

Mercy Children's Services

Mercy Children's Services provides foster care and specialised home based care for children and young people in the Barwon region. The service extends as far as Colac in the Western District of Victoria.

Geelong and Colac Foster Care provides foster care services for children and young people.

Specialised Home Based Care provides accommodation options for children and young people with complex needs.

In 2000/01, 95 children aged between 0-4 years, 89 children aged 5-11 years and 31 young people aged 12-17 years were provided with a range of out-of-home care and case management services.

Mercy Respite Centre also provides respite care for parents and children needing a holiday or break from stressful or traumatic issues in their lives.

Program Manager:
Christine Cuff

Staff:
Eight staff members

Volunteers:
Over 90 volunteer caregivers provide crisis, short-term and long-term care

Expenditure budget:
\$1,162,906

Highlights

During 2000/01, Mercy's Children's Services:

- Placed a total of 196 children and young people in foster care and 19 in specialised home based care;
- Consistently out-performed its daily target

for the placement of children and young people in care.

- Received additional funding from the Department of Human Services to place extra children in care;
- Conducted several public recruitment campaigns to attract additional foster carers;
- Accredited 34 new caregivers during the year;
- 40 families experienced a short-term holiday at the Mercy Respite Centre, run by Sr Noela Farrell;
- The Catholic Women's League and the Mercy Congregation contributed funding towards the purchase of a permanent property for the Mercy Respite Centre.

