



Tick of approval for Summerset

NEW Zealand's best known consumer rights advocate, David Russell, was on hand at Jazz in the Orchard at the soon-to-be completed Summerset Village in Hastings last week.

The former head of the Consumer's Institute (now Consumer NZ), David is now the ambassador for Lifetime Design, a not-for-profit group that promotes accessible housing for the elderly and disabled.

David says he's happy to endorse a development that complies with his group's standards for accessible home design.

"My job is to promote the concept of better housing and more accessible housing," David says.

"The standards are quite practical and what's been done is to bring everything together – the standards and certification process – so an outfit like Summerset can come along and present their drawings, get a final inspection and then be certified that they comply with the standards.

"So it's great for the people who are living in the houses and it's good for the developer because they have an edge over the market in terms of what they can offer, as they have had the independent review of



David Russell at Summerset Village.

accessibility and usability of their homes."

David stepped down from the Consumer's Institute 18 months ago, and has taken up positions on a number of boards, including the Telecommunications Dispute Resolution Council and the Real Estate Agents' Licensing Board.

"So while I no longer deal solely with consumer's rights, I certainly haven't retired!" David says.