

Media release

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SUMMERSET OPENS ITS FIRST DEMENTIA CENTRE

Summerset today opened its first dementia centre within its Levin village.

Summerset Chief Executive Julian Cook said the company was delighted to be able to provide dementia care in a 20 room purpose-built centre. “We are really proud of what we have to offer people living with dementia,” Mr Cook said.

“The centre has 10 care rooms and 10 one bedroom apartments, complete with kitchenette and living area. It will be a safe, homely environment for residents modelled on international design standards for dementia care.”

“This is the first dementia centre in New Zealand to offer this type of apartment style living, giving residents the choice to live in a larger home if they prefer.”

The centre’s first residents will move in this week. They will be welcomed by caregivers and nursing staff trained in dementia care, and an activities coordinator who will ensure they have plenty of enjoyment in their days with a recreational programme suited to their needs.

Key features of the centre include:

- 20 rooms in a homely environment
- a design based around circles so residents will always find their way back to the main area
- a secure outdoor garden area and warm and inviting communal areas
- a unique carpeted wall in each room to display photos enabling residents to recognise their home
- a silent nurse call system linked to staff pagers so residents always have help at hand
- design features to reduce noise levels
- spacious apartments where family and friends are welcome to stay overnight.

The Levin village was chosen as the location for the dementia centre as it is an established village that has been part of the community for 15 years.

“Our care facilities are a key part of Summerset’s continuum of care philosophy, giving residents assurance that we will look after people as their needs change,” said Mr Cook. “The new dementia centre is part of this commitment and why we have branched out into dementia care.

“Dementia is one of the main causes of disability later in life and the number of people with dementia is expected to increase in coming years. The centre will ensure people at our Levin village and the wider community won’t have to move far if they find themselves requiring this level of care,” Mr Cook said.

Summerset plans to incorporate dementia care into all its future villages with the next facility likely to be in the yet to be developed Casebrook village in Christchurch.

For media enquiries:

Michelle Brooker

Senior Communications Advisor

michelle.brooker@summerset.co.nz

04 830 1106 or 021 225 9624

ABOUT SUMMERSET

- Summerset is one of the leading operators and developers of retirement villages in New Zealand, with 21 villages across the country. In addition, Summerset has six sites for development in Richmond, Rototuna, Casebrook, Lower Hutt, St Johns and Parnell, bringing the total number of sites to 27.
- It provides a range of living options and care services to more than 3,800 residents.
- Four-time winner of Retirement Village of the Year and Silver Award winner in the Reader's Digest Quality Service Awards 2016.
- The Summerset Group has villages in Aotea, Dunedin, Ellerslie, Hamilton, Hastings, Havelock North, Hobsonville, Karaka, Katikati, Levin, Manukau, Napier, Nelson, New Plymouth, Palmerston North, Paraparaumu, Taupo, Trentham, Wanganui, Warkworth and Wigram.