

Homecoming starts to take shape



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FREE AT LAST: With a bit of guidance, the first part of a house built for the McDermott's is released from Junee Correctional Centre.

HEAVY LOAD: The house makes its way across the rail overpass.



PAITIENCE: The first part of a house for Pat and Helen McDermott is carefully guided into place on Tuesday afternoon.
Pictures: Declan Rurenga



ALMOST THERE: The second piece of the house sits ready to be assembled on Tuesday.

HOME COMING TAKES SHAPE

ALMOST two years after fire destroyed Pat and Helen McDermott's house, their new home is finally taking shape.

On Tuesday, two halves of the McDermott's new one-bedroom home were transported from the Junee Correctional Centre – where it was built by inmates enrolled in TAFE NSW courses – to the couple's property on Ducker Street.

Fire and Rescue NSW captain Robbie Duncan said there was plenty of work to be done to get the home completed.

"We have volunteers organised to do plumbing and electrical work," he said.

"It's just a shell, but it's a big start."

Mr Duncan said the fire brigade was very appreciative of the GEO

Group and Austwide Homes, who donated its time to move the house to its new location.

Mr McDermott said he was happy to see the house finally moved onto his land after spending close to two years living in a hotel. He is keen to get started with the work to complete the house.

A fundraiser held in April 2011 raised more than \$10000 with the funds used to purchase building materials for the house.

Neighbours Grant Crane and Louise Pratt witnessed the blaze which destroyed the McDermott's house in February 2011 and were glad to see a new home taking shape. "It was terrible what happened," Mr Crane said.

"They're a very deserving family," Ms Pratt said.



A FRESH START: The first part of a house for Pat and Helen McDermott arrives to replace their home which was destroyed by fire. Pictures: Declan Rurenga