

Mum works on day off

Personal carer puts needs of elderly clients before own in wake of flood

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WITH her home flooded to the roof and most of her family's possessions ruined, no-one expected Shannon O'Doherty to turn up for work.

She wasn't even on the roster for the day East Ipswich residents fell victim to their worst floods in living memory.

This mother of two, five-month-old Emmy and two-year-old Rhys, was concerned about her clients, some of whom had also been affected by the devastating flood.

Ms O'Doherty is a personal carer with RSL HomeCare in Ipswich.

"I went in to work on Wednesday (January 12) to see if there was anything that needed to be done," she said.

"I help people with daily living in their own homes - most are elderly.

"I was at work on the Tuesday and came home at lunchtime. It was pouring down rain.

"As soon as the water started to rise, my husband and I took our children to safety, saving as many of our children's belongings as possible.



"I ran out of time to save most of my belongings before we had to get out.

"By the time we got the car packed and got home from my mum's about 3.30pm, the water was up to the driveway."

The rental home they had lived in for 18 months gradually disappeared under the flood.

"It's quite a mess inside," Ms O'Doherty said.

"We got out mainly stuff for the kids and photos.

"We'll be looking for somewhere else to live.

"We got all our bond back because the house is unliveable."

Until they receive an insurance payout, which could take a month, the family is staying with Shannon's mother.

"Rhys is taking it a bit hard. He keeps asking 'when are we going home?'," Ms O'Doherty said.

Community Care manager Julie



CARE FACTOR: Flood victim Shannon O'Doherty, with her children Emmy and Rhys Denton, displays an amazing work ethic.

Photo: Sarah Harvey IPS030211SHAN09B

Ashby said Ms O'Doherty was among the heroic carers who decided to come to work under the most trying circumstances.

"It was hard to keep in touch

with all of our clients as some of them were evacuated to different locations," Ms Ashby said.

"But we did the best we could, bringing help and support to all

those who needed us.

"In some cases RSL Care staff had to help clients to evacuate their houses and escort them to their loved ones or safe ground."

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