

## Community Ageing and Disability Services

Wesley Mission provides extensive care for people who are aged, frail and who live with disability. We aim to enhance their quality of life and independence and where appropriate, help them maintain an active role in the community. In these areas our Christian values are expressed through the loving care of our staff supported by chaplains across the services.

### Genuine commitment

Wesley Mission's residential aged care services provide accommodation in low-and high-care homes (hostels) or affordable independent-living retirement villages. In the past year, hostels and villages have accommodated over 800 people.

Respite is a critical aspect of care. The Wesley Mission Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Service at the Inner West office recorded 4706 client contacts last year, including 54 guided referrals. More than 780 carers received respite in the community during the year with additional accommodation respite services provided in all our hostels.

Our Home and Community Care (HACC) programs in Newcastle and Lake Macquarie work with the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care and other community care providers. The program promotes independence, providing the aged and those with disabilities with the choice to remain living in their own homes for as long as possible.

Wesley Mission provides a range of services for those living with disability including the Disability Life Skills Program and the Community Living Program which encourage independence, skills-development, goal-setting and self-esteem. Wesley Clinical Services is a multi-disciplinary team which includes Disability Specialists with extensive experience in the disability and out-of-home care fields. Wesley Disability Enterprises consists of three services – packaging, gardening and cleaning. These services offer employment and training opportunities for people with disabilities. We are committed to providing opportunities to help people enjoy the satisfaction, independence and sense of purpose that comes from being employed.

### Committed to succeed

In January 2009, Wesley Disability Services added to its other two respite centres the Royal Institute of Deaf and Blind Children Respite Service which was officially re-opened in May 2009. Wesley Disability Services was also successful in being selected to provide emergency response respite to children and adults in western Sydney for a 12-month period, specifically targeting people who were homeless or in insecure housing with moderate to severe intellectual disabilities.

The National Respite for Carers Program (NRCP) received a boost of \$375,000 over three years for program growth, and an additional \$11,275 to produce a DVD highlighting the needs of carers and the importance of respite. Aged Care Housing Assistance (ACHA) received a 25 per cent funding increase which led to assisting 156 people last year, compared to 129 in the previous year. ACHA has rehoused 29 per cent of clients into permanent affordable accommodation and 14 per cent into Department of Housing accommodation. A further 10 per cent are approved for public housing and await allocation.

A Home and Community Care (HACC) application for recurrent funding from the Department of Ageing Disability and Home Care (DADHC) was successful. The \$80,000 funding is allocated towards recruiting an Aboriginal HACC Access / Development Officer in the Hunter region of NSW.

### The need for courage

Illustrating the challenging and demanding circumstances surrounding these essential services, Wesley Disability Services revitalised the previous Charlie Woodward Lodge with a new emergency respite program for children with an intellectual disability. The need was so urgent that the team was given one week from receiving the approval and funding, to establish six fully furnished units, a large reception training area, a small meeting room and one fully functioning office. The nature of the clients has ensured that the team has been constantly tested since, requiring ongoing vigilance and determination.

### Ongoing commitment

Wesley Mission's Disability Life Skills Services enables people who have never received a day program service to access our life skills programs and benefit from the wide range of community participation and centre based activities that Wesley offers. 13 clients of the Wesley Disability Community Living program, who were formerly receiving ongoing regular support, have acquired enough skill that they no longer require regular support. They are now being monitored by case workers who give them help when it is needed. These clients now live full and independent lives without the ongoing support of formal service systems.



### Jason and Maria taking steps of courage

A brother and sister named Jason and Maria, aged 11 and 12 respectively, were placed into the care of Wesley Disability Services by the Minister of Community Services. The children were loved but had been neglected. They were the size of toddlers, could not walk or communicate and were unable to manage their body movement and functions. They had spent most of their life on a bed.

By being flexible and responsive, and by placing an emphasis on developing independence, we focused on building on their individual strengths and capabilities to cope with change. Jason and Maria can now walk, Jason with the aid of a frame and Maria without. They can feed themselves and are attending school on a regular basis. They are now taking steps into the kind of normal life that you and I take for granted.

