



Media Release

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Residents supported to move homes

Frontier Services has made the decision to eventually close its Tracy Aged Care residential facility in Darwin.

The announcement was made to residents and staff yesterday. Uniting Church in Australia Northern Synod Moderator, Pastor Stuart McMillan, said no time limit has been set for the closure.

"This service has cared for many people in the community since it opened almost 40 years ago," Ps McMillan said.

"Staff members are committed to the care of residents, however the buildings can no longer support staff in providing the level of care residents need, particularly as their needs increase.

"It is challenging to incorporate modern equipment safely and comfortably into an ageing building which was not built for the modern standards of aged care residents now need.

"The facility has also struggled to maintain occupancy levels and consistent quality of care in recent years, and this has also impacted the service financially.

"Residents will be supported to move to new homes of their choice. They will be supported every step of the way.

"No time frame will be set for the closure until all residents have found new homes."

Robyn Batten, spokesperson for the Frontier Services on aged care in the Northern Territory, said all residents' relocations costs would be covered.

"We are confident we can offer all residents rooms either at other Frontier Services' homes or with other providers, though it is completely the choice of residents' and their representatives.

"Employees are also being supported and their skill and contribution is highly valued.

"Opportunities for redeployment will be discussed individually with team members and we hope permanent staff will consider other positions or accept our support to help find them new roles.

"An employment expo with other providers will also be staged onsite.

"To celebrate the care and history of Tracy a special thanksgiving service will be held with residents and staff at a date to be set."

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There are 30 residents at Tracy Aged Care Facility. There are 61 permanent, part-time and casual, staff members.

A new office will be sourced for community care staff who also work from the 87 Woods Street site.

Options for the site, including whether it can be sold, are still being explored.

Frontier Services' said they have no plans to close other homes.

Frontier Services is a major provider of care, health, family and community services, and pastoral support to people in remote Australia. Frontier Services is a charity and agency of the National Assembly of the Uniting Church.

For more information or to support the charity's work please visit <http://www.frontierservices.org/>.

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