



Media Release

24th May 2023

Country to Coast, QLD (CCQ) announces care finder appointee: Footprints Community

CCQ is a non-profit independent organisation responsible for implementing the Primary Health Network programs on behalf of the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care. The care finders program, developed by the Department of Health and Aged Care, provides \$93.7M funding on a national basis to support a workforce of care finders to provide face-to-face support to help people navigate and access aged care.

CCQ recently expanded its care finder services with Footprints Community. Initially selected as the care finder provider for the Wide Bay and Sunshine Coast regions, CCQ is pleased to announce that Footprints' valuable support now extends to the Central Queensland community. The expansion into Central Queensland is a natural step forward for the program's growth.

CCQ CEO Julie Sturgess highlights the criticality of supporting and caring for older persons in our region:

"Queensland has the second-highest proportion of older people among all Australian states and territories, and the number of Queenslanders aged 85 years and over is also increasing rapidly, with the people in this cohort expected to more than double by 2058. At CCQ, we understand the importance of caring for our aging population. That's why we've implemented the care finder program, which provides specialised and intensive support to help vulnerable older people access the care they need."

With more than 30 years' experience, Footprints Community is a not-for-profit provider of community-based services that specialises in working with older people, those that experience disability, mental illness, as well as those who are at risk of homelessness.

Footprints Community CEO Cherylee Treloar considers her organisation's values of respect, inclusion and client-centred practice as key to supporting care finder clients. "We also know this program will make such a difference in Central Queensland having experienced the benefits of this program in other Queensland regions where we work. With over 31,000 people aged over 65 years in Central Queensland, our team will be on the ground to help those who need more intensive support to navigate the aged care system. "

Additionally, funding will be provided by the Commonwealth to support to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people and their families across the nation via the Trusted Indigenous Facilitator program.

For further information about care finder services near you, please visit:
<https://www.myagedcare.gov.au/help-care-finder>

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