

A home 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 thinktank 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.”

Mrs Morton said the thinktank working on the development of Liveable Homes included the Housing Industry Association, Master Builders Association, Australian Institute of Architects, Building Designers Association, WA Local Government Association, Department of Housing, Building Commission, Housing and Urban Research Institute and the Disability Services Commission.

“While initially the focus will be on building new homes in the private and public sector, the project has potential to expand to incorporate the renovation market,” she said.