



**Media Release
Tuesday 3 March 2009**

Thornbury Development

Ms. Penni Michael, FronDithas' CEO announced today that the construction of the 90 bed Nursing Home in Thornbury, will commence by mid June 2009. Ms. Michael said "the neighbors who had objected to the planning permit issued by Darebin City Council, have withdrawn their application for a review by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Appeals' Tribunal". The Nursing Home project is now proceeding as planned. FronDitha will be seeking tenders from building companies by the end of March. The facility will be completed within 18 months and will play a very important part in meeting the need of the Greek community for nursing home beds. The Commonwealth Government has changed its policy on ethno specific beds and is more likely to issue Multicultural beds. 30 of the 60 bed licenses are for the multicultural community, however 15 will be specifically allocated for dementia care for our Greek elderly. FronDitha Care has had numerous requests for dementia specific placements at Thornbury and this is clearly a need within the Greek community.

Ms. Michael continued "the construction of the 64 retirement village apartments proposed for the Thornbury site had to be postponed". She said "the current economic conditions are not favorable to this project proceeding at this point in time. Declining house prices, coupled with decreased returns on investments have reduced significantly the financial viability of this venture". She continued "FronDitha will be reviewing the retirement village venture and will be pursuing the project once the economic environment has changed".

In the meanwhile, Ms. Michael thanked the Greek community for its donations for the much needed Nursing Home, construction of which will now commence. Ms. Michael said that "the cost of the new facility will be 11.5 million dollars and in the absence of any government grants FronDitha will need to be borrowing a significant proportion of the funds required. All financial support from the community is very much needed and highly valued".