

News Release

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UC forms new partnership for major expansion of student accommodation facilities

The University of Canterbury has finalised plans for a major refurbishment and expansion of its on-campus student accommodation, with more than 500 new beds being added to existing facilities over the next two years.

The expansion is part of a newly-formed partnership with Campus Living Villages NZ, which has signed a 35-year lease agreement with UC on its University Hall and Ilam Village facilities.

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

UC Vice-Chancellor, Professor Roy Sharp, says the demand for on-campus accommodation is growing and the new arrangement will create benefits for all.

“Our students will enjoy the benefits of modern, up-to-date student accommodation and the University will be able to focus its resources on teaching and research.

“First-year students in particular want secure, high-quality accommodation and, through this arrangement with Campus Living, that’s just what they will be offered.”

Campus Living Villages CEO, Dr Patrice Derrington, says the company will work closely with university staff and students to create a contemporary and vibrant environment in its Halls of Residence.

“Rather than just building and managing student rooms, Campus Living Villages offers an extensive program of activities designed to enrich each student’s experience of campus life,” Dr Derrington says.

“Our communities are vibrant and fun, not merely a place to live. At each of our villages we offer a wide range of resident programs that include sports, living and study skills, cultural pursuits and the development of professional excellence.”

The UC halls will be staffed by personnel who have transferred from Canterbury University to Campus Living.

In the first stage of the expansion programme, University Hall will be reconfigured and refurbished, creating accommodation for an extra 55 students.

In the second stage, accommodation for another 502 students within 2, 3, 4 and 5-bedroom apartments will be constructed.

By the end of next year the total number of beds available at the University will be 1,404 – 557 more than what is currently available.

Campus Living Villages operates Sydney University Village, RMIT Village Old Melbourne, and on 1 January began managing student accommodation at Macquarie University in Sydney and Massey University's Palmerston North Campus.

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