

media release

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Macquarie University's on-campus student accommodation to double

Macquarie University today announced a major expansion to its on-campus student accommodation – with the number of rooms set to more than double over the next two years.

The University currently provides accommodation for 376 students. Unlike more traditional colleges, students at Macquarie are housed in individual townhouses with a maximum of five students per townhouse. The expansion will provide 516 extra rooms, allowing the University to cater for almost 900 students every year.

Director of the Office of Business Development at Macquarie University, Iain Rothwell, said the new accommodation was a much-needed facility that would be of great benefit to students, the University and the community.

"This expansion will improve access to Macquarie University for a greater number of rural and international students, as well as those living in Sydney," he said. "Importantly, it will also provide these students with the opportunity to have a much richer university experience, which in turn will benefit staff, other students and the local community."

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 look after current Macquarie University Village accommodation, while also supervising the construction and management of the expansion.

Campus Living Villages CEO, Dr Patrice Derrington said, "We are proud to be part of this important expansion at Macquarie University. We are committed to high-quality student accommodation and look forward to working closely with the University, students and staff."

"This is an exciting new trend in student accommodation. With universities wanting to add to the vibrancy of their campuses and provide a greater range of accommodation for students, we are finding more and more universities are keen to work in partnership with us," Dr Derrington added.

The new accommodation will be built to blend in with the existing townhouse style student village. The first 94 rooms will be ready for students by January 2007, with the remainder completed by July in the same year.

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.

Today's announcement builds on Campus Living Villages' strong track record with universities.

It already operates Sydney University Village and the RMIT Village Old Melbourne, and has recently announced a new student accommodation partnership with Massey University's Palmerston North campus in New Zealand.

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