

## Media Release

### Lend Lease's Isabella Gardens achieves Australian first

**Canberra, 25 June 2013-** Lend Lease, in partnership with Livable Housing Australia (LHA), today announced an Australian first.

Lend Lease's Isabella Gardens in Canberra is the first retirement living village in Australia to achieve the Gold Livable Housing Design Quality Mark from LHA.

Aimed at making homes easier to access, navigate and live in, as well as more cost-effective to adapt when life's circumstances change, LHA has worked with industry, government and community groups to produce a practical set of guidelines that deliver enhanced liveability in Australian home designs.

General Manager of Lend Lease's Retirement Living Development business, Simon Pagett, explained the benefits to residents of liveable designs when it comes to maintaining lifestyle.

"Achieving the first Gold certification from Livable Housing Australia demonstrates our vision to create the best places. Lend Lease Retirement Living has embraced the Livable Housing Design Guidelines as an important methodology for measuring the design features included in a home.

"We understand that traditional home designs will no longer address the lifestyle needs of older Australians. In order to remain relevant and meet market expectations we must respond to these needs with innovation and flexibility – being the first to meet this new national standard is one of the ways we can achieve that," Mr Pagett said.

In order to achieve the LHA Gold Quality Mark, Lend Lease has designed independent living villas at Isabella Gardens to include design features that pay attention to dwelling access with a continuous, step free pathway from the front boundary to the front door.

"Isabella Gardens features single storey homes, with wide internal doorways, corridors and spacious kitchens, laundries, bedrooms and living spaces that enable easy access for our residents. The homes are designed to allow our residents to age in place and maintain the level of lifestyle they are accustomed to," Mr Pagett said.

Peter Verwer, Chair of LHA, explained that the LHA Quality Mark represented a trusted quality seal of approval that attests to enhanced liveability.

"We are delighted that Lend Lease has achieved the first certification for a retirement living development. This achievement demonstrates why Lend Lease continues to lead the industry in innovative home designs. Isabella Gardens sets a new benchmark for the industry and will give the residents confidence that their homes meet their needs both now and in the future," Mr Verwer said.

The Livable Housing Design Guidelines have been developed through extensive consultation with members of the National Dialogue on Universal Housing Design.



# Lend Lease

- In total, Isabella Gardens will consist of 122 independent living villas with 2 and 3 bedroom options and prices starting from \$422,500. Every aspect of the home, from the design, orientation and fittings, has been selected to cater for the contemporary needs of today's retiree. And with individual backyards, the homes are designed to be pet friendly.
- To register interest in this new retirement community contact 02 6257 8798, or visit the website [www.lendleaseseniorliving.com.au/retirement/locations/isabella-gardens](http://www.lendleaseseniorliving.com.au/retirement/locations/isabella-gardens)

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## **About Lend Lease in the Australian Capital Territory**

Creating special places is about developing beautiful, sustainable places that are liveable, functional and economically healthy. It's also about identifying and tapping into the heart of the existing community and seeing how that heart can be developed and maximised, creating opportunities for all. For over 50 years Lend Lease has delivered iconic projects across the Australian Capital Territory including ANZAC Park - West, CNBP, National Museum of Canberra and the Section 92 Building. In particular the Lend Lease Communities business has been actively involved in the Gungahlin region where, in conjunction with our joint venture partners, we are delivering the master planned communities; Forde and Springbank Rise.

## **About Lend Lease's retirement living**

Lend Lease is the largest owner and manager of senior living communities in Australia and New Zealand. We currently own and manage a portfolio of 70 retirement villages across Australia and New Zealand comprising 12,740 retirement living units. In addition to these existing assets, Lend Lease has a development pipeline of approximately 1,200 retirement village units. We combine our extensive experience with an integrated range of services, including asset and property management, design, development management, investment management and sustainability. We have a strong focus on the customer - providing innovative product and quality services.

## **About Livable Housing Australia**

Livable Housing Australia (LHA) champions safer, more comfortable and easier to access homes for everybody, everyday, at all stages of life. A partnership between community and consumer groups, government and industry, LHA advocates the mainstream adoption of livable housing design principles in all new homes built in Australia. LHA is responsible for the ongoing development, dissemination and revision of Australia's Livable Housing Design Guidelines. Visit: [www.lha.org.au](http://www.lha.org.au)