

MEDIA RELEASE



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Residents evacuated from St George during the flooding crisis, are going home

Residents from Churches of Christ Care's Warrawee Aged Care facility in St George who were evacuated more than four weeks ago are expected to return home by Friday. When flood waters devastated the St George region in early January, 19 residents from Warrawee Aged Care facility were transferred to Churches of Christ Care's Moonah Park facility in Brisbane.

Another five high care residents were evacuated to the Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit.

Churches of Christ Care's Director David Swain said, after much discussion the organisation decided it was safe to return the residents back to St George.

"We are confident the Balonne River is now stable, and we will be returning the residents to St George" Mr Swain said.

"All the residents are very eager to return home, and staff are just as excited for their homecoming."

"We have already started returning residents. Those cared for by Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit were returned over the weekend. We expect the remainder of residents to return either today or tomorrow".

Staff at Churches of Christ Care's aged care facility in St George have been busily preparing for the residents' return, cleaning the facility, moving furniture back down from higher places, restocking food and medical supplies, and looking after the residents' pets.

"We are very proud of the way all our staff have pulled together during this difficult time," Mr Swain said. "

"We are also grateful for the support of the Queensland Government, and in particular the Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit. As the roads have been closed for the last three weeks many staff have only just been able to get around town and come back to work. They are all very excited to have the residents back and to return to normal operation, and we are pleased to report that Warrawee was spared from any water damage."

Staff have been in regular contact with residents' family to update them on the situation, and many family members, located around Brisbane, have been able to visit relatives at their temporary home.

"The residents have been having a great time at Moonah Park," Mr Swain said.

"We have had a bus from Churches of Christ Care's Bribie Island Village on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, which has allowed the residents to enjoy many outings and excursions to explore the local area, including shopping and out to lunch, and a day trip to Bribie Island.

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“However the biggest highlight for them during their stay at Moonah Park was when The Governor, Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AO payed them a personal visit. On her visit she presented them with a letter of condolence from the Queen and Prince William. She then enjoyed afternoon tea with staff and residents, which was very exciting.”

Residents will be airlifted back to St George and accompanied by a number of nurses and carers.

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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.