



MEDIA RELEASE

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TAFE STUDENTS DELIVER NEW HOME FOR FAMILY IN NEED IN BLACKETT

The NSW Government today announced the completion of a new, fully adaptable four-bedroom home for a Blakett family in need of accessible housing.

The house in Franklin Crescent is purpose designed for a family member with a disability, and is fully adaptable and wheelchair friendly.

The property was built by the pre-apprenticeship students from Nirimba and Mt Druitt TAFE colleges, as part of a cooperative agreement between the Department of Finance and Services, Housing NSW and TAFE NSW.

John Paszek from the Department of Finance and Services' Housing and Property Group said the project provided the students with a comprehensive introduction to residential construction.

"I'm pleased to say they completed the home to a high standard, within budget and to schedule," he said.

The property features wider doorways than in regular houses, and one of the bedrooms has an en-suite bathroom fully equipped for use by the family member with a disability.

The cupboards, stove top and work benches in the kitchen are fully adaptable in height and can be easily adjusted to suit a person with a wheelchair.

The new home is conveniently located near public transport, local shops, medical and recreational facilities.

Ken Bone, Housing NSW General Manager for Greater Western Sydney said the home would ease the lives of the family who really need it in Blakett.

"It gives the family who would otherwise struggle to find appropriate accommodation a safe and secure place to live," he said.

Susan Hartigan, Institute Director of TAFE NSW – Western Sydney Institute said the Institute was proud of the role its pre-apprenticeship carpentry and plumbing students played in building the house.

The building project is one of 17 that TAFE NSW – Western Sydney Institute students have worked on to date and the standard of construction the students are achieving is excellent," she said.

"So far, records show that 85 per cent of students who complete the pre-apprenticeship course go on to obtain full time employment as apprentices in the building industry.

"Our students can take pride in the fact that they have not only developed skills for their future careers but that they have also contributed in a practical way to the future of a family with special needs."

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