



MEDIA RELEASE

3 March 2009

CHILDREN'S WELLBEING A GREAT INVESTMENT

The NSW Government today responded to the Wood Report on Child Protection with *Keep Them Safe: a Shared Approach to Child Wellbeing*. UnitingCare Burnside welcomes this new approach to children's safety and wellbeing.

Burnside CEO Jane Woodruff was pleased to see that the NSW Government will be investing in children and families in need, early in the life of the child and early in the life of the problem.

"It's great to see strong support for this very different approach to children's safety and wellbeing in NSW.

"Improving the life opportunities of our State's most vulnerable children, young people and families is a wise investment.

"We also appreciate the recognition that non-government organisations have much to bring to working with the Government on caring for children, across the whole range of services including out of home care," Ms Woodruff said.

Part of the Uniting Church in Australia, Burnside has been caring for disadvantaged children since 1911. Burnside is also a member of UnitingCare Children, Young People and Families which helped more than 23 000 children, young people and families in NSW in 2008.

"We've always supported the adoption of the Wood reforms in full, which requires a variety of services for children, young people and families with a range of needs.

"For example, the Regional Intake and Referral Services recommended by Wood will better link families to effective services.

"A strong network of support services must be made available as soon as possible to stop vulnerable children falling through the gaps once the change in reporting threshold is introduced next year," Ms Woodruff said.

Media Contact: Elizabeth Scully on 0438 294 938