



MEDIA RELEASE

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Community homes make sense

When International Deafblind Awareness Week kicks off around the globe on June 27, Senses Foundation will be flying the flag for Western Australia.

The **Burswood**-based Foundation is planning a number of activities in honour of the week that celebrates the birthday of the late Helen Keller.

Top of the agenda is the official opening of a new 'sensory garden' at the Foundation's inaugural community home in Success.

This garden was developed with generous assistance from the Rotary clubs of **Victoria Park, Curtin, Bentley** and **Attadale**, as well as the **Gosnells** branch of Rotaract, who each will be presented with a Certificate of Appreciation at the opening ceremony.

The Success home was the first opened under Senses' Housing Development Project, just over a year ago, and provides accommodation for three young men requiring round-the-clock care.

Three additional community homes are now being planned and will provide a further 15 much-needed accommodation places for people with disabilities.

These homes are funded by the Disability Services Commission's Community Disabled Housing Program and being built through the Department of Housing and Works.

Construction has started on the first property in **Gosnells**, which should be complete by November 2011. Land has been secured for two other properties in **Medina** and **Swan View** and design is underway. The Foundation also has a proposal for an additional property in Perth's north-west corridor.

Senses Foundation's Chief Executive Officer Debbie Karasinski says over 9000 West Australians live with a combination of hearing and vision impairment known as deafblindness.

"The two impairments impact on each other and amplify the effect and difficulties faced by the individual," says Ms Karasinski.

"Many of these people feel incredibly isolated, have little means of communication and find it very difficult to be active members of their local community."

More information: Leanne Pitcher, Media Liaison Officer, 0408 923 249.

About Senses Foundation

Senses Foundation had its origins 110 years ago as the Royal WA Institute for the Blind, then amalgamated with the WA Deafblind Association in 2001 to become Senses Foundation Inc. The Foundation is a charitable, not for profit organisation providing disability support services to people of all ages throughout Western Australia. Its unique speciality is the provision of services to people who are deafblind.