

MEDIA RELEASE



4 March 2010

Celebrating foster and kinship carers

Foster and Kinship Carer Week 7–14 March 2010

Foster and kinship carers in the Mount Isa and Cloncurry region will be the guests of honour at a number of events next week. Child protection service Care Pathways will thank them for their dedicated and tireless efforts in looking after some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

Foster and Kinship Carer Week, 7–14 March, is an annual celebration that recognises this small yet highly valued community segment.

The theme for 2010 - Communities at play - seeks to recognise the vital role that foster and kinship carers, along with their communities, play in strengthening the lives of the children and young people.

Foster and kinship carers open their hearts and homes to abused or neglected children. They play a vital role in transforming children's lives by providing consistency, stability, and the bonds of trust that many of these children have never experienced.

Care Pathways Service Manager Marissa Sherry said the service would be holding a number of events throughout the week including carer appreciation brunch in Mount Isa, a celebration morning tea in Cloncurry and a carer and children movie morning.

"These events are an opportunity for the carers to relax and enjoy some time out. All our foster and kinship carers are so generous and selfless, and this is an opportunity for us to give something back to them and thank them for the amazing job they do," Ms Sherry said.

"We will have some lovely food for them to enjoy and they will be presented with certificates of appreciation and gifts. It is also an opportunity for them to meet with other carers and enjoy an outing in a relaxed setting. We are really looking forward to the day and doing something special for our wonderful carers."

Care Pathways received a \$1,400 grant from the Foster and Kinship Care Week Committee to help run the event.

Care Pathways is always seeking more people who are willing to take on the challenging yet rewarding role of caring for young people in a difficult time in their lives. People from all walks of life can become foster carers. If you have the open-heartedness and stability to welcome a child into your home, you could help transform a young life.

Care Pathways, a service of Churches of Christ Care, is one of the largest non-government providers of child protection services in Queensland.

To learn about what's involved in becoming a foster or kinship carer, please contact Care Pathways on (07) 4740 1333.

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ENDS

Photo opportunity

There will be an opportunity to take photos before or at the follow events.

Sunday 7 March: Carer appreciation brunch – The Irish Club, Mount Isa 10.30am

Monday 15 March: Carer morning tea – Bug and Ox Café, Cloncurry 10.30am

To arrange a photo, please phone (07) 3327 1676.

For further information, please contact:

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About Churches of Christ Care (Care)

Care is one of Queensland's leading providers of aged care, early childhood services, child protection, and affordable housing and support services. We are a not-for-profit organisation that supports more than 22,000 clients each year in urban, rural and remote areas.

We operate 137 services throughout Queensland with the support of more than 2,300 staff and over 600 volunteers.

Care is built on a foundation of Christian values, commitment to quality care, and trust and respect for clients and the community.

Care is an agency of Churches of Christ in Queensland—a group of churches that are part of the worldwide Christian church. Care strives to create an inclusive, caring, compassionate environment that meets its clients' needs without discrimination or prejudice. Everyone is welcome to call on our help, regardless of religious background.