

MEDIA RELEASE

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Volunteers Now Needed from the Campbelltown, Camden and Narellan Areas for Sisters of Charity Outreach's Visit Program

Sisters of Charity Outreach is currently looking for new, compassionate volunteers to expand its Visit Program for socially isolated people living in the Campbelltown, Camden and Narellan areas.

Sisters of Charity Outreach is a not-for-profit community service organisation which has been actively addressing unmet social need since 1990. Its Visit Program has been providing fortnightly home and local outing visits to socially-isolated people living in various areas of Sydney since the program was originally launched in 1996.

"Social isolation is a major issue, from both a health perspective and from a societal cost. It has been shown that the health effects are equivalent to those of heavy drinking and smoking," says Sisters of Charity Outreach General Manager, Gary Sillett. "Last year alone, our Visit Program undertook 2684 visits. By providing a much-needed and important, no-cost service - based on one-to-one fortnightly home visits and occasional local outings - to people who are experiencing social isolation, we directly assist those vulnerable members of the community who really need our care and compassion."

The south-west Sydney area has long been one of the key areas for the Visit Program service, most particularly within the Liverpool and the immediate surrounding suburbs. With Sisters of Charity Outreach having a long and happy history with volunteers – its various services currently operate with the assistance of more than 200 friendly, dedicated volunteers from all walks of life - Maxine Goodwin, Visit Program, South West Coordinator is now seeking suitable, committed volunteers to expand the Visit Program's ability to serve ever-growing local community needs.

"Due to increased demand in the south-west region, we are now seeking to further expand our Visit Program service so we can be there for the many socially-isolated people living in the Campbelltown, Camden and Narellan areas," says Maxine. "But before we can start helping these clients, we need to find a team of kind-hearted local volunteers from the immediate surrounding area.

"We're seeking locals who are happy to give of their time on a regular basis to visit people who may be frail, aged, or disabled, or may even have a medical or mental health condition which prevents them from participating in social opportunities that many of us take for granted."

Visit Program Volunteer Criteria and Enquiries: For those living in the Campbelltown, Camden and Narellan areas who wish to help socially-isolated locals, Visit Program volunteers must meet the following requirements: be 18 years of age or over; be a resident of Australia; pass a NSW Police Check; and, apply for and pass a Working With Children Check. Interested locals can apply now, online, via Sisters of Charity Outreach's Volunteer Program at:

<http://www.sistersofcharityoutreach.com.au/volunteer-now/interested-how-to-apply/>. They can also call (02) 8382 6430 or email info@outreach.net.au with their CV/Resume.

Maxine Goodwin, Sisters of Charity Outreach Visit Program, South West Coordinator is currently available for media interviews.

For all Media Enquiries Stephen Cook on (02) 94102313 or 0414 683 689.