

29th February 2008

\$10,000 FUNDING BOOST FOR BALLARAT EAST COMMUNITY HOUSE

The Ballarat East Neighbourhood House will receive a funding boost of \$10,000 to assist with the cost of improved disability access, thanks to the Brumby Government Geoff Howard MLA for Ballarat East announced today.

Geoff said the grant has paid for improvements to help people with a disability to more easily access the Ballarat East facility. A ramp has been constructed and modifications to internal doors to allow disabled user of the facility to better access computer areas offering internet access and computer based learning opportunities.

“Neighbourhood Houses are an important community asset, providing a broad range of low-cost social, education and recreational programs, and it is important that all Victorians have access to them” Geoff said.

“They are a place where people of all ages and abilities can come together to make new friends, get involved in volunteering, participate in community events and learn new skills.”

“Our funding will ensure the Ballarat East Community House continues to meet the current and changing needs of our growing communities.”

The Ballarat East facility was one of 24 Neighbourhood Houses to share in \$206,000 in funding to improve disability access from the latest round of the Victorian Government’s Modernising Neighbourhood Houses Program.

A total of 134 grants were allocated to Neighbourhood Houses around the State to ensure funding for the following four purposes:

- grants of up to \$25,000 for new or upgraded computers and equipment;
- grants of up to \$50,000 for redevelopments to an existing Neighbourhood House;
- grants of up to \$10,000 for minor works to improve disability access; and
- grants of up to \$100,000 to support co-location of an existing Neighbourhood House.

The Minister for Local Government, Richard Wynne, said the Modernising Neighbourhood House Program grants came from a four-year \$6.8 million investment to help Neighbourhood Houses to better cater to the needs of local people.

“These grants are helping to upgrade, redevelop or improve existing facilities to deliver the best results for local people,” Mr Wynne said.

“Many people rely on Neighbourhood Houses as a place to socialise, find out information about services, learn new skills, find a job and improve their literacy.

“Our investment ensures we continue to meet these needs now and into the future.”

For more information about the Modernising Neighbourhood House Program, please visit www.dpcd.vic.gov.au.