

MEDIA RELEASE



11 January 2011

Staff and children at Churches of Christ Care's Withcott Early Childhood Centre are safe and calm

As unprecedented flash flooding and rising river levels continue to devastate many parts of Queensland, Churches of Christ in Queensland is on high alert as the situation at Withcott Early Childhood Centre remains unchanged.

Churches of Christ in Queensland Executive Director Dean Phelan said five experienced childcare centre educators, along with five children including two babies and the mother of one of the children have been isolated at the centre since yesterday afternoon due to unparalleled flooding and road closures.

"We are very concerned about the situation at our Withcott Early Childhood Centre, however we are doing everything we can, and we believe it is under control," Mr Phelan said.

"The staff, mother and children are all remaining calm, and we are in continuous contact with the families to inform them of the situation as it changes.

"There are five experienced carers at the centre, who are very well-known to the children, and there are ample food supplies at the centre for them to utilise and the staff are able to access the local IGA store for more supplies as this is in close proximity.

"We have been in close contact with the SES and the police, and they are continuing to update us on the situation as time progresses."

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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.