
MEDIA RELEASE



6 February 2012

Evacuated St George aged care residents settling in

Over thirty Churches of Christ Care St George aged care residents arrived by Hercules at Gold Coast Airport yesterday afternoon after mandatory evacuation orders were issued.

The 34 residents were originally being evacuated by CareFlight but with water levels expected to reach 14.5 metres, it was decided to evacuate all residents.

Churches of Christ in Queensland's Chief Executive Officer Dean Phelan said residents were taken by ambulance to the Hercules for the flight to Coolangatta.

"Four of our higher care residents arrived at Coolangatta early Sunday morning; they have settled into aged care services at Southport. The rest of our residents left at 3.30pm Sunday, arriving on the coast at 4.30pm," Mr Phelan said.

"It has been an unsettling and stressful period for many of our residents; for some, leaving their home is heart breaking, while others are looking forward to a 'holiday' on the Gold Coast."

Twenty eight residents have been placed with six Gold Coast aged care service providers and six will be cared for at two of our Church of Christ Care services on the coast.

Mr Phelan said Churches of Christ Care staff will maintain close contact with all residents.

"It will be a period of adjustment for everyone. Staff are organising outings and social gatherings so they can get together," Mr Phelan said.

"As for our facility at St George, we have done all we can to protect it from water damage but with water levels predicted to rise to 14.5 metres, it is expected to be inundated. We know that we have more work ahead of us with cleaning up.

"For now, our priority is our residents; the most important thing is to get life back to as normal as possible. We have our staff visiting them today to ensure they are okay and if they need anything.

"We are grateful to the other aged care services that opened their doors and hearts to provide care to our residents at this time; we know they are in great hands."

*Interviews available with Churches of Christ Care CEO Dean Phelan and some of our residents from St George.

For families of St George residents, please contact Churches of Christ in Queensland's enquiry line 1800 600 900 for further information.

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 & Marketing
Ph: (07) 3327 1692 or 0419 486 943

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.