

media release

South East SA



20th April 2010

School holidays highlighted the need for local respite carers of young teenagers

Recent school holidays presented an increase in the need for appropriate care of high school aged children living in full-time foster care.

Work does not stop during school holidays for full-time Foster Carers when they also work outside the home. Vacation care helps with primary school age children but there is no service in the Mt Gambier/South East that provides a holiday program for teenagers, making it extremely difficult to provide caring supervision for some older primary school children and teenagers during the extended school breaks.

ac.care is on a mission to find more Foster Carers for young local people who can no longer live at home and Respite Foster Carers in particular are needed during long breaks during the year, for example school holidays and weekends.

Rob Foggo, CEO said, "It can be easier to find Carers for infants and small children but our concerns are with the increased need for Carers of local kids aged over 10."

The school holidays, Easter, Christmas and long weekends present the most difficulty for full-time Foster Carers. If people have thought about Foster Caring but are unsure if it's for them we urge them to contact ac.care to find out more about what is involved in becoming a Respite Foster Carer.

*The process to become a registered carer can sometimes take up to six months, so if you have been thinking of Foster Caring please call ac.care today. **You could be helping to create a new future for a local child before the end of 2010.***

If you are able to help local children aged 10 to 16 years of age as a full-time or respite carer please call ac.care on 8724 9211 or email care@accare.org.au and ask to speak with one of our Alternative Care team. The lines are open from 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday. For more information of local Foster Care with ac.care go to www@accare.org.au

End

Media Contact | Jacinta Reid | ac.care Marketing Support officer

P (08) 8724 9211 | F (08) 8725 5087 | M 0439 829 320 | E: jacinta@accare.org.au | www.accare.org.au

About ac.care

*ac.care was formed in Mount Gambier in 1985. ac.care is one of the few organisations created and run by rural people for rural people. We believe in getting in early to bring about change and have a philosophy of not just giving a hand-out or mopping up after a crisis - we build on people's strengths. ac.care focuses on skill development, early intervention and prevention to make a real difference. We work towards providing opportunities for all who live in rural communities: for safe and stable accommodation, to continue or re-enter formal education, develop employment skills, strengthen family or personal relationships, children to be supported, nurtured and developed. ac.care's current offices and community centres are in Mount Gambier, Millicent, Naracoorte, Bordertown, Murray Bridge, Berri and Waikerie. 60,000 people in (FY08-09) in the South East, Riverland and Murraylands of South Australia were supported through over 70 different programs and services that fall under one or more of ac.care's 7 goals: **alleviating homelessness | building communities | promoting learning | reducing poverty| sharing cultures | strengthening families | supporting children.***