

Caretakers Cottage Going Home Staying Home Launch

15 May, 2015

The Caretakers Cottage - "Going Home Staying Home" - Launch took place on Friday, 15 May at the Caretakers Crisis Refuge in Bondi. Over 100 people attended the event, including the Minister for Family and Community Services (FaCS) Brad Hazzard MP, Attorney General and Member for Vaucluse Gabrielle Upton MP and Waverley Mayor Sally Betts among others.

The Launch ceremony was opened by Caretakers CEO, Laurie Matthews. The FaCS Minister and Attorney General spoke of the work at Caretakers, and a special address was given by a former resident of the refuge.

Dozens of youth services around Sydney participated, including YFoundations, Ted Noffs Foundation, Dolores Womens Refuge, Lillian's Refuge, St Laurence House, Shopfront Legal Service, The Bridge, LaunchPad etc. etc. Local services in the Bondi area including Our Big Kitchen, Jewish House and Beaches Outreach Project showed as well. Governmental agencies including Eastern Sydney FaCS, the Sydney Juvenile Justice Office, and NSW Police participated as did Ms. Kerryn Boland, The Children's Guardian of NSW. And of regional youth services, Southern Youth and Family Services (Wollongong) was represented by CEO Narelle Clay. And the event included participation of local community members and current & former residents and staff of Caretakers (apologies to anyone who attended not mentioned above).

Special thanks to all those who assisted in organising the event: Laurie and Sarah Matthews, the staff and residents at Caretakers. The team at Options. Our partners at Ted Noffs. The team at Entity and Horizons. A special thanks to Waverley Park Kiosk, WAYS Bondi Beach and Our Big Kitchen. And thanks to That Photo Booth Company, Elementum Cafe, Jesse's Patisserie, and Chere De Koh. And a very special thanks to all our friends and supporters, past and present.

The event highlighted the wide range of services provided by Caretakers Cottage through its various services. All services (Caretakers Crisis Refuge, Options, Entity, and Horizons) were given special mention, as was the new partnership with Ted Noffs Foundation (running the Early Intervention Program, CALM & PALM).

The Launch also featured a traditional Aboriginal Smoking Ceremony, performed by Uncle Max and Cathy from Tribal Warrior. The Smoking Ceremony was performed to cleanse and purify the refuge. This ceremony was of significant meaning to the Caretakers residents and staff; one third of the residents who pass through the refuge are of Aboriginal heritage.





