



MEDIA RELEASE

30 November 2010

UnitingCare Burnside's Foster Care Program is Gold!

Today the Children's Guardian, Kerry Boland awarded UnitingCare Burnside a gold certificate for far exceeding the minimum requirements for accreditation as a provider under the 2010 NSW Standards for Statutory Out-of-Home Care.

Burnside CEO, Jane Woodruff said: "We are incredibly proud to receive the highest level of accreditation available to non-government organisations. This confirms Burnside's position as a high quality provider, and is a fantastic achievement in the lead up to our Centenary next year."

Burnside was assessed against 22 standards for Statutory Out-of-Home care relating to children and young people rights and care, casework practice, management of carers and staff, and organisational management including governance and strategic direction.

Assessors from the Office of the Children's Guardian commented that Burnside's key strengths were its policy and strong child focussed practice, and principle of participation through including birth parents, foster carers and children in care in decision making affecting the child's or young person's life.

Also launched today was the Burnside *Someone Like Me* book and DVD which celebrates the amazing work undertaken by its carers. Both candidly reflect on the highs and lows carers experience in giving their time, energy and love to a child in need of a home. It is hoped this insight into life as a foster carer will act as a catalyst for potential foster carers to make the decision to undertake this incredibly special role.

To maintain its ongoing reputation for quality, Burnside is committed to recruiting, training and supporting the best possible carers for children and young people in foster care. It also provides after care services to young people who have been in care.

Burnside is always looking for foster carers and has out-of-home care programs across the state; in Western Sydney, the Mid North Coast and Dubbo. Could someone like you provide a stable and caring home for a child, sibling group or teenager? For more information please visit www.burnsidefostercare.com.