

MEDIA RELEASE

3 October 2011

Care across the ageing spectrum

In 2009, Vera Hewitt walked out the front door of her much-loved home with only her walking stick and suitcase.

Holding her granddaughter's hand, she got into the car and did not look back as they drove off to start the next phase of her life at Churches of Christ Care Lady Small Haven Aged Care Service in Benowa.

Mrs Hewitt said it was time to move into an aged care service after realising living alone had become too challenging.

"I had become very unwell. I knew I could not look after myself any longer. I had tried with help from Churches of Christ Care's community care staff, who would come to help me with shopping and personal care. They recommended Churches of Christ Care residential aged care service to me," she said.

Mrs Hewitt's daughter looked into Lady Small Haven and Vera moved into a studio room two years ago. Vera has discovered a second lease on life and is an integral part of the tight knit community running many of the fundraising activities and sewing for the other residents.

"When I moved here, I could barely walk and I was depressed – my family did not think I would see out Christmas. I would not be where I am today if not for the care I've received here. Coming here was the best decision. I have rediscovered my independence because of the supportive and caring environment." Mrs Hewitt said.

Churches of Christ Care Director David Swain said the organisation provides care services for older people from community care to residential care services.

"Vera's story highlights the continuity of care Churches of Christ Care provides as people age. Aged care is not about putting a roof over someone's head, it is about being people-focused and providing what people need, not what we think they want," Mr. Swain said.

"Our goal is to develop an integrated community where we can cater for a diverse range of housing needs, and support older people to age in their homes and receive care services support as they need it," Mr Swain said.

"With new integrated developments at Bribie Island and Mitchelton, we are planning communities that will meet people's care needs now and into the future."

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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.