
Media Release



13 February 2012

Receding waters reveal extensive damage at St George age care facility

Churches of Christ Care Warrawee Aged Care Service St George is facing months of repairs and refurbishment after flood waters inundated the facility.

Despite a levee being built to protect the town, the aged care facility suffered significant damage.

Churches of Christ in Queensland CEO Dean Phelan said staff have now been able to access the site after flood waters receded late last week.

“Unfortunately Warrawee had approximately half a metre of water through the facility. We are grateful water levels were not higher but even at this level, it means our 34 residents will not be able to come home for some time,” Mr Phelan said.

“There is a lot of work to be done; we have to replace all the gyprock 600 mm from the floor and ensure electricity supply is safe because many of the power points were submerged.

“Luckily most of the residents’ personal belongings escaped damage and have been moved to storage.”

Mr Phelan said the organisation is concerned about the impact on displaced residents. “The 34 people who call Warrawee home will be separated from their families, local community and support networks for an extended period,” he said.

Up to 70 Australian Defence Force personnel have removed all the damage items from the facility and are assisting with the extensive cleanup. The clean up should be completed by Monday afternoon.

“The help we have received from the Australia Defence Force has been wonderful and very much appreciated,” Mr Phelan said.

As one of the town’s main employers, Churches of Christ Care has worked hard to bring many of its other services back on line.

Mr Phelan said Churches of Christ Care is an integral part of St George. “Many of our staff live and work in town and we will do our best to continue providing support for this community,” he said.

“We have reopened our Early Childhood Centre so parents can focus on the task of cleaning up the town without worrying about their children.

“We have also quickly cleaned up our flooded Family Dare Care service, our Mobile Children’s Service is back on the road and our Community Aged Care programs are operational.”

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About Churches of Christ in Queensland

Churches of Christ in Queensland is a group of mainstream Christian churches which has been an active part of the Queensland community for over 125 years.

Churches of Christ in Queensland operates a range of missional and community care services to assist families, the elderly and people in need through church communities and its care division, Churches of Christ Care.

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 140 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.