

The Macready-Bryan's story

The opening of Austin Street will be met with relief by the Macready-Bryan family.

Andrew Macready-Bryan said it had been a long journey to get to this point since his son James, 23, was assaulted as he celebrated his birthday in the city nearly four years ago, resulting in a severe brain injury.

James, who will soon move into Austin Street, has been living in a short-term residential care facility with his future uncertain.

"We're very excited about the move because it's something we've been working towards since James' injury, and we're hoping that it will prove to be a permanent home for James."

The physical surrounds were a major draw card for the Macready-Bryans, who have a strong support network of friends and family who like to visit James.

"The feeling of Austin Street compared to where he is now is one of it being a home, rather than a hospital, and you do get that nice, breezy feeling when you walk through. We'll work hard to make his room inviting and welcoming to friends and family alike."

Despite being understandably anxious about the move, given that Austin Street represents a brand new model of care blending nursing with rehabilitation and community inclusion, Andrew said there is nowhere else he would like his son to be.

"It's been a wonderful initiative and we have a large vote of thanks to Villa Maria for the effort they have put in. We're very grateful not just for the (*my future my choice*) initiative by the Department of Human Services to get this underway, but we feel very privileged to be one of the people going in there."

"Ultimately we just want to give James more security. Where he is now there is only limited tenure so he couldn't stay there forever, we just want to make him as happy and comfortable as possible for the rest of his life."

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