

Spare-time fighters for others

People | Lily Parland

JOANA Alcock and Ian McBeath are part of a group of almost 350 Victorians who voluntarily fight for people with a disability.

Through the Office of the Public Advocate's Community Visitors Program, these local volunteers make regular visits to accommodation housing to talk to people with a disability about their



Volunteer Ian McBeath.

NDSML702

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concerns and their living conditions.

Ms Alcock, a Frankston retiree who has volunteered for 16 years said the role was very satisfying.

"We are the voice for the people there and we go into bat for them," she said. "We start the ball rolling to get action.

"When you set out to solve a problem and you see the end result, you know you've achieved something."

Mr McBeath, a retired lawyer from Rye, signed up six years ago.

"I retired in 2002 and I was starting to get bored," he said.

"I thought, 'Now's the time to put something back into the community'."

Mr McBeath, said the residents had many needs, from food and warmth to mental stimulation

"We're ensuring these needs are being met," he said.

"We kick some goals and win some battles.

"It's very rewarding."