

# MEDIA RELEASE



3 March 2010

## **Celebrating foster and kinship carers**

### **Foster and Kinship Carer Week 7–14 March 2010**

Foster carers in Townsville will be the guests of honour at a special dinner on Friday 12 March. 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.

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 Michelle Royes said the night will be an opportunity for the carers to relax and enjoy some time out.

"We will be giving our carers a night off where they can enjoy a two-course meal, entertainment and a surprise MC. 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 Royes said.

"We will also be getting the children and young people involved in the week by painting a blank wall at the Aitkenvale Child Safety Service Centre. Teams of young people will each get a section to paint and graffiti, and the best section will be judged by a local sports celebrity.

"The community is also invited to come down to the service centre at 71 Patrick Street on Sunday between 10am and 1pm to find out most about foster care and enjoy a free barbeque."

Care Pathways received a \$3,000 grant from the Foster and Kinship Care Week Committee to help run the event, which is being held in conjunction with other child protection providers including Wee Care Shared Family Care, Townsville Aboriginal Island Health Service, Life Without Barriers, Foster Care Queensland and the Department of Communities (Child Safety Services).

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.

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To learn about what's involved in becoming a foster or kinship carer, please contact Care Pathways on (07) 4755 6888.

## ENDS

### **Photo opportunity**

There will be an opportunity to take photos at the Aitkenvale Child Safety Service Centre on Sunday 14 March between 10am and 1pm. To arrange a photo, please phone (07) 3327 1676.

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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.