

MEDIA RELEASE



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Churches of Christ Care's Early childhood services in St George continue operation

As the Balonne River level rises, Churches of Christ Care's early childhood services in St George are continuing their operations, whilst preparing for possible closures.

Churches of Christ Care's St George Community Early Childhood Centre, Warrawee Family Day Care, and St George Mobile Children's Service have all been affected by the flooding, and Churches of Christ in Queensland's Executive Director Dean Phelan said they were preparing for more.

"At the moment, Warrawee Family Day and St George Community Early Childhood Centre are operating as usual, and we are reconsidering the situation as circumstances change" Mr Phelan said.

"St George Community Early Childhood centre is running at around 50% utilisation, as children and staff who live on the other side of the Balonne River are not able to get into the town.

"Yesterday evening we had a number of sandbags delivered to our service which were filled by volunteers. These are now sitting at the centre in readiness if the flood waters permeate the facility.

"Many families have expressed their thanks for the service remaining open and allowing them to prepare their own homes and businesses at this time. We are hoping to remain open until Friday, but we are reviewing this as conditions change."

At Warrawee Family Day Care, Mr Phelan said all equipment had been lifted above predicted flood levels, and was still operating with reduced numbers, as many families and staff are were cut off due to road closures.

"St George Mobile Children's Service has stopped operating, and the van has been moved to a temporary undercover location," he said.

"I commend all of our St George early childhood service staff during this difficult time. Everyone has really banded together and supported one another. It just shows the strength and resilience of our organisation."

ENDS

Photos attached

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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.