

Media Release

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On-campus student accommodation at Macquarie University doubles ahead of schedule

Construction of Macquarie University's new on-campus accommodation, which has doubled the number of rooms available to students, has been completed six months ahead of schedule.

This has been welcome news for many of the University's accommodation-seeking students who may have found themselves caught out by Sydney's rental property price boom.

The additional 516 rooms have been built by specialist student housing provider, Campus Living Villages, meaning that almost 900 students can now be accommodated at the Village every year. Unlike more traditional colleges, students at Macquarie are housed in individual townhouses with a maximum of five students per townhouse. Features of the Village include bedrooms with ensuite and high-speed data port; fully equipped kitchens and residential support programs, which enhance study skills, recreational and social opportunities for students.

Macquarie University Assistant Vice-Chancellor, Iain Rothwell, says the new accommodation is a much-needed facility and its completion has been highly anticipated.

"We are delighted the accommodation has been completed much earlier than expected," he says. "It has allowed many more rural and international students, as well as those who live locally, to be settled in at the University from the beginning of semester one."

The expansion is part of a new commercial arrangement with Campus Living Villages – an Australian company specialising in student accommodation. Campus Living Villages has signed a 30-year lease to manage the current Macquarie University Village accommodation, whilst also supervising the construction and management of the expansion.

Campus Living Villages Director of Operations, Tim Weston, says: "We have been working hard to get these new rooms ready for the students. We are committed to high-quality student accommodation and are confident students will be pleased with the range of fantastic accommodation options. Even though these rooms are ready six months earlier than expected, about 90% of the rooms are already booked."

Campus Living Villages specialises in the integrated development, financing and long-term operation of purpose-built accommodation for university students in Australia and New Zealand.

In addition to the management of Macquarie University's student accommodation, which it took over in January 2006, it also operates Villages at Sydney University, RMIT University, Griffith University and Murdoch University in Australia, as well as Massey University Palmerston North, Victoria University and the University of Canterbury in New Zealand.

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