



May 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Windermere wins Rotary Community Services Award

The second annual Rotary Community Service Awards was held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre on 3 May 2011. The gala event brought together community service agencies and the businesses and organisations that support them, formally acknowledging their amazing contributions and showcasing some of their wonderful work.

Windermere Child and Family Services with their sponsor Sunshine and Crocodiles Foundation through the Melbourne Community Foundation, were announced as Winners of the Rotary Community Service Awards last week. The award recognised the partnership between Windermere, Cardinia Shire Council, Monash University, their sponsor and the schools involved in the project '**Building Harmony in the Growth Corridor**'. The project works with the four faith based private schools and a public primary school in the developing area of Officer to build an environment of respect for different race, religion and culture. The area is predicted to be part of one of a significantly growing CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) population. The aim of this action research project is to prevent and measure potential racial attitudes that may develop in a new community. The project team are working towards building and fostering healthy communities by engaging early with people of diverse cultural and religious backgrounds moving in this new growth corridor.

Winning the award is due to the vision, hard work, passion and commitment of Serap Ozdemir, Manager Business Development and Special Projects for Windermere, the School Principals, Cardinia Shire and incredible support from the Melbourne Community Foundation and the sponsor Sunshine and Crocodiles Foundation, headed by Pam Usher who is a Windermere Board Member.

Windermere received the major prize of \$15,000 which will go directly into the Building Harmony in the Growth Corridor project.

About Windermere

Windermere improves wellbeing in children, families and communities by helping to realize their potential, building resilience and connecting people in the community. Windermere is also the largest independent welfare agency in Melbourne's South-East. We are also Victoria's oldest charity with a heritage back to 1851. Today, we continue to help the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children and families in the community. We operate from 21 locations and 10 municipalities serving a population of over 1.2 million people. Windermere address: 48 Webb Street, Narre Warren 3805

For interviews or for more information contact:

Carina Tomietto

Windermere Child and Family Services

Phone: 03 9705 3200

carina.tomietto@windermere.org.au

www.windermere.org.au

Attached: Award Photograph



From Left to Right:

Serap Ozdemir, Carrolyn Agius, Simon Greely, Judy Linossier, Pam Usher, David Gleeson, Sue Nelson, Rashadan Rashid, Cheryl DeZilwa