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# Messenger

community news

## EAST & INNER SOUTH REGION

Metro Homepage



### Adelaide Weather

Adelaide  
Fine, Sunny.  
Hi: 25C Low: 12C



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### The Big Answer

Should victims of child abuse while in state care receive compensation?

Yes(61.5%)

No(38.5%)

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## Exclusive project

[Tim Williams](#)

21Apr08

**MEMBERS** of the Exclusive Brethren are behind a \$30 million, four-storey retirement complex proposed for the heart of Unley, on a site currently owned by the reclusive religious group.

Called "Bentleigh at Unley", the retirement housing comprising 100 apartments in five multi-storey buildings would face both Arthur and Mary streets, west of Queen St towards King William Rd.

The company proposing the retirement complex, Unley Community Developments, lodged plans with Unley Council on April 15. Its directors are David Hack, Stephen Hornsey and Humfrey Le Souef, all Exclusive Brethren members, who have an agreement to buy the 1.1ha site from the main organisation subject to development approval.

The property, which currently contains a meeting hall that would be demolished, is part of a portfolio of property owned by the Exclusive Brethren in the greater Unley Council area.

Last August the group confirmed it was relocating to Adelaide's more affordable southern suburbs and was considering the sale of its Unley meeting hall, estimated then to be worth \$3 million.

Group spokesman Tony McCorkell had said the Mary St meetinghall was no longer needed since the group built a 1040-seat meeting hall at Happy Valley, in 2004.

The group also owns several uninhabited properties which back on to the meeting hall in Mary St. The new retirement development would also have basement parking, a health club, indoor pool, function centre and library.

The main buildings would be two and three storeys high at the street boundaries, stepping back to a fourth level.

Adelaide public relations consultant Rob Ball, speaking on behalf of Unley Community Developments, said the developments "architects and planners" had consulted closely with the council over privacy concerns and the apartments were "specifically designed to avoid any over-viewing of neighbours".

Flyers were dropped in the area last week offering briefings to residents, he said.

Arthur St resident and former Unley councillor Rufus Salaman said the size of the development meant hundreds of extra cars using Arthur St daily. "I'm concerned about overlooking and overshadowing and the way it would affect the two-storey landscape and general character of the area," he said.

In March, the Eastern Courier reported similar overlooking and traffic concerns of Hyde Park residents with another developer, Living Choice Australia, planning to convert the old Walford boarding house into a five-storey retirement complex. Both applications are in residential zones designed primarily for dwellings up to two storeys.

However, Unley's Development Plan does not contain height restrictions for retirement housing, which is judged on whether it suits the style and character of the area.

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Submit your feedback here:

Full name:  Email address:

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Artist impression of the retirement village planned for between Arthur St and Mary St, Unley.

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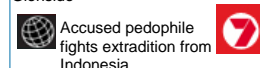
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