

Media Release

Tuesday, September 25, 2007



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Office relocation means more services

The Mildura office of **annecto-the people network** recently celebrated their relocation into larger premises in Lime Avenue with an official launch including guest visitors Mayor John Arnold, Councilors Mark Eckel, and Glenn Milne. and a special guest Margaret Slade, the first person supported by **annecto** in 2002.

The relocation enables **annecto** to train more quality staff and to assist 168 people and their families through providing outreach and aged care and carer respite services across an area of some 60,000 square kilometres in rural and remote areas of Loddon Mallee including the Mallee Track, Swan Hill, Gannawarra and Buloke Shires. This focus assists and supports older people to continue living at home.

Shirley Whitecross, a carer for her husband Frank, commended the work **annecto** does for the community. "These services are essential to help Frank remain in his own home. We receive personal care, respite and garden maintenance. We are treated with respect and professionalism and I know I can leave Frank in safe hands when I go out." she said.

At the launch, **annecto's** Loddon Mallee region Manager Jason Minter announced further Commonwealth funding for 20 individuals and their families in the region. "Since June 2006 **annecto** has provided more than 8,000 hours of in-home overnight respite for carers throughout the Loddon Mallee region," he said. "Around 2.3 million Australians or one in every five households are providing care for family members or friends with a disability, mental illness, chronic health condition or frailty. Without the help that **annecto** provides to carers and assisted individuals, many people would be institutionalised."

Mission statement:

annecto – the people network is an independent, not for profit association located in the Northern, Eastern and Western Metropolitan areas of Melbourne, Grampians region and the Loddon Mallee region, and is committed to increasing opportunities and choices and enhancing the quality of life for people with a disability, older persons and their carers.

Photographs taken from the launch are available.

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