

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF THE COMMUNITY VISITORS SCHEME IN THE NT**

Anglicare NT is celebrating 25 years of delivering the Community Visitors Scheme (CVS) in the Northern Territory at Parliament House today. CVS is a national initiative connecting volunteer visitors with older people at risk of social or cultural isolation in aged care facilities or in their own home.

"Volunteer visitors make a world of difference to older people through sharing conversations, news, activities and friendship," said Anglicare NT CEO Dave Pugh.

"Many special connections have been made over the years between people of different ages through shared language, life experience or deep cultural understanding."

One volunteer drives 300km from Yuendumu to Alice Springs to 'jam' with his older friend. Another supported a participant to complete physiotherapy exercises, which has increased mobility and enabled him to garden with his wife again.

Wendy Portlouis has volunteered with CVS for 20 years. After relocating to Darwin and experiencing the complexities of making new friends in a transient city, the idea of becoming a volunteer visitor resonated with Wendy.

"Volunteering allows you to make a meaningful contribution, stay engaged and connected to your community. I will never forget some of the people I have visited over the years," said Ms Portlouis.

Anglicare NT has recruited, trained and supported thousands of volunteers since 1996 and currently offers the program in Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy.

"We are always looking for special Territorians who want to volunteer and make a difference in people lives. By befriending an older person, you can also add meaning and connection to your own life," said Mr Pugh.

For more information about volunteering with the Community Visitors Scheme, contact Anglicare NT on 8985 0000.

*The Community Visitors Scheme (CVS) is funded by the Australian Government.*

### **FOR COMMENTS OR INTERVIEWS**

To arrange an interview, please contact Anglicare NT media team.

### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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