

MEDIA RELEASE



30 September 2010

Broadband for Seniors kiosk opens doors for residents at Sanctuary Park

For the residents at Sanctuary Park Retirement Community in Nambour, access to the World Wide Web is now at their front door.

The retirement community was selected as a host venue for a free Broadband for Seniors kiosk to service the local seniors community, which was officially opened yesterday by Member for Nicklin Peter Wellington.

Sanctuary Park resident Valerie Harvey said the two new computers with broadband access would help seniors in the community stay connected, allowing them to discover a whole new social experience on the web.

"It's going to be great for people who don't know much about the internet to have readily available access to do their own web exploring," Ms Harvey said.

"For me, I use the internet for all my internet banking, to work on the Sanctuary Park committee newsletter, and I am looking forward to teaching the tutorials for the other residents here and showing them how to use email."

Broadband for Seniors is part of a \$15m Australian Government initiative to increase the skills of older Australians using computers and the internet.

A budding internet user, Sanctuary Park resident Alan Houghton said he would be using the computers - which have web-cams - to skype relatives overseas.

"It is a fantastic medium for residents to be able to keep in contact with family all over the world," Mr Houghton said.

"As Sanctuary Park grows, it will also be great to keep in contact with other residents here at village.

"It doesn't matter what age you are, you have no choice but to keep up with the new and emerging technologies."

Retirement living coordinator Debra Winter said Sanctuary Park provided a lifestyle which enabled residents to remain independent and keep active in the community.

"Having this broadband service will further enhance independence and quality of life," Mrs Winter said.

"We will be having tutoring sessions with residents here at Sanctuary Park to encourage learning and skill development within the community."

The Broadband for Seniors initiative not only provides free access to computers but also offers training in order to increase the confidence and skills of older Australians in using computers and the internet.

MEDIA RELEASE



Sanctuary Park is now at stage three of development which involves the construction of another 18 units to be completed by mid-2011.

ENDS

Photos:

Member for Nicklin Peter Wellington and Retirement living coordinator Debra Winter cutting the ribbon to officially open the kiosk
Residents Valerie Harvey and Alan Houghton will be making use of the kiosk to keep in touch with friends and family

For more information, interviews or photos, contact:

Ashleigh James
Communications Coordinator
Ph: (07) 3327 1747

Desley Millwood
Communications & Marketing Group Manager
Ph: (07) 3327 1692 or 0419 486 943

About Churches of Christ Care

Churches of Christ Care is a division of Churches of Christ in Queensland—a group of churches that is part of the worldwide Christian church.

Churches of Christ 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 their religious background.

Churches of Christ Care is one of Queensland's leading providers of early childhood services, child protection, affordable housing, retirement living and aged care 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.

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