



**Digging in:** At Hastings last Thursday for the traditional “turning of the sod” for the new affordable housing project with members of the Peninsula Carers committee are, Joy Jarman carers president, front left, Johan Scheffer MP for Eastern Victoria and Chris Shields, chairman CHL group, front right, with Mornington Peninsula Shire mayor Cr David David Gibb at the controls of the earthmoving equipment.

# ‘Hastings model’ gets going

WORK has started on the \$4.6 million housing development at Hastings for the aged, families on low to moderate incomes and intellectually and physically disabled people who can live independently with support.

The 20 homes in the project will be built on bayside land bordered by Marine Pde, and Church and King streets by Community Housing Limited (CHL), a not-for-profit organisation backed by money from governments and the private sector.

Tenants in the new properties will pay no more than 30 per cent of their income in rent, or the equivalent of 60-

75 per cent of normal market rates.

The Office of Housing is building shared supported accommodation (community residential units) on neighbouring land that will house five to six people with severe disabilities who need full time care.

The two developments will share open space that includes plans for landscaping, gardens, and recreation areas including a gazebo and barbecue.

The mix of tenants is seen by housing authorities as the “Hastings model” based on its ability to accommodate and support tenants living with a disability yet requiring different degrees

of care, from 24 hour onsite care for highly dependent tenants to supported independent living.

“The Hastings Model is a breakthrough to integrate group homes with the supported housing model that is tenant-centred and flexible,” CHL chairman Chris Shields said.

“The integration of the CRU into the overall development has been a key consideration in the design process.

“CHL has a range of skills - one being the award-winning architectural design of dwellings sensitive to the needs of people with a disability, and we anticipate this development will be

closely looked at as a leading edge example of housing and supporting people with a disability.”

The project is a partnership between the government (Office of Housing and Department of Housing Services), Frankston Peninsula Carers, Mornington Peninsula Council, and CHL.

Mornington Peninsula mayor David Gibb sees the project as a “great example of what could be achieved when a range of organisations work together towards a common goal”.

Frankston Peninsula Carers president Joy Jarman said her organisation

aimed to provide suitable long-term housing for adults with an intellectual disability.

The development would be life-changing for the individuals selected to live there.

“Although we have achieved something quite unique, it will only go a fraction of the way towards solving the problem.

“It is terrible that in 2010, we still have parents of 60, 70 and 80 years of age looking after their adult children, some of whom have quite severe disabilities.”