



Connections

child, youth and family services

MEDIA RELEASE

Attention: COS, news, social affairs, youth, health & community

June 18 2010

CONNECTIONS RESOURCE ROOM OPENS U.P. TO CELEBRATE

Connections UnitingCare is celebrating the 1st birthday of its Family Resource Room at Hampton Park Uniting Place at 1 Coral Drive on Thursday 24 June with a family fun day and historical exhibition.

Connections launched the Family Resource Room, located at Hampton Park Uniting Place at 1 Coral Drive, in June 2009, acknowledging there are times when clients face additional difficulties requiring food and material-aid assistance. In conjunction with Uniting Place's *Open U.P.* community outreach program, the Family Resource Room has opened its doors to Connections clients every Thursday.

As well as material-aid, the Family Resource Room provides an opportunity for clients to form community relationships with church personnel and members of the community as part of the broader important activities at Hampton Park Uniting Place.

Hampton Park Uniting Place Reverend Mat Harry believes this is an excellent opportunity for the community to become involved in the activities at this centre.

'We're excited to open the doors to the community to show the diverse range of activities and programs people can become involved in,' Rev Harry said.

Hampton Park Uniting Place is currently hosting the travelling historical exhibition 'ReConnections and Recollections: Charting the history of Connections UnitingCare', which showcases rarely seen historical images and artefacts from Connections' 80 year history. Connections was formed through a merger in 2000 which included Grassmere Youth Services, which formerly operated in Doveton, Copelen Child and Family Services, Canterbury Family Centre and Wheelers Hill Family Centre.

Connections CEO Angela Forbes believes this is a great opportunity to understand Connections' history.

'The work of Connections UnitingCare as we see it today is the contemporary expression of the initiative of many courageous people who played a pivotal role in addressing injustice in Melbourne, beginning in the 1920s. This exhibition and the accompanying booklet give a brief overview of this 80 year journey of care and the challenges we face today,' said Ms Forbes.

People interested in attending the Resource Room 1st Birthday can RSVP to Heather Kaye at Connections on 8792 8999. For more information about the historical display, contact Rhiannon Wapling on 9271 0800.

Connections UnitingCare Resource Room 1st Birthday

Location: Hampton Park Uniting Place, 1 Coral Drive, Hampton Park

Date and Time: Thursday 24 June 2010 from 11.30am

Activities: Lunch provided, historical display, roving entertainment and face painting

Media: Connections Chief Executive Officer, Angela Forbes or Rev Mat Harry are available for interview. Contact Connections Resources Administration Officer, Rhiannon Wapling, on 9271 0800 or rhiannon.wapling@connections.org.au

Connections UnitingCare is a community organisation with a long and proud history of supporting marginalised and disadvantaged people. We offer a range of services across a continuum of care from preschool and childcare through to counselling and in-home support. We provide innovative and early intervention programs that support children, young people and their families giving them a better chance in life now and in the future.

More information at www.connections.org.au