

DEMENTIA ACTIVITY CENTRE

STATUS UPDATE

Ashfield Council approved the Development Application at its meeting of 14th June 2011. This comes after extensive discussions with the Council, residents and the Heritage Council.

What is the Dementia Activity Centre?

The Centre is to be used during the day as a place for people who have Dementia, but are still physically active. There is a growing need for this sort of facility in the Inner West, and The Ella Centre has been awarded the grant to provide the service because it is recognised as an organisation that provides quality care for people.

The building is being provided by grants from the State and Federal Governments, and it is designed to look like a normal 'cottage' or 'home', though it is for day use, not as a residence. On any given day there will be a maximum of 12 people being cared for, supervised by 4 staff.

What will happen in the Centre?

Clients will be able to relax in a home like environment. There will be some organised activities such as cooking, craft, table tennis and games, whilst at other times clients will be able to enjoy walking within the grounds of the Centre. At all times clients will be appropriately supervised by staff.

Why is the building on St David's land?

St David's is partnering with The Ella Centre in this project. The Ella Centre began in Haberfield in 1975 as an activity of St David's, in partnership with the local community. That approach continues today, as The Ella Centre provides services for the aged and disabled in the Inner West.

What will the building look like?

The Centre is designed to resemble a 'cottage' or 'home', as the aim is to provide a comfortable environment for the users of the Centre. In addition, the protocols about building in Haberfield, along with the requirements of a heritage site, are reflected in the design.

What traffic impacts will there be?

There will be a negligible increase in traffic. The Centre will only have 12 clients and 4 staff per day (as a maximum), and most of the clients will arrive in the morning and leave in the afternoon in a Tarago van or minibus.

To minimize disruption and potential danger, the building has been designed with a reversing area within the boundaries of the property. This means that all vehicles will be able to exit to St Davids Rd by driving forwards, not needing to reverse out.

Will residents still be able to walk through to St David's, and then to Dalhousie St?

An improved, defined path between the Centre and the graveyard will allow residents to walk from St Davids Rd into the church grounds, and then onwards to Dalhousie St.

What changes will there be to the trees and vegetation?

There will be some trees removed, though all of the trees around the Ramsay Graveyard will remain intact. There are NO Camphor Laurels designated for removal.

The trees in the remaining parts of the St David's precinct will be untouched and more appropriate trees to replace those being removed will be planted around the Centre.

What will happen to the existing seating areas in the grounds of St David’s?

All the existing seating areas will remain available to Haberfield residents as places for relaxation or quiet reflection. Access to the extensive grassed area between the church and hall will not be affected.

How will this impact on the heritage nature of the site?

A heritage report was commissioned prior to the submission of the development application to ensure minimal impact on the site. The NSW Heritage Office has also been consulted regarding the development and the changes they required to minimise the impact have been complied with to ensure the historical significance of the site is not compromised. IN addition, an archaeologist will be present during excavation to ensure that heritage concerns are looked after.

How can I get more information?

If you would like more information or to discuss any issues related to the proposed Dementia Activity Centre, please contact the Executive Officer, Ms Alison Easton, on 9798 5140.

