

MEDIA RELEASE



National Volunteer Managers Day celebrated at Gracehaven and Kolan Gardens

Universally, people recognise the contribution of volunteers. In fact volunteers are involved in just about every aspect of service delivery in all walks of life.

At Churches of Christ Care however, behind our dedicated, passionate and hard working volunteers lies an equally dedicated group of volunteer coordinators. This important and devoted group are responsible for the coordination, support, training, administration and recruitment of the organisation's 750 plus volunteers.

The 5 November is International Volunteer Managers Day, and it is a chance to celebrate the work volunteer coordinators do at Churches of Christ in Queensland.

Churches of Christ Care state volunteer coordinator Andrea Harbourne, said it was important to let those people know the spirit of volunteerism was enhanced and enabled by them, and to thank them on this day.

"We have around 43 volunteer coordinators across the state who are skilled and professional, and many wear three or four different hats within the organisation," Mrs Harbourne said.

"National Volunteer Managers Day is a chance for us to say thank you to all our volunteer coordinators, and let them know how valued they are. It is important that people who act as leaders and catalysts get the recognition they deserve."

Volunteer coordinator for the pastoral team at both Kolan Gardens Aged Care Services in Gin Gin, and Gracehaven Aged Care Services in Bundaberg Cheryl Reif, said National Volunteer Managers Day meant a day of reflection and thanksgiving.

"Working in Aged Care as a chaplain is a real blessing and it is amazing how much one learns each day as you go around visiting our older members of the community," Ms Reif said.

"It is a pleasure for me to have a team of volunteers from various churches here in Bundaberg and Gin Gin, who give their time willingly to come and chat and listen to our residents at both centres.

"The volunteers often come to me and share some moments that become precious to them as they talk one-on-one to the residents. Some even gather in groups and it is a joy to walk past and hear the laughter coming from them, many of whom have no family to visit them. The only person they see apart from staff is their volunteer, and a real friendship develops between them."

Ms Reif said she was honoured to be one of the many dedicated volunteer coordinators for Churches of Christ Care's services, and was looking forward to celebrating National Volunteer Managers Day with her friends at the facilities.

On 5 November, Churches of Christ Care will be sending out cards and chocolates to all their volunteer coordinators across the state in recognition of their work and support.

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Interviews and photos are available.

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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.

We strive 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, child protection, affordable housing, retirement living and aged care services. We are a not-for-profit organisation that supports more than 27,000 clients each year in urban, rural and remote areas. We operate 137 services throughout Queensland with the support of more than 2,800 staff and over 700 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.