

Norfolk Island Regional Council

MEDIA RELEASE

APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHILD WELFARE OFFICER

The Norfolk Island Regional Council (NIRC) is pleased to announce the recent commencement of Dr Kate Lemerle to the position of Child Welfare Officer. Kate will be in the role on a six-month contract to oversee services for children and families, and can be contacted directly on mobile 51115.

Kate has recently moved from Brisbane to Norfolk Island after visiting regularly over the past few years. She is a Psychologist by training and has previously worked with autistic children and their families, set up support services in a women's refuge to help kids adjust to family breakdown, and designed a school-based program to strengthen resilience in children from refugee backgrounds. Kate has also worked in community development roles, including setting up Healthy Cities in south west NSW and evaluating the Health Promoting Schools program for her doctoral research.

'One of my first goals is making it easier for the community to seek help when it's needed', Kate said, 'I'd like to hear from the community to find out what children, young people and families think could be done to make Norfolk Island the best place in the world for kids. Soon, we'll hold public meetings where the community can share their ideas as well as finding out from the children what they think will help them grow into well-functioning adults. In addition, I'll be offering workshops to help the community understand the steps to take for managing situations where children's wellbeing is at risk'.

Kate can be contacted directly on 51115 or email kate.lemerle@nirc.gov.nf to book an appointment to meet and share ideas or suggestions.

Lotta Jackson
General Manager

21 October 2016