

# COUPLE SEEKING FELLOW GRUPPE-IES

House call: David Houston and Rita Simpson want to build an apartment block in Maylands. Picture: Michael Wilson



**BELLE TAYLOR**

LIKE many young couples, David Houston and Rita Simpson would love to get a foot on the property ladder, but their ideal home remains tantalisingly out of reach. So instead, they have decided to build it — and their neighbours' too. The architecture graduates are looking for people to join them in building a "baugruppen", a style of housing involving home owners banding together to create an apartment building that suits their needs.

"The idea is that you get a group of people together, you find land and you develop your own housing on that land," Mr Houston explains. "By doing it that way you cut out the developer who is adding on marketing costs, their own profits and their other associated costs that make the end product more expensive for the residents. The idea is to make housing more affordable and provide housing at cost." Mr Houston and Ms Simpson's project is called BUILDGruppe, and the couple are looking for

between 10 to 20 future residents to become part of the project based in Maylands. They will then design a range of housing options to suit those living there. While there are other baugruppen projects in Perth, most notably the LandCorp-backed project in White Gum Valley and the Nightingale development in Fremantle, Mr Houston and Ms Simpson say there is a demand for alternative housing options closer to the city. For more information, visit [buildgruppe.com.au/maylands](http://buildgruppe.com.au/maylands).

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# Cancer carers eye holistic path

**REGINA TITELIUS**  
Health reporter

THOUSANDS of WA cancer patients will be recruited for a groundbreaking research project emphasising "holistic" treatment of five of the deadliest types of cancers. Recruitment for the \$5 million Continuous Improvement in Care — Cancer Project will be across King Edward Memorial Hospital and St John of God Midland and Subiaco. The aim is to create a more holistic approach, with a greater focus on quality of life. It's hoped to expand to other hospitals over seven years. The project is headed by Professor Christobel Saunders and funded by Cancer Research Trust with WA Health, St John of God Health Care, five WA universities and Cancer Council WA. The CIC Cancer Project will collect and analyse data from the care and treatment across lung, breast, colon, ovarian and prostate cancer. Clinical lead for ovarian cancer, Associate Professor Paul Cohen, said with finite resources it was important "to put more value on what matters most to patients such as quality of life".



Upfront: Associate Professor Paul Cohen and patient Sharolyn Davies, who urges women to be upfront with their medical team. Picture: Daniel Wilkins

Associate Professor Cohen, consultant at WA Gynaecological Cancer Service at KEMH, hoped the project would help change the way doctors approached cancer treatments. "As doctors, we have to treat the patient more holistically and not just treat their cancer," he said. "The diagnosis and treatment of ovarian cancer can have a major impact on patients, not just physical, but emotional, spiritual and sexual — every domain of life. "We need to find better ways of connecting patients with the

In highlighting Ovarian Cancer Awareness month, Ovarian Cancer Australia is encouraging women to ask their GP about risk factors. "Early detection is the holy grail with this cancer which goes from microscopic to advanced in a matter of weeks," Associate Professor Cohen said. Ballajura resident Sharolyn Davies, 64, who was diagnosed with late-stage ovarian cancer in 2012, said it was vital women be upfront and honest with their medical team about whether they needed help. "Sometimes women feel they have lost their womanhood by having the operation and sometimes they don't even realise that it has had such a big impact on their lives," Ms Davies, a grandmother to 12, said. "The only symptoms I had was weight gain and feeling breathless, and I just put that down to the possibility I was approaching menopause or that I wasn't fit enough." Ovarian cancer patients interested in taking part in one of six focus groups for the project are invited to contact Associate Professor Caroline Bulsara at Notre Dame University on [caroline.bulsara@nd.edu.au](mailto:caroline.bulsara@nd.edu.au) or 9449 5166.