



Connections

child, youth and family services

MEDIA RELEASE

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

23 March 2009

NEW PROGRAM FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Connections UnitingCare, one of Victoria's largest welfare agencies and the largest UnitingCare agency in Victoria is launching a new program that offers a range of clinical services to vulnerable children and their families on April 2 at the Drum Theatre in Dandenong.

The Child-centered, Consultancy, Assessment, Therapy and Training Service (CCATTS) has grown out of a high demand for services and will draw on Connections expertise in working with children who have experienced trauma and disrupted attachment.

Connections Chief Executive Officer, Ms Angela Forbes believes that meeting the demands of the local community is vitally important, particularly when the future is looking particularly uncertain with the effects of the global financial crisis.

'As we move into uncertain and unpredictable economic times we are finding it increasingly more important for socially orientated groups and organisations to work in partnership with disadvantaged people.

'We already do a significant amount of work in the south-eastern growth corridor and CCATTS is another significant initiative that further positions Connections as key welfare agency in the local community,' Ms Forbes said.

'We are very excited about this program and feel confident that it will be a significant additional support for those in need – this program will further augment the range of services offered to Connections clients,' Ms Forbes said.

Supported by a partnership with Monash University, CCATTS aims to promote and facilitate safe, stable and nurturing environments for children, families, parents or carers by providing a range of quality low cost psychological services to the local community.

Speaking at the launch is Dr Julie Stone (BA, BM, FRANZCP), a renowned Child, Infant & Family psychiatrist who has worked with children in Africa who have been affected by HIV/AIDS.

For more information about CCATTS or Connections please visit our website www.connections.org.au

Event: Child-centred, Consultancy, Assessment, Therapy and Training Service Launch, 10.00am, 2 March 2009 by Dr Julie Stone, at the Drum Theatre Rehearsal Room, 226 Lonsdale Street Dandenong.

Media: Connections Chief Executive Officer, Angela Forbes is available for interview. Contact Connections Communications Officer, Kirrilee Torney on 03 9271 0800 or kirrilee.torney@connections.org.au

Connections is a community welfare agency of the Uniting Church's UnitingCare network in Australia providing a range of innovative and early intervention programs that support vulnerable 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