at Fairway Rise will be living in a community of people, most of whom fall into the same age group; are likely to come from the same background and who share the same cultural and social values. All of that makes for comfortable living. To know that when living here independently is no longer an option, one can move into this residential care, will surely promote a feeling of security and a sense of belonging.

I said at the beginning that Southern Cross Care is a highly respected aged care provider. Here in Tasmania, Southern Cross Care has been providing accommodation and care for the elderly for more than 40 years now. It has always been a central plank in the Southern Cross Care philosophy that that care and accommodation must be in the community, so the elderly could be as active as possible within the community where they have spent most of their lives.

This village, and in particular this residential care facility, will truly meet the philosophical aims of Southern Cross Care and I congratulate the Executive and the Board on its initiative and have great pleasure in turning the first sod so that work on this building can start without delay.

(7 minutes)