



## **Supported accommodation consultation**

The Department of Ageing Disability and Home Care (DADHC) recently released a discussion paper on Models of Supported Accommodation for People with a Disability and have sought feedback from interested stakeholders. The intention is to generate policy directions for the diversification of supported accommodation models to enable DADHC to meet the needs of a broad spectrum of people with disability who require this support.

MHCC held a consultation on 15 May, providing members the opportunity to contribute to the MHCC submission and we thank those who participated. Drawing on member comments, MHCC strongly promoted the inclusiveness of people with a mental illness or psychiatric disability to be equally included within the models provided. The importance of identifying target groups and client descriptions was also raised to ensure particular health needs be addressed.

While all the models outlined in the paper held merit, their true value will be found in appropriate placements to suit individual needs and preferences. MHCC also proposed an additional model to address the substantial need for suitable accommodation options and services for clients with very high needs and challenging behaviours.

Other comments included the importance of:

- a focus on client needs and the reassessment of needs on that basis
- productive partnerships between Health, Housing and NGOs
- a mix of staff skills to meet the needs arising from psychiatric disability
- addressing the gap between funding levels and the needs of the ageing population

The MHCC submission is accessible on our website: [www.mhcc.org.au](http://www.mhcc.org.au)

**Winter edition 2005  
View from the Peak**