

# MEDIA RELEASE

## For immediate release

From: Kasey McCulloch, Media Officer, Mercy Health

Date: Thursday 8 September, 2016

---

## Wisdom of the elders unveiled at Mercy Place Wyndham

A group of Werribee high school students has helped create a thought provoking photographic exhibition of Mercy Place Wyndham residents.

The year 11 MacKillop College students were invited to capture images of the aged care residents during one of their weekly reflection sessions organised by pastoral care associate Susan Frykberg.

Each Monday Susan meets with residents to discuss a topic of interest, which includes everything from winter to loneliness and love.

“I usually create a two page collection of quotes on each subject, which I take from a variety of sources ranging from the Bible to movie stars,” explained Susan.

“The residents and I then spend an hour discussing the topic and responding to the quotes. Occasionally we even break into song.”

Susan was so impressed with the wisdom residents were sharing during these sessions, that she started collecting the quotes.

“I thought the residents’ advice was too good not to share. On the theme of tragedy, one resident said “My tragedy happened 40 years ago, yet even now, each day I have to keep accepting it”. On learning, a 96-year-old resident’s mantra was “Each day, you should learn a new thing”.”

Susan then came up with the idea for an art project titled *Reflections - The Wisdom of the Elders* and invited Vocational Education and Training (VET) media students to photograph the residents.

A photographic exhibition consisting of large black and white photos combined with each resident’s quote was unveiled on Monday 5 September in front of residents, staff and Mackillop College students.

“The exhibition is truly something special and it’s been a wonderful intergenerational experience for both our residents and local teenagers to work on together,” said Susan.

– Ends –

**Kasey McCulloch**

Media Officer

Mercy Health

Ph: 03 8416 7521

Mobile: 0477 720 337

Email: [KMcculloch@mercy.com.au](mailto:KMcculloch@mercy.com.au)