

media release



Thursday 23rd July 2009

Local needs exceed Mount Gambier Family Relationship Centre's expectations...

The Mount Gambier Family Relationship Centre has been operating for 12 months and annual statistics reveal the number of individuals accessing its services has dramatically exceeded expectations.

1,506 local people have received support, guidance and advice for their family relationships since the centre opened in July last year. In the 2008/09 financial year the following services offered by the Family Relationship Centre exceeded expected targets:

- Family Relationship Education and Skills Training, 112% of target reached.
- Men and Family Counselling, 159% of target reached
- Specialised Family Violence Services, 121% of target reached
- Children's Contact Services, 200% of the target reached.

This response to the services offered at the Family Relationship Centre reflects a genuine and growing need in our local community. The Centre provides information, referral and advice to families experiencing relationship difficulties and assists separated families to work through their parenting issues without involving courts.

The staff are experienced social workers, counsellors and trained in Family Dispute Resolution, offering impartial and, non-judgmental services for women and men. They help people at any stage of their relationships – before and during marriage or partnering, separation, divorce, parenting issues.

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About ac.care

ac.care was formed in Mount Gambier in 1985, with one social worker, a part-time administration officer and an accommodation support worker. Today ac.care employs nearly 200 staff with current offices and community centres in Mount Gambier, Millicent, Naracoorte, Bordertown, Murray Bridge, Berri and Waikerie. More than 60,550 (FY07-08) people 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.**
