



## **Media Release**

**Tuesday 13 November 2007**

**For immediate release**

### **New Bus one step closer for Holy Spirit Care Services - thanks to the Italian Community Centre Association of Cairns**

Today, Holy Spirit Care Services received a generous donation of \$25,000 from the Italian Community Centre Association of Cairns toward the purchase of a bus for residents of their Cairns facilities. At a special morning tea held at Holy Spirit Mary Potter President of the ICCA, Mr Sam Cardillo, presented the donation to Holy Spirit Care Services CEO Shane Fracchia.

Mr Fracchia was appreciative of the large donation saying “The funds donated today will increase the total amount raised significantly and bring one step closer a well needed bus for residents at Holy Spirit Mary Potter, Holy Spirit Bethlehem and Coral Sea Gardens Retirement Village. Since arriving in Cairns last year we have realised that some of our residents need assistance to enjoy the many activities that the region has to offer. Many of our residents do not own private transportation and they are unable to utilise the current public bus system. As a result these residents sometimes miss out on enjoying the Cairns Community simply because they do not have the means or support to leave their home.”

Mr Fracchia acknowledged the generosity of the Italian Community Centre by stating “if it weren’t for this level of generosity by organisations such as the Italian Community Centre life would be much more difficult for older people and those caring for them”.

The Italian Community Centre Association of Cairns has a strong connection with Holy Spirit Mary Potter having supported the facility over many years. Mr Cardillo said a large number of members of the Italian Community have been residents of Holy Spirit Mary Potter over the years. The Italian Community Centre Association began in 1982 principally to raise funds for charitable purposes. Originally sponsoring

Italian classes the Association then turned its attention to supporting the elderly in 1992 through a range of activities including picnics, bus trips, BBQ's, fun nights and traditional games, which they continue today with the support of their 164 members.

Holy Spirit Care Services are hoping to have sufficient funds to purchase a 12 seater bus with an additional 2 seats for wheelchair residents before Christmas.

For information regarding donations contact Mrs Pam Fielding on xxxx xxxx.

**For further information contact**

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