

MEDIA RELEASE

2 September 2011

Free movie to raise awareness of child protection issues

Churches of Christ Care Pathways Bundaberg movie night features the movie *Precious* – a story about a 16-year-old girl, tormented and beaten by her mother and sexually abused by her father.

The free event, held during Child Protection Week, is to raise awareness of child safety and the urgent need for carers for children whose lives mirror 'Precious'.

Pathways Bundaberg team leader Debra Murphy said the movie will screen at the Moncrieff Theatre on Tuesday 6 September at 6pm.

"People can get tickets from us or the Moncrieff Theatre. There will also be nibbles and supper. If people would like to give a gold coin donation, we will be donating this to the Daniel Morecombe Foundation," she said.

Ms Murphy said Child Protection Week is a great opportunity for people to take a moment to think about what they can do to provide a safe community and safe home for Queensland's young people.

"Every year, thousands of Queensland children experience similar situations to 'Precious'. Some children because of abuse, neglect or tragic accidents can't live at home; and these children need safe and nurturing environments to help them find a path to a brighter future," she said.

Churches of Christ Care, through the Pathways program provides alternative care for children and young people who are in the care of the Department of Communities. Pathways operates a variety of programs including a fostering service, a residential home, and a semi-independent service for young people transitioning into adulthood.

In Bundaberg, Pathways assists children and young people to find a foster or kinship carer who can provide support in a caring environment, but Ms Murphy said there is need for more foster carers.

"We are always looking for more people who are willing to take on the challenging yet rewarding role of caring for a child or young person during a difficult time in their life," Ms Murphy said.

For people interested in learning more about foster care, there will be information available at the movie night.

Please phone Pathways Bundaberg on 4152 0709 for tickets or visit their website www.carepathwaysqld.com.au.

WHAT: Free movie night – *Precious*

WHEN: Tuesday 6 September 6pm

WHERE: Moncrieff Theatre, 117 Bourbong St, Bundaberg

MEDIA RELEASE

ENDS

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About Churches of Christ Care

Established in 1930, today Churches of Christ Care is one of the largest, most diverse not-for-profit organisations in Australia.

Churches of Christ Care, a division of Churches of Christ in Queensland and working with Churches of Christ in Vic/Tas, provides a range of care services to vulnerable persons at different stages of their life journey.

Churches of Christ Care is active in the areas of early childhood services, child protection, community and affordable housing, retirement living, community aged care, and residential aged care. We operate more than 144 services throughout Queensland and Melbourne, Victoria with the support of more than 3,000 staff and over 700 volunteers.

Services provided by Churches of Christ Care are funded by a mix of government subsidies, grants, fees and charges for our services such as early childhood services and residential aged care, and through fundraising activities.

Our services are offered to all those in need regardless of religious background. 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.

About Child Protection Week

Child Protection Week runs from 4 to 10 September and aims to raise awareness that the wellbeing and safety of Australia's children is everyone's responsibility.

The theme for this year is *Protecting children is everybody's business*. The week is coordinated nationally by the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN) and, in Queensland, by the Child Protection Week Committee.