

## New home designs for a lifetime

INNOVATIVE ideas designed to last the lifetime of residents as their needs change – including people with a disability – have been developed by a housing industry think tank to make homes more accessible.

Disability Services Minister Helen Morton said the Liveable Homes Initiative was a voluntary guideline for builders and architects to include six essential features in the design phase at no extra cost during building.

“Incorporating accessible design features in new homes, such as wider doorways, level entrances and reinforced bathroom walls would make homes more adaptable and give people greater independence in their homes as the years go by,” she said.

“Ensuring places where people live, work or visit are accessible to all is vitally important to creating an inclusive community.

“The Liveable Homes Initiative is about making houses easier and safer to use for seniors, people with temporary injuries, families with young children and people with disabilities.”