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How do I apply for a Voucher?

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- Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card,
- Centrelink Sickness Allowance,
- DVA Pensioner Concession Card,
- White Health Repatriation Card (Hearing Loss),
- Gold Repatriation Card,
- Dependant of one of the above,

you are eligible to apply.

Fill in an application form, and then take it to your local doctor to complete. If you would like an application form or you would like to find out more, ring Chris or Angela on 5821 6600

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Lindsay Symons & Associates



Home sweet home: Ron and Margaret Wilson can't wait to move into their home at a new Shepparton lifestyle village.

Picture: Evie Feehan

Wilson's will be living the life

By Ashleigh Williamson

Retired dairy farmers Ron and Margaret Wilson want to move into a new Shepparton lifestyle village perhaps more than any of their soon-to-be neighbours.

The married couple of 48 years will live in their motor-home until the first village residents move into their houses, likely in May next year.

"We're probably the only (village residents) without a permanent home," Mrs Wilson said.

Lifestyle Communities yesterday hosted a meeting for residents of the \$45 million village to be built on Channel Rd.

Mr Wilson noted a coincidence of moving into house number 39.

"I was a jersey (cattle) enthusiast and a friend of my father gave me a jersey cow when I was 10," he said.

"The jersey's name was Pine Ridge Rose Green 39."

The finished village will feature a bowling green, tennis court, indoor pool, spa and gymnasium within a private clubhouse.

Lifestyle Communities operates villages in Cranbourne, Melton, Tarneit and Warragul.

Shepparton is the company's next development, with three other villages in the planning stage.

"The village has everything

we could wish for," Mrs Wilson said. "We drove to Warragul (village) one day and to see everybody playing tennis, lawn bowls or walking their dogs was something we wanted."

Tatura couple Robert and Margaret Campbell spent most of their working lives as Goulburn Valley dairy farmers.

Mrs Campbell said she preferred moving to the lifestyle facility than a retirement village.

"We own a house, which we can leave to descendants, sell or relocate," she said.

"That is a better option than living at a retirement village, where people simply put up money to rent."

Mrs Campbell said the vil-

lage's security and Shepparton's public transport would be helpful.

"The whole notion of a village and being secure, as an older person, is important," she said.

"We wanted to move to Shepparton because Tatura has no (public transport) services. The only bus available is through V/Line."

The facility will be built opposite Kensington Gardens, another Channel Rd development billed as a lifestyle village.

Kensington Gardens, which also features a clubhouse with a restaurant, library, pool, licensed bar, cinema and gymnasium for residents, will accommodate 500 people on 312 lots.

Remote, not metro

YOUTH ALLOWANCE CHANGE MAKES SYSTEM FAIRER FOR GV UNI STUDENTS



JOHN LEWIS

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The founders of a Shepparton-based youth allowance lobby group have welcomed the Federal Government's decision to treat all regional students equally.

Rural Education Equity Alliance spokeswoman Di Doyle said yesterday's announcement "inner regional" students could now access independent Youth Allowance under the same criteria as students from remote areas was a "big step in the right direction for middle income regional families".

Mrs Doyle, who formed a delegation to Federal Parlia-

ment last year to lobby for changes to the proposed Youth Allowance scheme, said she was "rapt" with the decision.

"I'm really happy they've realised it was a mistake," she said of the original scheme, which saw Shepparton students forced to apply for youth allowance under the same criteria as metropolitan students.

Fellow lobby group member Jennifer Hippisley also welcomed the move, but said the system was still basically unfair.

"This will provide more certainty for young people and give them some relief, but it doesn't overcome the entrenched flaws in the system," Ms Hippisley said.

"The 18-month requirement is problematic, as traineeships are usually only 12 months and the longer break often

means young people don't return to study."

The new rules include higher relocation scholarships for regional students.

Those who have to move to attend university will be able to apply for \$4000 for their first year of study, \$2000 each in the second and third years, and \$1000 for any subsequent years.

This almost doubles the amount they can receive in the second and third years from previous arrangements.

Federal Member for Murray Sharman Stone also welcomed yesterday's announcement.

"While the scheme is still not perfect, at least it gives families some hope of being able to support their students to take up university offers," Dr Stone said.

She congratulated everyone

who took part in rallies and petitions to lobby the government to make the changes.

Federal Tertiary Education Minister Chris Evans said the further changes to youth allowance would cost \$265 million.

He said this was fully funded from cuts to other areas in the program, including winding up the rural tertiary hardship fund and deferring extending youth allowance eligibility to masters by coursework students until 2014.

Senator Evans will introduce legislation next week to make the changes.

He also released department figures showing an 18 per cent increase in students taking up youth allowance since the Labor Government's reforms were made last year.