

## **HOUSING, AGEING AND CARE IN THE NETHERLANDS**

**State Secretary Welfare and Minister Dekker of VROM aim to separate housing and care**

**State Secretary Ross of Health, Welfare and Sports and Minister Dekker of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (VROM) are aiming for more adapted dwellings and other forms of housing with care provisions. In addition, they are investigating the possibility of having clients in care institutions pay for their own accommodation.**

State Secretary Ross and Minister Dekker state this in a letter to the Lower House of Parliament. Older people who receive care or nursing are staying increasingly longer in their own homes. They also increasingly express wishes about their living conditions.

Housing corporations, care institutions, insurers and municipal authorities are anticipating this situation with new combinations of housing and care, for example in the form of regular or adjusted houses with care provisions or housing units with a care centre in the neighbourhood. Such dwellings are intended for the elderly, the disabled and people with psychiatric problems.

State Secretary Ross wants this form of housing to be realised more rapidly. For this purpose she is taking the following action:

-A contribution to the project 'More Houses for Senior Citizens' run by the combined senior citizens' associations. The contribution will go towards the training of 1500 volunteers, who will bring the housing needs of older people to the attention of municipal authorities.

-The Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports, VROM and the Association of Netherlands Municipalities will lend assistance to municipal authorities in making existing housing suitable for older people.

State Secretary Ross and Minister Dekker are also investigating the possibility of separating housing and care for those who come under the Exceptional Medical Expenses Act (AWBZ). Clients who live in care institutions could pay for their own accommodation, possibly with a rent surcharge. The costs of care would then be paid by AWBZ. On the basis of this investigation, the next government will be able to decide whether clients in care institutions will have to pay for their own accommodation.

The separation of housing and care is intended to bring about new arrangements between housing, care and welfare. For clients it should lead to greater freedom of choice and better quality. Also, according to State Secretary Ross, the Special Medical Expenses Act would be more sustainable if the costs of housing were removed from the Act.

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