

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **‘Our Shirley’ adds spark to the day**

When Shirley Miller walks into the room at Amaroo Aged Care Services, she is greeted with cries of “here’s our Shirley” and she knows her volunteering efforts have made a difference in people’s lives.

For the past 14 years, Shirley has been a volunteer for Churches of Christ Care in Gatton... and it began quite by accident. Unemployed at the time, Shirley was required by Centrelink to do volunteer work.

“I had just sold the family farm after 30 years on the land because of the drought and was looking for work. I was on unemployment benefits and one of the criteria to getting benefits was to do volunteer work,” she said.

“I volunteered at Amaroo and have stuck with the aged care industry ever since. I am there until I can’t do it anymore or I have to move in.”

For Shirley, her days at Amaroo are a mixed bag of activities - Mondays she helps do the ladies’ hair, Friday is bowls and Tuesday is a bus trip.

“The bus trip is my favourite because we are getting out and about, and it is great to get people out in the sunshine walking around,” Shirley said.

A Gatton local, born and bred, Shirley knows many of the people she helps care for and that makes her volunteering even more significant for her.

“For many people, I am the one familiar face they see each week. Many don’t see their families very often, especially some of the residents with dementia, so when I come in my people are pleased to see me – I am often the one constant in their day.

“It is a really pleasant place to be – the staff are wonderful and I get to know people who have lived interesting lives.

“Because I grew up in Gatton, and married and had children here, I know many of the residents of Amaroo and they know me.”

For more information about volunteering at Churches of Christ Care’s Amaroo Aged Care Service, or at any of Churches of Christ Care’s services across Queensland, phone (07) 3363 1701.

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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 3,100 staff and over 750 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.