

## Media Release

### **WA community organisations earn National healthcare accreditation**

Friday 1 February 2018

Two leading Western Australian organisations - Ruah Community Services and Outcare - have become the first community service providers to earn the tick of approval against National standards for healthcare and mental health services.

Representatives from the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) were in Perth yesterday to present Certificates of Accreditation to Ruah and Outcare against the National Safety and Quality Health Standards (NSQHS) - which were adapted for community services - and the National Mental Health Standards (NMHS).

Ruah Chief Executive Officer Debra Zanella said accreditation was a fitting recognition of the commitment and focus of staff in their work to support thousands of Western Australians every year who are experiencing homelessness, living with mental health issues or trying to escape domestic violence.

“The wellbeing of Ruah clients - and our vision to create a better, stronger community – are the key focus of everything we do. Our staff work very hard to empower and support people in need, delivering a high standard of care at all times,” Mrs Zanella said.

“Achieving National accreditation is an amazing recognition of our staff, not only for their commitment during the assessment and evaluation process, but also for their innovation in integrating Standards compliance measures into daily work practices.”

Chief Executive Officer at Outcare, Paul McMullan, welcomes the recognition of Outcare as an accredited healthcare and mental health service with the vision for a better life for the benefit of all Western Australians. Outcare helps build safer communities by providing accommodation, training and employment services to people in need.

“Our staff are skilled and passionate people who help to turn around the lives of those who need it most,” Mr McMullan said.

“We continue to deliver quality in all that we do. Achieving accreditation has recognised the important work our staff do each and every day to improve the lives of vulnerable Western Australians.”

ACHS accreditation is an assessment of excellence in health care and embeds a strong organisational focus for continuous improvement in the safety, quality and performance of healthcare organisations that deliver care to the community.

Both organisations are accredited for three years and share a continued commitment to high quality, safe healthcare for all of their clients.

## **ENDS**

### **About Ruah**

Ruah aims to empower vulnerable and disadvantaged people to create meaningful change in their lives through the provision of quality support services in the areas of housing and homelessness, family and domestic violence and mental health and wellness. Ruah's vision is to build flourishing communities through active participation and wellbeing of people with complex needs.

[ruah.org.au](http://ruah.org.au)

### **About Outcare**

Outcare is a community service provider that supports vulnerable Western Australians by providing accommodation, training and employment services which help build safer communities. We are a group of skilled and passionate people who help to turn our clients' lives around at a time when they need it most.

[outcare.com.au](http://outcare.com.au)

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