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15 April 2011

Time for Kids – not your average after school care service

Churches of Christ Care's Time for Kids offers a unique service to families on the Gold Coast.

And they have just moved into their new premise in the Southport Church of Christ complex.

Service Manager Carolyn Carter said Churches of Christ Care's Time for Kids was originally located in the former Southport Church of Christ complex, on Parklands Drive, Southport.

"But In March 2008 we were notified that the service would be forced to close down, as the land the church occupied was needed to build the new Gold Coast Teaching Hospital," Ms Carter said.

"No suitable replacement site could be agreed upon. This is when our wonderful parents really came through for us - they were as upset as we were that Time for Kids was coming to an end. So after much effort, the government relocated the service to temporary, purpose-built facilities in the Gold Coast Parklands show grounds."

But in January this year, the service moved into the new Southport Church of Christ complex on Olsen Avenue, Southport.

"It is wonderful to be back with the church," Ms Carter said.

"We have a brand new facility in the church complex. We have a big basketball court out the back, and the playground from our former facility has been relocated to the new centre. All the parents are thrilled to be back with the church and we continue to hear comments on how nice the new building is.

"Churches of Christ Care's Time for Kids is not like other after school care centres. Often after school care is located at the school. So children have before school care, then school, then after school care, as well as vacation care all at their school. But Time for Kids is different. It's away from school and in a different setting. We strive to provide a very loving, caring and nurturing environment."

Recent highlights in the service's history include a fabulous Family Fun Day on 12 February, and a Trash and Treasure morning on 12 March, both put on by the church. We were privileged to be able to contribute by providing children's craft activities.

"We aim to provide links between the centre, the church family and broader community to provide the highest quality of care, and to foster the development of Christian faith and principles in the life of each child," Ms Carter continued.

"We are very happy to have access to both the pastoral care team at the church, and appreciate the direct link via the Children and Families Pastor, to the Children's Ministry Division.

"We have links to professional support from Compassion Counselling Services, who for the

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month of March have offered our families free services. Time for Kids families are welcome to any of the activities run by the church.”

Churches of Christ Care’s Time for Kids cater for children with special needs, taking them into teenage years. This is one of the only services on the Gold Coast to offer this.

They pride themselves on their fun excursions and activities which include trips to Wet ‘n’ Wild and Time Zone, and going ten pin bowling and rock climbing, just to name a few.

“Our children always love going on the excursions during the holidays and know our carers will always plan something that is fun,” Ms Carter said.

“Time for Kids aims to provide a home-like atmosphere within a caring and stimulating environment, and to build a strong sense of trust and security for both children and parents.

Churches of Christ Care’s Time for Kids provides after school care Monday to Friday during the school term, and vacation care Monday to Friday during holiday periods and pupil free days.

Churches of Christ Care’s Time for Kids currently has vacancies for 2011 for both vacation care and after school care. For more information or to enrol your child, phone 5594 6544.

For further information, please contact:

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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 our 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.

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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.