

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

From: Kasey McCulloch, Media Officer, Mercy Health

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Federal Senator visits Mercy Place Parkville to trial virtual reality glasses

The Shadow Assistant Minister for Aged Care who will help shape policies for older Australians visited Mercy Place Parkville aged care home on Thursday 4 August 2016.

Tasmanian Senator Helen Polley MP was able to see first the hand the excitement and benefits of the residents who use virtual reality glasses to travel to exotic places like Africa and Venice.

The virtual reality glasses have been rolled out to Mercy Health's 22 aged care homes across Australia with thanks to funding from Equity Trustees, Campbell Edwards Trust, Mazda Foundation, Jack Brockhoff Foundation, and other private donors. The 3D glasses not only provide entertainment but also stimulate reminiscence and conversations with residents who otherwise might have trouble communicating.

Mercy Health Group Chief Executive Officer Adjunct Professor Stephen Cornelissen welcomed Senator Polley's visit to the home and said it was nice to be able to showcase just one of the ways Mercy Health is helping residents stay socially connected and engaged.

"Our person centred model of care means we are constantly looking at new ways to support, stimulate and empower our residents," Adjunct Professor Cornelissen said.

"At all of our homes we ensure residents have a wide variety of activities and a range of support, so they can continue to enjoy life to the fullest."

Mercy Health has 22 residential aged care homes across Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia, providing compassionate care to more than 1,800 people every day.

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