

MEDIA RELEASE



May 2011

Nurse practitioner to work for Churches of Christ Care

Churches of Christ Care is leading the way in resident care, by becoming one of the first aged care providers in Queensland to contract a nurse practitioner, who will work across the Bribie Island Aged Care Service and retirement village.

Rosanne Fleming started as nurse practitioner in April this year at the services on Foley Street Bongaree, providing care to residents at the nursing home, hostel, and retirement village.

Ms Fleming advises that a nurse practitioner is a registered nurse who has undertaken extensive additional education and training at a Masters Degree level, and is able to provide advanced practice nursing management.

"Nurse practitioners are a relatively new addition to the national health system," Ms Fleming said.

"Right now I am seeing residents from Churches of Christ Care's services on Bribie Island for a range of non-acute and sub-acute conditions.

"Essentially this means I can assess the person's condition, diagnose, order diagnostic tests if required and prescribe appropriate treatment. I will also provide vaccinations, health promotion through management of chronic diseases, wound care and palliative care."

Ms Fleming said her role was not intended to replace a patient's regular GP, but it was intended to relieve the time pressures on them.

"I can help relieve the pressure on the doctors here on Bribie Island, because people can call me rather than having to go into the doctor's surgery to get a script or to get an injection. That way doctors can see people with more serious conditions."

Ms Fleming said other aims of her role at Churches of Christ Care's Bribie Island Aged Care Service was to reduce emergency department presentations for non-acute illnesses, and to enable people to return home from hospital sooner.

"For example, if a resident from the nursing home was in hospital but needed IV antibiotics, the hospital would be able to give the first dose then send the patient home if their condition allowed, and I could finish off the course for them and monitor their progress, rather than them having to stay in hospital to receive the antibiotics," she explained.

"Because there is only one public hospital at Caboolture servicing the residents of Bribie Island, it can often be at capacity. The next closest hospital is at Redcliffe which is a considerable drive from Bribie Island, particularly for the elderly. So my role will also help to relieve pressures on the local hospitals.

"I will provide advanced clinical nursing support to the registered nurses at Churches of Christ Care's Bribie Island Aged Care Service as well, and assist them to provide best practice, evidenced based care to residents at the facility."

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Churches of Christ Care's Aged Care General Manager Jeanette Evans said she was thrilled to have Rosanne on board.

"Rosanne brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience and will help fill a gap in aged care that we have identified in the Bribie Island region," Mrs Evans said.

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For further information, please contact:

Ashleigh James
Communications Coordinator
Ph: (07) 3363 1747

Desley Millwood
Communications and Marketing Manager
Ph: (07) 3327 1692 or 0419 486 943

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.

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.