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Press Release

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MERIMBULA CHOSEN FOR UNIVERSAL DESIGN SHOWCASE PROJECT

SYDNEY, NSW, MARCH 30, 2007:

Merimbula has been chosen as the site for an innovative home renovation project that will showcase the concepts of "Universal design". Universal design is the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or compromise.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the proportion of the Australian population aged 65 and over will more than double between 1975 and 2030, and the proportion aged 80 and over will quadruple.

A home that has been built or renovated using the principles of Universal design will allow its occupants the option of living independently longer.

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"Embracing Universal design will not only add to individual quality of life, but will also ease the burden on future governments" says the projects promoter Alex Cochran.

"What we aim to do is to take a typical "sea-change" property and renovate it using the principals of Universal design. The renovation will be fully documented our website www.universaldesignrenovations.com .

As this is the first time in Australia where this process has been documented in the public domain, it will give others who follow in our footsteps a great guide.

But what makes the project even more exciting is that at its conclusion, Merimbula will have a short term holiday accommodation venue that will be ideally suited to people with disabilities and their carers. This type of accommodation is in short supply in the area" he added.

Andrew Constance Member for Bega and Shadow Minister for Disability Services & Ageing, commented;

"It is great to see innovative projects like the one that Alex is promoting being undertaken in our electorate. Collaborations between individuals, private industry and government on initiatives like this are the way of the future.

Projects that will allow people to stay in their own home longer in an environment of an ageing population is to be endorsed."

For more information on the Merimbula Universal design project contact Alex Cochran on 0419 019 469 or via email at alex@universaldesignrenovations.com

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