



Media Release

embargoed until 1st July 2008

Mount Gambier's Family Relationship Centre opens doors today

A new family relationship service opens today in the South East. The Mount Gambier Family Relationship Centre will provide information, referral and advice to families experiencing relationship difficulties and assist separated families to work through their parenting issues without involving courts.

The Centre, on the corner of Bay Road and Helen Street, is one of 24 that open around Australia today. The Broome, WA Centre will open on 1 October 2008. Together, these Centres will bring the number of Family Relationship Centres operating throughout Australia to 65.

Run by Anglican Community Care, in partnership with Relationships Australia and Centacare, the Mount Gambier Centre will be an important resource for families, providing them with information, support and referral to a range of services that can strengthen their relationships or assist them through separation. The Centre will also have available a range of early intervention services to help people before problems escalate. Such services include family counselling, men and family relationship counselling, education and skills training. The new post separation cooperative parenting service will also be available at the Family Relationship centre from October 2008.

'These Centres aim to help strengthen existing family relationships and where separation does occur, help separated parents agree on what is best for their children rather than resorting to court action,' said Rob Foggo, Mount Gambier Family Relationship Centre spokesperson and CEO, Anglican Community Care.

Mount Gambier's Family Relationship Centre opens doors today

The Centre will also run regular public information sessions on a range of family relationship issues, including sessions on parenting after separation, depending on the needs of the South East community.

'The Centre is staffed with experienced and qualified professionals who will provide high quality, impartial and, of course, confidential services,' said Rob Foggo.

The Centre is supported by the Family Relationship Advice Line (1800 050 321) and Family Relationships Online (www.familyrelationships.gov.au).

The Advice Line will ensure that people who are not able to attend the Mount Gambier Centre or would prefer to receive information by telephone can still get access to help or support.

The website provides access to information about family relationship issues and services available to assist families and allows families to search for a Family Relationship Centre near them.

The new Family Relationship Centre can be contacted on 8721 3500 or mountgambierfrc@accinc.org.au

END

Media Contact

Anne Hinkly-Tyler
Marketing Manager

W (08) 8724 9211 F (08) 8725 5087 M 0439 829 320
E: anne@accinc.org.au