Community Support Services

Community Living and Lifeskill Services

Residential Aged Care Services

Wesley Disability Services

Wesley Business Enterprises

Respite Services

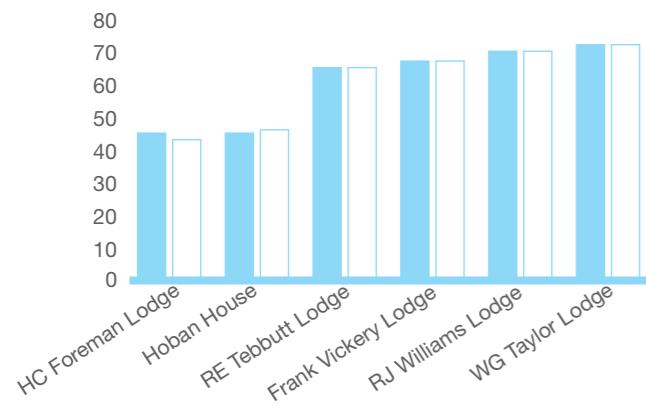
Accommodation Services

# Community Ageing and Disability Services

## Residential aged care services

### Elderly clients in residential care

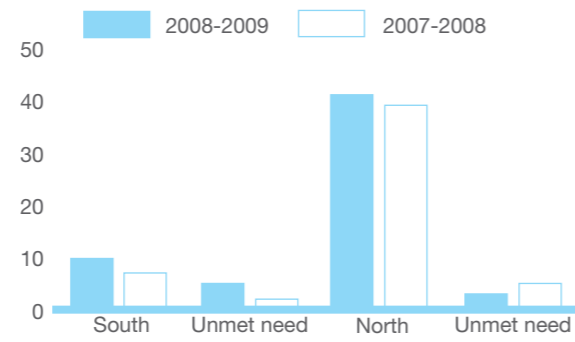
Total number of permanent residential beds in 2008-2009 was 363



## Community support services

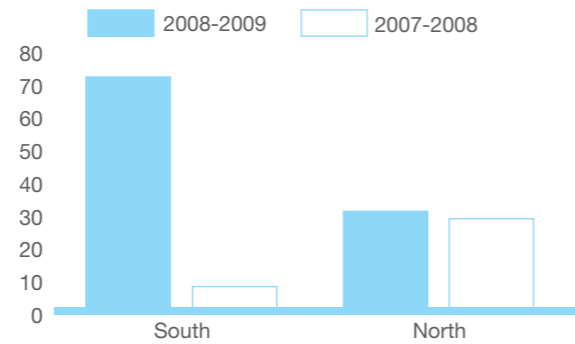
### High-care support in the home (Extended Aged Care Packages)

Total number of clients assisted in 2008-2009 was 51  
Total number of unmet referrals in 2008-2009 was 8



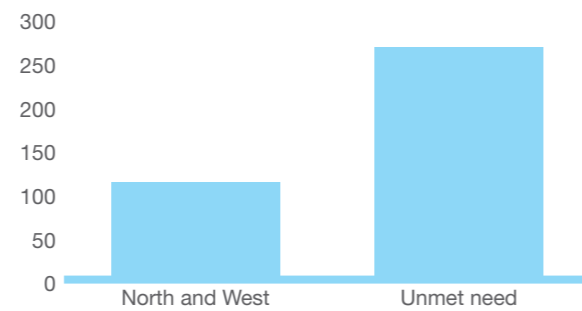
### Respite carers assisted in the home

Total number of carers assisted in the home in 2008-2009 was 103



### Domestic assistance

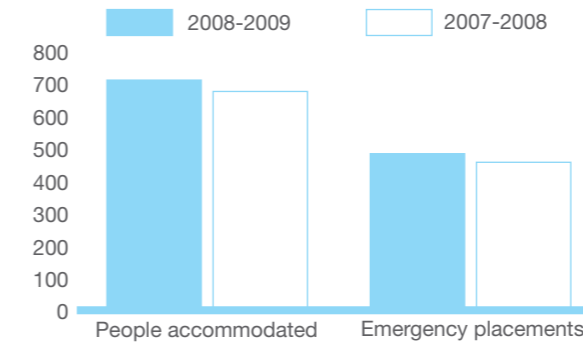
Total number of clients assisted weekly in 2008-2009 was 115



## Disability services

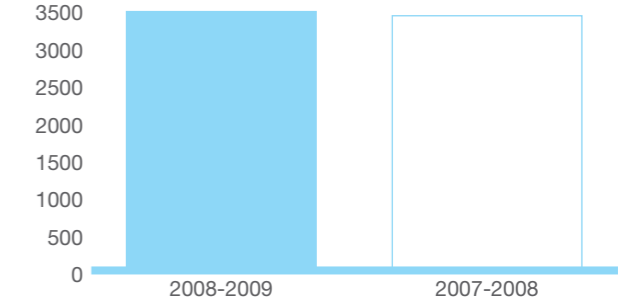
### Disability respite accommodation

Total number of people accommodated in 2008-2009 was 1193



### Respite

Total number of respite days provided in 2008-2009 was 3494



### Disability support in the community

Total number of clients assisted in 2008-2009 was 87

