

# MEDIA RELEASE

## For immediate release

From: Kasey McCulloch, Media Officer, Mercy Health

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### Intergenerational playgroups bring joy to young and old

Mercy Health is passionate about keeping aged care residents connected to their local community and intergenerational playgroups are just one way we are achieving that goal.

Intergenerational playgroups bring together very young and older people to encourage friendships, help prevent feelings of isolation and simply bring a smile to the faces of both aged care residents and children.

Mercy Health Lifestyle and Volunteer Manager Karren Gooding said the concept of intergenerational playgroups is a relatively new one but the feedback from participants so far has been overwhelmingly positive.

“We trialled the playgroups at Mercy Place Rice Village in Geelong and Mercy Place Parkville last year and they were a hit with everyone who took part,” Ms Gooding said.

“Mercy Health is trialling the playgroups at more residential aged care homes in 2016, including Sandringham, Werribee and Montrose, with the aim of eventually making them a permanent fixture at all of our homes.”

Local families are encouraged to attend one of the following Mercy Health intergenerational playgroup sessions:

- Mercy Place Wyndham, Wednesday 20 January, 11.00am
- Mercy Place Fernhill, Tuesday 16 February, 11.00am
- Mercy Place Montrose, Monday 15 February, 11.00am

For more information about the intergenerational playgroups or to register your interest, please call 8416 7777.

– Ends –

For interviews and photo opportunities, please contact:

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