

Media release for CathNews
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Governor-General to open Catholic Healthcare's new aged care service

Catholic Healthcare's new residential aged care service – St Peter's, Lane Cove North will be officially opened on 2 August 2010 by Quentin Bryce, Governor-General of Australia and blessed by Reverend Vince Casey, Vicar-General of the Diocese of Broken Bay.

St Peter's is part of an innovative village-style community called St Peter's Green which also includes 27 independent living units, a Willoughby Council branch library with meeting rooms, a cafe, landscaped outdoor areas and a toddlers playground.

The philosophy of St Peter's Green is on integrating seniors living with broader community life. It is based on a European model which focuses on keeping aged care residents involved and social by locating services for the wider community such as cafes and libraries within, or close to, the residential aged care service.

St Peter's was built on the former site of St Peter's Catholic Church, an outreach church of Our Lady of Dolours Parish at Chatswood. In 2006 the Broken Bay Diocese demolished the church and put the 0.7 hectares of land bordered by Mowbray Road and Felton Avenue up for sale. In early 2007, Catholic Healthcare secured a 99-year lease on the land from the Diocese of Broken Bay.

Chris Rigby, Managing Director of Catholic Healthcare, said he was honoured that the Governor-General of Australia will be opening St Peter's, which sets a new benchmark in urban aged care design.

He said St Peter's was another step in a vision and program committed to by Catholic Healthcare in 2003 to build or rebuild its residential aged care services to a standard that enhances the dignity and quality of life of the residents.

He added that St Peter's continues the aged care ministries and traditions of the Mercy Sisters (North Sydney) with each of the four levels of the building named after Mercy Sisters.

"As well, significant elements of the Justinian House chapel at Crow Nest, a former Mercy Sisters aged care ministry, have been incorporated into the new chapel at St Peter's."

St Peter's offers private rooms with ensuites for 93 residents with low, high and dementia care needs. Each floor of the four-level building has a number of beautifully furnished sitting areas, a dining area with servery and spacious balconies or courtyards. St Peter's caters for all financial situations with 20 per cent of rooms available to those with no assets.

Pam Francois, one of the first residents to move into St Peter's, said her new home is lovely.

"I am very happy. The staff are very caring and the food is good. The design is very well-thought out and the furnishings are very tasteful."

St Peter's will be officially opened and blessed at 10am, Monday 2 August at 3 Felton Avenue Lane Cove North.

For more information contact: Karen Martin, Manager, Marketing and Retirement Communities, Catholic Healthcare on 02 9855 2560 or 0407 945 131.

About Catholic Healthcare

Catholic Healthcare was established in 1994 by the Bishops of NSW and the ACT. The not-for-profit organisation provides a diverse range of aged care, healthcare and community services in New South Wales and south-east Queensland. It operates 38 residential aged care services and 10 retirement communities and provides services to over 5,000 people in the community. Catholic Healthcare's mission is to promote life in all its fullness inspired by the Catholic tradition.

For more information about residential aged care or retirement living, please call 1800 551 834 1800 551 834 or go to www.catholichealthcare.com.au.