

## Youngcare for High Care Needs

Youngcare is an Australian registered charity and non-profit organization formed to help young people with high care needs. It is an independent and non-denominational charity that provides a dignified and relevant lifestyle for young people requiring nursing care.

Through researching the issue of high care needs, the Youngcare founders were surprised to learn that young Australians with long term high care needs have few options. The only real alternatives being aged care nursing homes or part time support from community groups at home, with family taking on the remaining responsibility. In fact, in Australia today, there are 6,300 young people residing in aged care nursing homes. Clearly this is inappropriate.

Many thousands more reside in hospitals, or isolated not by choice, living by themselves within the community leaving them lonely, vulnerable and without the necessary care for their needs.



The issue of caring for these people is broad and complex. Youngcare's aim is to raise awareness of the issue and through forming partnerships with Community, Business and Government seeks to develop viable, sustainable solutions that provide the care and dignity we all deserve.

On Saturday December 8th, celebrations were held in Brisbane, Australia, to mark the official opening of the very first Youngcare Apartments. Two years worth of hard work finally came to fruition and the goal of creating change for young Australians with high care needs finally became a reality. When the doors opened at 10:00am, bus loads of people arrived at the apartments with a steady flow all day.

The turnout was overwhelming and people came from all over Australia to tour the apartments, and see what they all helped to create. The atmosphere was one of joy and excitement.

Youngcare organizers were overwhelmed with the amount of support and well wishes that were shown by corporate supporters and many others including Rotary clubs that had contributed significant funds to pay construction costs. Many a tear was shed on the day as the impact of what had been achieved hit home with many visitors.



The A\$6 million dollar (US\$5.2 million) building at Jindalee in Brisbane's west is comprised of 14 state of the art, fully self contained apartments, complete with teleconferencing facilities, spa room and funky interior furnishings that provides an inviting and comfortable environment to receive 24 hour specialist care.



## Make-Up Program

Residents began moving into their new homes from Monday 17th December, just in time to celebrate Christmas in a youthful, dignified and appropriate environment.

However, Chairman David Conry believes there is still much more that needs to be done. "This is now a model that can be replicated, and it has to be" David said. Youngcare aims to construct more apartments, and planning is well underway for the next building project, with construction due to commence before mid 2008.

**If you would like more information about this concept, please contact Youngcare**  
Email: [info@youngcare.com.au](mailto:info@youngcare.com.au) Phone: +61 7 3846 0988 Phone: +61 7 3846 0762  
PO Box 3798 South Brisbane 4101 Australia