

MEDIA RELEASE



05 January 2011

Residents evacuated from Warrawee arrive in Brisbane

Residents from Warrawee Aged Care Services in St George have arrived safely in Brisbane, as flood waters continue to affect the region.

The majority of residents at the services were evacuated yesterday and today, in a planned transfer to Churches of Christ Care's Moonah Park Aged Care Services in Brisbane.

Churches of Christ in Queensland's Executive Director Dean Phelan said the move had gone smoothly given the circumstances, and all residents were now settling well in to their temporary home.

"We had been in close contact with the SES and Queensland Health from early last week, and had 19 of our residents airlifted to Brisbane yesterday evening and today," Mr Phelan said.

"They have all arrived safely in Moonah Park this afternoon. Three residents had gone home to family, while five others were temporarily transferred to St George hospital and were airlifted to Brisbane yesterday.

"We were in the fortunate position to be able to transfer the residents to one of our other facilities which had the capacity to provide care for them. We were able to allocate a newly refurbished building at Moonah Park to accommodate them. The residents have settled into their new home very smoothly, and are all in good spirits.

"At the moment we believe Warrawee Aged Care Services has been spared from any significant water damage, however we are told the worst is yet to come, as the Balonne River is still tipped to reach 14 metres next week. We will continue to monitor the situation and a firm decision on when residents can return home will be made once the flood water has receded sufficiently."

Staff have been in regular contact with residents' family members to update them on the situation, and many have expressed their appreciation to Churches of Christ Care for their support during the evacuation and re-settling process.

"Our staff have been amazing during this time, and have really pulled together," Mr Phelan continued.

"We were able to mobilise all the staff and equipment needed to accommodate the new residents at Moonah Park in a matter of hours."

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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.