



## Defence plans to build 80 houses for personnel

### **Christopher Jay**

The federal government is pursuing a \$19.6 million plan to build 80 homes for defence personnel and their families at Puckapunyal in Victoria, as part of a drive to improve the attractiveness of defence living conditions.

The Defence Housing Authority will submit the

proposal to federal parliament's Public Works Committee for approval. The DHA manages more than

17,000 defence properties across Australia.

The parliamentary secretary to the Defence Minister, Teresa Gambaro, said: "These new homes are in line with current Australian community standards and really set a new

benchmark for housing in Puckapunyal.

"A lot of the existing housing is older stock and does not provide comfortable living for our defence personnel and their families."

The 80 houses will be built on already-cleared residential

blocks. No infrastructure work will be needed and completion is expected by November 2006.

Another 20 houses were finished at Puckapunyal in December.

"The project will have a positive effect on the local economy during the construction period, not only through work directly on the site but also the off-site supply of material, plant and equipment," Ms Gambaro said.