

MEDIA RELEASE

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Volunteer helps make life easier for staff

There's a standing joke at Lady Small Haven Aged Care Service that the staff could go home and the residents could run the place by themselves.

With residents like Les Kearns, who dedicates hours volunteering around the service, it is easy to see why he, and the other volunteers, has become indispensable.

Les, a former army warrant officer and flying instructor, is not one to blow his own trumpet, but he quietly admits he enjoys helping out, although volunteering did not come naturally to him.

"Volunteering took me out of my comfort zone and has given me many rewards. I now find the people are like my family and I enjoy doing things to help them out," Les said.

Janeene Holt, Lady Small Haven's lifestyle therapist, said Les is like one of the staff. "He's like another lifestyle therapist; he makes my job easier," she said.

Les moved into Churches of Christ Care Lady Small Haven Aged Care Service after a series of illnesses forced him to reconsider living on his own.

"Initially I was not too sure about moving into an aged care service but after a few months I got to know people and settled in. I think I was unsure because my vision of a nursing home was a place with eight foot fences like a prison, and it is nothing like that," Les said.

Now Les is an integral part of the daily events at Lady Small Haven. He helps take residents in wheelchairs to church meetings and concerts, "Anywhere they need to go under their own steam, I try to be there," he said.

"I put the movies on, run some of the exercise activities and if I see something that needs doing, I will do it, releasing Janeene and the staff to get on with the important things.

"My other claim to fame is moving chairs and table for activities and packing up after. I also try to take new people under my wing when they resist or have trouble adjusting when they move in – I've got a couple of works in progress now."

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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.