



THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

“It’s a privilege to be here”: new counsellor starts work

The Minister for Community Services, David Buffett, has welcomed to Norfolk Island Ms Kathryn Parle, the new generalist counsellor. Kathryn said today that it was a privilege to be in Norfolk and that she had already commenced her work of providing counselling for any community member in need.

Kathryn has extensive experience in social work and counselling, including many years of telephone counselling and training of other counsellors for Lifeline in New South Wales. Her career in personal, relationship and crisis counselling has spanned a wide range of specialist areas including grief and loss, alcohol and other drug addictions, domestic violence, mental health issues and suicide prevention.

Kathryn is looking forward to her work in Norfolk Island, not least because she has a deep love of the sea. “I even spent a few months working on a fishing trawler as a cook and deckhand”, she said.

Mr Buffett said that Kathryn had a wide range of social work skills that would be of great benefit to the Norfolk Island community. “We are delighted to welcome Kathryn Parle to our team of health and social work professionals,” he said. “I know that the Norfolk Island community will extend to her its traditional hospitality and will wish her every success in this challenging role”.

Anyone wishing to seek counselling or advice can contact Kathryn on 23191 between 8.30 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. Monday to Friday, or leave a message on her answering service. After hours urgent or crisis counselling may be arranged by contacting 80246. Kathryn will also accept referrals from health professionals, teachers and other community members.

Counselling meetings are free of charge and can be arranged with complete confidentiality at a choice of locations. To assist in preserving confidentiality and a high level of professional service, Kathryn will obtain peer support and supervision from sources in Australia.

David Buffett
Minister for Community Services

12th May 2006