

### Audio 5 - PARC 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Housing

You know, we've had housing here, on our 3<sup>rd</sup> floor at PARC for umm... like 13 years. And the way we have managed this, that it's kinda of like, as long as we are uninterested in what people do inside their 4 walls, as long as they do it... like I'm not gonna police people, what they do inside. Nobody gets to tell me what I do at home. It's only where those activities start to impact on other tenants or the community and so we've had people who have struggled over the time but in fact, they've got a very calm, kinda like they understand it, they don't want to screw it up. Nobody cares what your doing behind your doors, as long as generally you're not impacting on your neighbour or the community. And so, it's very... in fact, one of the things is that, from a normalizing aspect is. But every now and then someone might be episodically sick, so they may get themselves into a crisis of some sort and that's where we come in. So we will then just provide supports.

So the Edmond's Place model is somewhat similar, that basically people can live with a certain amount of independence and dignity. We have a range of that independence, so we have some people who are very clear that they don't want to cook for themselves so we've got a chef and there's a meal program and we've got others saying, "I wanna cook for myself" and we have a whole other, sorta of independent... and so there can be from some contact, a lot of contact, really depending on what the person articulates as their needs. That in itself is rather a new model. So as we evaluate it, we wanna be able to share it because we think that other... that within the continuum of housing, it's actually an interesting one to use.

The final piece, really is, that we knew that there was such a difference. So a boarding home, is considered supportive housing, it's considered a home. Half of the boarding homes still have shared... you are sharing your room with a roommate you don't know. Umm the... a lot of independent housing is, how can you make sure that housing is really homey and it's yours. And we've really looked at ways to encourage a sense of entitlement and a sense of... that any citizen expect should good housing. We've been really lucky because the housing on our 3<sup>rd</sup> floor here, it's got 10ft ceilings, beautiful wooden floors, it's like... some of them are 800-900 square feet... like their lofts right? And they are fabulous housing and people know, they go and they go, "holy shit, like this is amazing housing." and it's like "yes it is." And so there is something really amazing about that right.

Even for next door, Edmond's Place, much smaller, but really well thought out... a lot of thought and care put into the furnishings and access to art

and things that sorta say, "Make it a home. Don't just make it a place... it's not transitional housing. We're not expecting you... How can you make it a home?". We've got, you know... here's the artwork that's been donated, you can hang it up, you can do your own. So there is a real piece here which was to help people figure out how to make that stamp that they really do have a home. That this kind of housing is often, you know... boarding homes are often considered kinda transitional housing. Even though people can live their permanently, but the reality is that they, if it's shared etc. you may not wanna be thinking about it as permanent housing. So we knew that our goal was to create a kinda housing that really provided some permanency.