

# Luxury life for singles

THEY'VE been called the generation of stay-at-home "kidults".

But young Melburnians with cash to spare will soon have an option to move out of their parents' place — and still have their laundry done for them.

Melbourne developers are leading the push to cater for hard-working, itinerant young people, with a new hotel-style development exclusively for 18 to 35-year-olds.

Asian Pacific Building Corporation director Will Deague is calling the \$180 million development a "singles village", and promises a flexible and sociable lifestyle for young people.

**Mary Bolling**  
urban affairs reporter

The concept is a first for Australia and Mr Deague is not worried about research that found almost two-thirds of Australian 18 to 30-year-olds are living at home.

While most young people have been priced out of home ownership, the developers hope to address their reluctance to rent.

The Daly St apartments in South Yarra, to be called "The Whiteley", will have 400 one- and two-bedroom apartments, a gold-class style private cinema, an in-house bar and lounge and a 24-hour concierge.

To be available in late 2008, the short-term rental places will cater for young people's changeable lifestyle.

"People don't have to sign leases, there's no phone and electricity bills — it's flexible," Mr Deague said.

"We understand that young people's plans change, jobs move, they want to travel ... signing up for a year-long lease doesn't fit in with that."

Youth Affairs Council of Victoria spokesman Chris Varney agreed that young people face many difficulties with renting.

But Mr Varney said the high-end development was a niche response to a broader issue.

"I know a lot of first-time

renters and often they're struggling to just get adequate services in their rental property," he said.

The developers have compared the complex with the living arrangements of characters from the sexy US drama *Melrose Place*.

While laundry facilities will be shared, each apartment gets its own coffee machine and residents have access to a fleet of 40 Smart Cars and 50 bicycles.

"We'll also have in-room laundry service — it will almost be like living in a hotel," Mr Deague said.

Rental prices are expected to fall between normal and serviced apartment prices.



**Luxury:** Rod Gerstman and Clare Beach are in the complex's age range. Picture: MARK SMITH

