

21 August 2020

Budget Policy Division
Department of the Treasury
Langton Crescent
PARKES ACT 2600

Via email: prebudgetsubs@treasury.gov.au

RE: 2020/21 Pre-Budget Submission

On behalf of Endeavour Foundation, I am writing to provide you with our 2020/21 Pre-Budget Submission.

Endeavour Foundation is one of Australia's largest disability service providers established in 1951 to support people with an intellectual disability to live their best life.

We are an independent, for purpose organisation, having begun with a focus on equal access to education and life-skills learning, to now providing support for people with disability at home, at work and in the community.

Currently, Endeavour Foundation supports 562 people through supported accommodation, 2,006 people through supported employment and 1,417 people through day support and community access, in 340 locations from Mareeba in Far North Queensland to Geelong in Victoria.

Considering the significant efforts of the Federal Government through its response to COVID-19, we believe an opportunity exists for Government and the not-for-profit sector to collaborate further, enabling people with disability to have the best opportunities possible.

We are seeking to partner with the Federal Government to provide targeted funding of \$27.5M over three years to support Endeavour Foundation's investment of \$10.993M land value to construct purpose-built specialist housing for people with disability.

Our submission below provides further context on the social and economic benefits of our proposal.

In the meantime, should you have any further questions regarding our Pre-Budget Submission, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at andrew.donne@endeavour.com.au or phone at 07 3908 7160.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Andrew Donne'.

Andrew Donne
Chief Executive Officer

Housing Accommodation Strategy

1. Background and Overview

Endeavour Foundation provides accommodation services to approximately 562 people with a disability in 134 locations, owning 104 of these accommodation properties.

68 percent of Endeavour Foundation's portfolio has been self-funded, with a further 16 percent built on pre-owned land, with capital funding.

There is increasing demand from new NDIS participants as the NDIS funding supports are released. Endeavour Foundation's current accommodation properties play a critical role in the successful delivery of supported independent living service provision.

Key factors include the number, location, condition and configuration of accommodation properties.

Endeavour Foundation's 'Home' service is a high priority to our organisation because it is a priority to people we support and their families.

We currently have 33 dwellings classified as legacy stock under NDIA's SDA guidelines, accommodating 274 participants – approximately 50 percent of the total participants we provide supported accommodation.

- **These 33 dwellings will need to be replaced or refurbished over next 3 years.**

2. What is being sought?

Endeavour Foundation is seeking additional capital funding of \$27.5M over three years, from the Federal Government to bring forward and deliver on the replacement and refurbishment of these 33 legacy stock dwellings.

Additionally, Endeavour Foundation currently has 15 'shovel-ready' projects on acquired land, which will provide an additional 52 new beds for people with disability.

We are seeking an investment of \$10.36M by the Federal Government in the current financial year to 'kick-start' these developments on \$4.16M land acquired by Endeavour Foundation – providing disability support and jobs, particularly in regional Australia.

Endeavour Foundation has a build plan to provide supported accommodation on already acquired land.

Federal Government support would see these projects brought forward, providing significant outcomes for people with disability, together with an economic dividend for regional communities.

3. Public interest and benefits to Government

There is a significant need to increase the amount of accessible and affordable housing available throughout Australia, particularly in regional communities.

Both the NDIA and government housing providers recognise that not-for-profit organisations and service providers have an important role in meeting demand for supported accommodation.

By ensuring that supported accommodation continues to become available, Endeavour Foundation can support the long-term aspirations of the NDIS to see people enjoy greater inclusion in all aspects of society.

A. Why is supported accommodation important?

A number of factors create a lack of security around affordable and accessible housing for people with a disability.

- Purchasing or building a house is beyond the financial capacity of most people with a disability. It is difficult to attain a stable, long-term rental lease, and very few private rental properties are accessible.
- Housing insecurity can lead to poor health and mental health outcomes and in some instances may lead to increased involvement with the criminal justice system.

Our organisation is well-positioned to build homes that blend into the surrounding community. This is because each house will be approached as a separate project, designed specifically to meet the needs of identified individuals from the local community.

Houses constructed in this way (rather than being built in large numbers, or by government) are more likely to be welcomed and residents are more likely to enjoy the support and acceptance of neighbours.

By providing high quality, accessible, affordable accommodation which allows people to remain in their own community, this sees an increase in health and wellbeing for residents.

B. Social and economic benefits

Research has shown that the timely provision of modified housing and assistive technology is an important factor in assisting people to become and remain more independent and decrease the cost of personal support.

Carers who have spent their lives providing housing, care and support for a family member with a disability are able to re-enter the workforce and re-engage in the community, when they are able to find high-quality supported accommodation in the community for their family member.

Endeavour Foundation's own research has also shown that people with a disability experience a better quality of life when they move into modern, purpose-built, accessible housing with assistive technologies included, and can live in a place with people of their own choosing.

Anecdotal evidence overwhelmingly supports this research. Support workers report that people are happier and more engaged in independent living skills such as cooking, cleaning and laundry, when they move into quality, purpose-built homes with other residents that they have identified as suitable.

With increased levels of engagement and satisfaction, people are more likely to maintain and continue increasing their independent living skills, requiring less paid support and creating factors that support greater community engagement.

A further gain to the public would be the increased efficiency gained by providing disability supports within a modern home environment with built-in assistive technologies. These efficiencies will allow public spending on disability support to go further, with greater increases in independence and inclusion opportunities as a result.

4. Why is Endeavour Foundation uniquely positioned?

Endeavour Foundation has a proven track record of investing in infrastructure needed to provide direct services to people with disability in local communities – including accommodation, employment, social and community participation, learning and life skills training.

Our existing footprint throughout Australia provides Endeavour Foundation with a unique position to deliver:

- We are able to provide modern accommodation to a large number of people with a disability by replacing existing aged housing.
- Through our networks with other disability providers and families in regional Australia, particularly regional Queensland, we are able to identify people with a disability who require specialist accommodation throughout the state.
- We have the staffing and expertise to determine the compatibility of residents and do preparatory work to support a change in living arrangements for people with an intellectual disability, thereby laying the groundwork for sustainable shared accommodation arrangements.

5. Conclusion

Endeavour Foundation has a proven record of strong financial management and record of delivery and believes there is a unique opportunity to partner with the Federal Government to deliver supported accommodation for people with disability.

We thank the Australian Government for the opportunity to participate in the Federal 2020-21 Federal Budgetary processes and look forward to continuing to work constructively to improve the lives of Australians with disability.