

Media Release

Wednesday, 24 October 2007

St John of God Accord at Brimbank welcomes Senator Kay Patterson

As a result of the Victorian Government's allocation of \$330,000 to improve services for children with autism a plan is well underway to analyse the demand for services and develop strategies for improving the system.

Senator Kay Patterson, committed to her portfolio and despite her busy schedule, is taking time to visit St John of God Accord at Brimbank, October 25. This service centre is an Adult Training and Support Service for young adults with a disability. The service promotes community participation and inclusion within a supportive structure at St John of God Accord.

Brimbank focuses on assisting people to further develop skills, appreciate cultural difference and lead healthy lives through its *Horizons* program. All of the programs conducted at the centre recognise and meet people's interpersonal, social and emotional needs. The centre supports a number of individuals with a variety of challenging behaviours related to autism

Brimbank's specialist programs provide pre-employment skills training and assist people with support needs. Senator Patterson does strongly believe that it will be a great day when legislation regarding special disability trusts are successfully enforced. It will be a great day for people with adult sons and daughters with a disability to receive greater help and funding to help prepare for their children's future. It is of great concern to the Senator that what has happened has slowly crept up on us and that people with disabilities are living longer and thus require long standing support services and care.

The visit to Brimbank provides closer contact with those partaking in the Horizons Program with the service issues that are dealt with on a daily basis.

Media Contact:

Dominique Moollan – Marketing Officer (03) 9433 0318 dmoollan@stjohnofgod.org.au