

Media Release

Thursday 15 December 2011



Local RSL Care wins National award for community safety

RSL Tweed Gold Coast HomeCare has taken home the winners' trophy in the Australian Safer Communities Awards for its contribution to the Tweed FloodSafe Guide for elderly and people with a disability.

Community Program Manager Debbie Sporer said RSL HomeCare was honored to receive the Award together with SES, UPA, Blue Care and Tweed Valley Respite in recognition of best practice and innovation by organisations that help to build safer communities across Australia.

RSL HomeCare has around 600 clients within the Tweed and Gold Coast area. When the SES did a call out for community groups to share their plans for evacuating their clients, we were only too happy to get involved, Ms Sporer said.

The Tweed area is the second highest body of water, second to Hunter Valley area. It has a high population of aged residents so education and planning was key.

In addition to contributing to the Floodsafe Guide, we also arranged education session for staff on how to support clients and each other during emergencies, and information sessions for our residents in Darlington Retirement Community at Banora Point about how to safely evacuate in emergencies, Ms Sporer said.

Our colleagues in Queensland demonstrated extraordinary capacity to successfully respond to emergency situations during the Natural Disasters in January this year.

While we hope that we never need to test our readiness to that extent, we are confident that we have the preparation and capacity in the event that we do.

All RSL care clients have received a copy of the Guide as well as information about how to prepare for storm season from the SES.

RSL HomeCare helps older Australians to remain independent through tailored services designed to meet everyday living requirements from housework, cooking and transport to personal care and assistance with recuperation from illness or injury. For more information about HomeCare service available in your local area please call 1300 076 566.

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