

Barwon Region

Program Reports

Mercy Children's Services

Mercy Children's Services provides foster care, specialised home based care and respite for children and young people in the region. The service covers the City of Greater Geelong, Queenscliff Borough, Surf Coast Shire and Colac Shire.

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

Specialised Home Based Care provides care in a home setting for children and young people with complex needs. During this year, 90 children aged between 0-4 years, 103 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 provides supported respite care for parents and their children needing a holiday or break from stressful or traumatic issues in their lives.

Highlights

During 2001-2002, Mercy Children's Services achieved:

- Placement of a total of 222 children and young people in foster care and in Special Home Based Care.
- Receipt of additional funding from Department of Human Services to place an increased number of children in care.

- Several public recruitment campaigns to attract additional foster carers.
- Accreditation of 17 new carers.
- The successful establishment of Share the Care, respite and mentoring for children in longer term care. This included the recruitment of young adults to take young people in care on day activities.
- 40 families experiencing a short term holiday at the Mercy Respite Centre.
- Mercy Respite Centre being successfully re-located, opened and is operating at a very high level.
- A visit to the region by co-sponsored Attachment specialist, Nancy Thomas.

