

MEDIA RELEASE

21 December 2011

Funding boost for Bundaberg foster service

Churches of Christ Care's Pathways Bundaberg Foster and Kinship Care Service received an early Christmas present with a funding package that will assist the service offer extra placements in the region.

Churches of Christ Care Director David Swain said the letter from the Minister for Child Safety, Phil Reeves, advising Pathways had been funded over \$2 million over three years is exciting news.

"This will increase the numbers of places funded to 100 on average or between 95 – 104 placements – that is 20 more families, children and young people we can help," Mr Swain said.

"It means Pathways will be able to support more children who for various reasons are unable to live at home; allowing them to live in safe and nurturing environments and help them find a path to a brighter future."

The funding package will also support 10 specific indigenous placements in the Central Queensland region and will enable children and young people with moderate to high needs to be placed with foster carers or with kinship (relative) carers in the community in which they live.

Mr Swain said Churches of Christ Care Pathways Bundaberg also currently supports five children with complex needs in specialist foster care and five young people transitioning to independence through a Semi-Independent Living program, as well as the existing 70 - 80 foster care families.

"In Bundaberg, Pathways assists children and young people to find a foster or kinship carer who can provide support in a caring environment, but 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."

"Churches of Christ Care, through the Pathways program, provides alternative care for a number of children and young people across the state including fostering services, small group homes, and semi-independent services for young people transitioning into adulthood," Mr Swain said.

If become a foster carer for Care Pathways, call 1800 600 900.

ENDS

MEDIA RELEASE



For further information, please contact:

Annette Densham
Media and Communications Coordinator
Ph: (07) 3363 1747 or 0407 371 688

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

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.