



## MEDIA RELEASE

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# Parkerville Children and Youth Care to launch new Mid West Centre

Parkerville Children and Youth Care Inc. ("Parkerville") has today announced a partnership with Karara and Aurizon to co-fund and assist in the establishment of a new Murchison Family Support Network in Geraldton.

The landmark partnership has seen Karara and Aurizon, with support from Bis Industries and GCo Electrical, help to source a building for the new Murchison Family Support Network, to be called Karara House, while also contributing to the operating costs for the facility, estimated at \$250,000 a year.

Parkerville has had services in Geraldton for the past 18 months caring for and treating children experiencing trauma from abuse with just five staff. They have now moved into the upgraded premises and will have expanded to 15 staff members by end of April when the new Family support services will commence.

As a result of this partnership, Parkerville – which is one of Western Australia's oldest non-Government organisations dedicated to providing care and protection to children and young people in need – will be able to significantly expand and improve its Mid West services.

The Murchison Family Support Network will be the second of its kind in WA, following the establishment of Australia's first Child Advocacy Centre by Parkerville in Armadale in 2011, and a joint government and non-government Family Support Network in 2012. The services will be tailored to suit the specific needs of Geraldton and its surrounding communities.

Parkerville Chief Executive Basil Hanna said the partnership was crucial in assisting children and families impacted by abuse or potential abuse to obtain much-needed support.

"Geraldton is a rapidly growing city and with more people in the community also comes an increase in family problems, however community resources haven't been growing with it, so we identified a real need for increased services in the region," he said.

"The partnership with Karara and Aurizon is very exciting. Too often we see children and young people in crisis who don't know where to go. The new Geraldton premises and operational funding allows us to support a greater number of children and families as well provide the Mid West communities with much needed assistance."

The Murchison Family Support Network will focus services on families who are vulnerable or in crisis and those at risk of child abuse and neglect through targeted services that support families and children to address identified risks and prevent them from escalating.

Services will also focus on families in which the child or young person has experienced trauma from abuse by preventing abuse from re-occurring and to alleviate the impacts of abuse and neglect.

The partnership will mean that the Geraldton centre will be able to design and implement more services for children and the abused as well as meet the needs of the community.

The Department for Child Protection has committed to supporting the commencement of this model in Geraldton, due to the significant need in the Mid West and Murchison areas and the early successes generated from the inaugural site in Armadale.

The Board of Parkerville Children and Youth Care is also committed to this model and is aiming to expand it throughout Australia as an innovative approach to the care and treatment of children and young people who have experienced trauma from abuse.

Karara Mining Limited (KML) CEO, Stephen Murdoch, said the Karara Community Health Fund (through which Karara's contribution has been made) had already proven to be a highly successful initiative providing much needed support and resources to improve the health – mental, physical and emotional – of Mid West communities.

“The Karara Community Health Fund has been extremely pro-active in launching initiatives, but we have also relied heavily on the financial support of our own business partners. Like Karara they have a long term future in the Mid West and see this as a critically important area of community support.”

Ken Lewsey, Aurizon's Executive Vice President Business Development, said that the national company with local operations saw the partnership with Parkerville and customer Karara as an important step in its ongoing contribution to the Mid West.

“Parkerville's services help develop and support healthy communities which is a key priority for Aurizon when selecting organisations and programs to support.”

Specialist logistics and materials handling group Bis Industries has a long term contract to provide a complete tailings management system for Karara and has made a significant commitment to the Parkerville partnership. Also pledging a commitment has been Geraldton-based infrastructure and industrial specialists GCo Electrical.

## **Background**

### **Parkerville Child Family Centres**

The Child and Family Centre has a specific set of services available to a child and their family, whereby assessment can be completed and access to the individual services that are needed can be provided. Services can be accessed via telephone, walk-in or by referral through the Department of Child Protection.

Currently, there is only one existing service of this kind in Western Australia: the first was opened by the Premier and Minister for Child Protection within the George Jones Child Advocacy Centre in Armadale, Western Australia – named after the Chairman of Gindalbie Metals, Mr George Jones AM.

### **Karara Mining Limited**

Gindalbie and leading Chinese iron ore and steel group Ansteel are the co-owners of Karara Mining.

Mr Jones, who was a former resident of Parkerville Children and Youth Care for eight years in the 1950s, joined the Parkerville Board in 2001 and has been a major donor and contributor to the growth of the organisation over the past 15 years.

#### *Karara Community Health Fund*

The Karara Community Health Fund, officially launched last year, was implemented to provide a co-funding source for the communities surrounding Geraldton to secure Government funding for health related infrastructure.

The health fund has been supported through employee fundraising activities, key contactor partners and innovative revenue generators such as selling scrap metal to metal recycling facilities and sales of sandalwood collected on farming properties owned by KML.

Its first major project was the launch last year of a new Mobile Dental and Primary Healthcare Clinic, in partnership with the Royal Flying Doctor Service. The Clinic will be operating later this year.

#### **Aurizon**

Aurizon is Australia's largest rail freight company with services operating across five states. In 2011/12, Aurizon transported more than 250 million tonnes of freight, including coal, iron ore, other minerals, agricultural products and general freight. The company also operates and manages the 2,670 kilometre Central Queensland Coal Network that links mines to coal ports at Bowen, Mackay and Gladstone. Previously known as QR National, Aurizon has more than 147 years of rail freight industry experience.

#### *Aurizon Giving Fund*

Aurizon supports the communities in which it operates through means such as local employment, training and the Community Giving Fund for registered charities across Australia. Aurizon's Community Giving Fund is a bi-annual round of cash grants of up to \$20,000. The current round is open for with applications accepted until Friday 26 April 2013. Visit [www.aurizon.com.au/community](http://www.aurizon.com.au/community).

#### **ENDS**

#### **Released by :**

Nicholas Read  
Read Corporate  
Telephone: (+61-8) 9388 1474  
Mobile: (+61) 419 929 046

#### **On behalf of:**

Mr Steve Murdoch  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Karara Mining Limited  
(+618) 6298 1888

External Relations  
Aurizon  
0438 304 990  
media@aurizon.com.au

