



• A HERITAGE OF CARE •

**Media Statement, 25/03/2010,
For Immediate Release**

State of the art dementia wing opened

Sprott House at a Glance

Established in Wellington over a century ago, Sprott House is one of the leading providers in the Wellington region of residential care for men and women.

Sprott House offers a caring, warm environment, much like a home away from home when total independence is no longer an option.

Services

Sprott House provides:

- Independent and assisted living with modern villas and studios for independent living
- Hospital providing 24-hour experienced support
- Dementia unit with a secure environment and specially-trained staff.

Facilities

Sprott House has many excellent social and rehabilitation programmes for residents, including physiotherapy and occupational therapy. Activities such as exercise classes, chapel services, lectures and bowling competitions are also available.

Staffing is seen to be key to providing a secure environment so Sprott House make sure they have a high level of registered nurses per residential numbers and fast access to further assistance as needed.

Certification

Sprott House has certification under the Health & Disability Services (Safety) Act 2001. We are members of healthcare providers New Zealand and Retirement Villages Association.

Continuing their 112 year history of providing care, Sprott House's Duncan Lodge was officially opened today by the Minister of Health, Tony Ryall. This new modern purpose built dementia wing comprises 20 en-suite rooms, each designed with access to secure courtyards.

In his opening address, the Minister complimented Sprott house on their far sighted and innovative attitude and their determination to provide such a facility.

Carole Hazelman, General Manager of Sprott House, is delighted with the new facility which is the latest step to be completed in the redevelopment of Sprott House Retirement Complex. This redevelopment started more than two years ago.

"Duncan Lodge is unique in New Zealand", she said.

"It is a home away from home, with a beautiful glass pavilion and other lovely facilities. We designed it specifically to replicate normal daily living in the home, as far as possible, and to create a safe, comforting environment while maintaining a high quality of care for our dementia residents.

"Each resident has a care plan designed to meet their individual needs and is involved in group or one on one activities to keep as active as possible. As well, Sprott House is adopting the Spark of Life Programme for all residents with dementia.

This is a simple step-by step approach which boosts quality of life for both the carer and the person with dementia. Once implemented, improvements in memory, language, communication, social interactions and behaviour become possible.

The *Spark of Life* Approach is not a cure, but it is a reliable process for creating an environment in which the human spirit can thrive. The approach nurtures wellbeing through a gentle, practical and common sense approach.

More.....

Vision

Sprott House's vision is to:

- provide residents with a warm, comfortable, and secure environment with modern facilities; and
- to assist residents to remain as independent as possible for as long as possible

Charitable Trust status

Sprott House is a not for profit, Charitable Trust Residential Care Home and Hospital.

This Charitable Trust status means all surpluses are returned to Sprott House for continued developments, staff education and the latest in equipment."

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This approach has been developed by Jane Verity who is a leading authority on dementia care. It has been adopted by aged care facilities in the US, Scandinavia, Europe and Australia with outstanding results and is used by many home carers to good effect.

"This is very exciting for us as we believe that, along with our fantastic new Duncan Lodge, we will be able to make a real difference for our dementia residents and families, both from the perspective of where they live and how they are cared for, Carole said.

"The demand for care for the elderly with dementia has increased rapidly over the last decade and we know that the incidence of dementia increases with age.

"This fact, together with New Zealand's ageing population means that in the future there will be more people with dementia needing care. Currently, there are approximately 40,000 with dementia living in New Zealand. Around 50% of those with milder forms live in their own homes, supported by a wide range of community services.

"There is going to be a definite shortfall in good quality care and our new dementia unit is in direct response to this demand," Carole said.

"We also strongly believe that as New Zealand meets this growing need it is really important to take into account different requirements at different stages of the illness ie early onset, mild, moderate and more severe forms. That's why it is so important to have a purpose designed and built dementia unit in New Zealand. "

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