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FREE BARBECUE TO LAUNCH NEW MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP AT WILLOWDALE

Men of all ages are invited to a free barbecue brunch at Stockland's popular Willowdale community in Denham Court on 25 November to kick off a new men's support group for local residents.

Organised by not-for-profit organisation Big Yellow Umbrella in partnership with Stockland, the group will provide an important outlet for men to meet their neighbours and form friendships within the growing community, as well as gain valuable support.

The free barbecue will be held at Willowdale Community Place at 693 Jamboree Avenue from 10am to noon and dads are encouraged to bring along their children for the get-together, with a jumping castle, art and craft activities, and a large assortment of toys at Willowdale Community Place to keep kids entertained.

Richard Rhydderch, Stockland General Manager, NSW Residential Development, said the new men's group was an exciting addition to the wide range of community groups and activities already on offer at Willowdale Community Place.

"Stockland is committed to building an inclusive, well-connected community at Willowdale and we offer a range of regular events and activities to provide opportunities for residents alike to socialise," Mr Rhydderch said.

"The men's support group is an important new initiative for the men in our community and will allow new and existing residents alike to be able to relax and meet one another in a positive, supportive environment."

Edward Feuerstein, General Manager of Big Yellow Umbrella, said it was vital that men had avenues of support.

"They should be encouraged to have conversations with other men in the community about how they are going, as well as build connections," Mr Feuerstein said.

"The initial barbecue will provide an opportunity for the many dads and men at Willowdale to offer feedback on the direction they would like the group to take.

“It can be hard for men to open up. Women tend to be more social, so this has been designed to help men engage with their community.”

The men’s support group will complement Stockland’s Link and Learn program at Willowdale Community Place, which encourages residents to connect and gain new skills through activities including meditation and yoga classes, a book club, a playgroup for children, English classes, Zumba, and a walking group.

Launched in 2013, Willowdale is already home to more than 1,500 families and includes innovative townhomes, completed homes, retirement living, a community centre, multiple parks and green open spaces, sports facilities and a proposed new primary school.

The community is ideally located 15 kilometres from Liverpool, is close to major road links such as the M5 and M7 motorways, allows easy access to Parramatta and Sydney Airport, and is a short, five-minute drive to the new Leppington Train Station.

For more information on Willowdale and to find out what activities are on offer at Willowdale Community Place, go to www.stockland.com.au/willowdale. You can also follow the community on Facebook at www.facebook.com/willowdale2565 or on Instagram @stocklandwillowdaleWillowdale

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