



MontroseAccess

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Australian Therapy Attracts International Attention

A group of international visitors from Nepal have travelled 9,500 kilometres to Brisbane in the hope of learning from a Queensland based charity about how to look after children with neuromuscular diseases.

Three Directors from Muscular Dystrophy Nepal will arrive this weekend and spend several days with Corinda based charity MontroseAccess, which provides therapy, recreation and respite services to children and young adults with physical disabilities. The visitors plan to build their own centre in Kathmandu to help children with muscular dystrophy and are here to observe Australian practices from the best in the business.

MontroseAccess Client Services Manager, Clare Besly, said, "Our reputation as a leading service provider for young people with physical disabilities has crossed international boundaries because the support we offer is very unique. It's a holistic approach where we look after our clients and their families. If we can share our philosophy and practices with other nations to help improve people's quality of life, it's a great result. Let's not forget it's a two way street, this is a great learning opportunity for us as well."

Clare went on to say, "We focus on ability, not dwell on disability and for many families, we are the only service provider they can turn to. We provide a lot of our services in the community, supporting our clients at school, in their home and in the pursuit of their leisure activities."

In Australia, an estimated 20,000 people have a neuromuscular disease such as Duchene Muscular Dystrophy, a life limiting degenerative disease with no known cure. In Nepal, there are currently limited services to cater for such conditions.

"We have a long history in South-East Queensland dating back to 1933. We currently have more than 600 clients and are keen to share our experiences, but also there is a lot we can learn from our visitors as well. We can only hope this knowledge sharing exercise leads to improved quality of life for people with muscular dystrophy in Nepal and in Australia through partnerships and communication," Clare went on to say.

The visitors will attend one of MontroseAccess' annual Recreation Camps for 12-14 year olds on the Sunshine Coast. Heading to Currimundi Active Recreation Centre on Tuesday 21st September, they will be accompanied by recreation officers along with therapy staff. The camp gives parents respite and offers the kids entertainment as well as activities that improve their gross and fine motor skills as well as improving social communications. Activities include sand castle building and even a trip to Australia Zoo.

MontroseAccess offers a wide range of services ranging from physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy, right through to respite care and lifestyle and leisure services. MontroseAccess needs to fundraise nearly \$1.5-million every year to continue operating.

Media are invited to attend any of the activities on offer. The best opportunity would be on Monday at the MontroseAccess grounds at 54 Consort Street, Corinda. Please contact Adam Harper using the details below if you wish to attend any part of the Nepalese visit or the Recreation Camp.

MontroseAccess is a not-for-profit organisation that provides therapy and support services to children and young adults with physical disabilities throughout Queensland.

For further information, to arrange an interview or high res images, please feel free to contact MontroseAccess Communications Officer, Adam Harper, on (07) 3717 1184 or 0404 871 360 or email: aharper@montroseaccess.org.au