

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

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Children in motels

There are increasing numbers of children requiring care yet there not enough foster carers, resulting in the government having to look at options other than foster care to make sure these children are cared for in a safe environment. One option, because of the extreme necessity in keeping these children safe, has been the use of motel rooms where the children are cared for.

This is an emergency situation where children must be cared for in a safe environment. The needs of the children are also becoming more complex, which sometimes results in traditional foster care not being the most applicable option. In the last 6 months in the South East over 70 children have been supported by 35 foster carers in long term and respite care. Anglican Community Care received over 200 requests for foster care placements or respite care in 2007.

In Mount Gambier Anglican Community Care provides care in their '24/7 houses' whilst children await foster carers or reconnection with their parents. The children are cared for by 15 carers who support the children at the home, going to school and in recreational activities.

'The government and Anglican Community Care are also looking at programmes that enable the transition of older age groups from foster care to independent living, where it is in the best interests of the child' said Rob Foggo, CEO of Anglican

Community Care and Chairperson of CAFWA SA (Child and Adolescent Family Welfare Association).

'More money for recruitment and support for foster carers is welcomed. Traditional foster care in a family home is still the best option in the majority of cases and Anglican Community Care is committed to supporting foster carers, children and working with the government to address the needs of all children and all types of care.' continued Mr Foggo

Anglican Community Care will be embarking on an information campaign for people who wish to become foster carers, in partnership with Baptist Community Services who offer a different model of foster care. Anyone interested in fostering is encouraged to contact Anglican Community Care on 8724 9211.

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ABOUT Anglican Community Care Inc

Anglican Community Care support regional and rural people when they are struggling with emotional or financial issues and aim to make a positive impact so people are able to fully embrace life and all its opportunities.

Anglican Community Care Inc has provided a range of human services to rural-regional South Australia for over 21 years. The not-for-profit organisation has successfully established offices employing 130 local staff and management throughout the South East, Riverland and Murraylands areas of country South Australia.

In FY206/07 47,000 people found support through Anglican Community Care's many community programmes. Anglican Community Care employs professionally qualified staff who offer confidential, impartial, non-judgemental services to the community.

They are committed to alleviating poverty, building communities, promoting learning, reducing homelessness, strengthening families, supporting children and sharing cultures. www.accinc.org.au

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