

Media Release

Monday, 4 October 2010

New Horizons for youth accommodation in Broome

Horizon House will support young people by providing a home

St John of God Health Care is delighted to report that construction of Broome's new Horizon House is progressing well and is on schedule to accommodate young people from the beginning of 2011.

Horizon House is an established service providing long-term housing, care and intensive support to young people aged 16 to 22 who need a place to stay, currently operating from seven locations in Western Australia and Victoria.

As one of St John of God Health Care's key Social Outreach and Advocacy services, the Horizon House, being built in Weld Street, Broome will provide support primarily to the young indigenous male population in the Kimberley.

Relationships are currently being forged with other community organisations and health bodies in the town, and Horizon House is actively looking for carers in the Broome area who will live in the six bedroom house providing support to the youngsters living in the accommodation.

Manager of Youth Services at St John of God Health Care, Hon Mike Board, said: "We are really looking forward to opening Horizon House in Broome next year. The organisation recognised a need to provide a service in Broome that reaches out to indigenous boys and young men in the 16 to 22 age range and we are on course to open our doors at the beginning of 2011."

"The young people who come to live in Horizon House may come from a variety of different backgrounds and we will do our best to meet the needs of any young people who need our help. Those who come to live in Horizon House will have a valuable opportunity to engage in educational and training activities, while benefitting from a safe, supportive environment in a place they can call home."

ENDS

For more information contact: Colin Wood, Public Relations Manager for Social Outreach and Advocacy at St John of God Health Care:

T: (08) 6103 5590 | M: 0415 222 805 | E: colin.wood@sjog.org.au

NOTES

St John of God Health Care is a leading provider of private hospitals, pathology, and Social Outreach and Advocacy services, throughout Australia, New Zealand and the Asia-Pacific region.

We return all profits to the communities we serve by:

- Updating and expanding technology and facilities
- Expanding existing services and acquiring new services
- Providing Social Outreach and Advocacy services to people experiencing disadvantage

Social Outreach and Advocacy services provide significant care and relief for people experiencing disadvantage throughout Australia, New Zealand and the Asia Pacific region, particularly in areas where we have identified gaps in current service provisions.

Horizon House is one of St John of God Health Care's key Social Outreach and Advocacy services which focuses on providing long-term housing, care and intensive support to young people aged between 16-22 years, who would otherwise be homeless. The service provides a model of care and support in a family environment, working towards St John of God Health Care's vision for all young people to have the opportunity to live in a caring family environment that fosters respect and responsibility and enables them to grow and develop trusting relationships so they become contributing members of the community.

Horizon House aims to meet the long term needs of disadvantaged and homeless young people, providing life skills, education, counselling and socialisation in order for young people to break the cycle of homelessness ultimately reducing dependence on the welfare system.

More information on the Horizon House service is available at
http://www.sjog.org.au/other_services/horizon_houses.aspx