



MULTICAP[®]

HIGH NEEDS DISABILITY SUPPORT

all ways. always

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

\$1 million Federal Government grant delivering disability housing for Central Queensland

People living with disability in Central Queensland will have additional access to specialist affordable, accessible, high quality housing, with local support provider Multicap securing a grant of almost \$1 million through the Australian Government's *Building Better Regions Fund*.

Multicap will build a mixture of fully-accessible purpose-built units and houses at its existing Jardine St location in Rockhampton, providing long-term independent living opportunities for people with disability who have high and complex needs.

The project will see a total investment of almost \$3 million for Rockhampton and Central Queensland, creating ongoing employment by engaging approximately 30 full-time equivalent employees, once operational, to support the residents.

Multicap will also work with local architecture and construction firms throughout the project to create employment and support the local economy.

Having provided high needs disability support in the Rockhampton and Central Queensland region for more than 20 years, the new project adds to Multicap's commitment to supporting locals with disability, as well as being a local employer of choice and delivering job opportunities in the region.

CEO of Multicap, Joanne Jessop, said the development will assist many in the region to achieve their goal of living independently with access to the infrastructure and support they require, amid an ongoing lack of specialised, affordable and accessible disability housing in Queensland.

"We know of many people with disability of all ages living in rural and remote Central Queensland with their parents and family who would love to live independently, but do not have access to sufficient support or accessible facilities to be able to do so.

"These specialised units and houses will enable them to take that next step and achieve their goals in their 'forever home', not only giving them the independence they need and deserve, but also relieving pressure on their families.

"This funding is a substantial boost for us at Multicap to continue to deliver on our sole purpose of enhancing the quality of life of people with disability and their families with our support, and our commitment to being an employer of choice in Central Queensland," Ms Jessop said.

Multicap is already a significant employer in the region's disability sector, currently employing 200 people in Rockhampton, and training additional much-needed Disability Support Workers under the Queensland Government's *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* program.

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The new fully-accessible units and houses will include accommodation for staff, and will be purpose-built to provide comfortable and supportive living environments to allow residents to live their lives with increased independence and quality of life.

Multicap is a major provider of high quality disability support services in Rockhampton, supporting people in approximately 20 supported independent living units and houses across the city and delivering extensive personal and social support at its Community Hub and in customers' homes

ABOUT MULTICAP:

Multicap has been delivering services and support to people with disabilities, particularly those with high and complex support needs, for almost 60 years. We currently have over 1100 highly skilled staff who support over 1200 people across Queensland and Northern NSW. Our range of services includes supported independent living, in home support, short term accommodation, centre-based and community programs, assisted employment, social support activities and specialist behaviour support.

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