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SILVER CHAIN CELEBRATES 110 YEARS OF CARE

This year, not-for-profit community health and care provider, Silver Chain, is celebrating 110 years of caring for Western Australians.

The iconic Western Australian organisation, which started in 1905 as a small district nursing service, today cares for more than 60,000 people across the state.

Silver Chain Group Chief Executive Officer, Christopher McGowan, said Silver Chain has grown from humble beginnings to become a leading provider of quality care services.

“We are proud to have supported generations of people to remain happy and healthy in their own homes and communities for so many years,” Mr McGowan said.

“As we celebrate this milestone we took the opportunity to look back on our years of history so we could really acknowledge how far we have come as an organisation.”

Silver Chain’s journey began in The Western Mail with Muriel Chase, a journalist who wrote the newspaper’s Children’s Corner and had a loyal following of young readers.

She decided to form a club to bring her readers together and the silver shilling they each donated to become a member would be used to perform some good for those in need.

The children became known as ‘links’ of the Silver Chain club and their first task was to use money donated to throw a Christmas Party for Perth’s poorest children.

Following the success of the party, membership grew to 1,500 and soon after they had enough money to employ Silver Chain’s first full time district nurse. And the organisation grew from there.

“With our years of experience, Silver Chain has grown to become one of the largest providers of health and care services in Australia,” Mr McGowan explained.

“Whilst our origins are in nursing, today we also provide a range of other services, including home care and support services, hospital in the home, palliative care and allied health services such as physiotherapy and podiatry.”

In 2011, Silver Chain merged with RDNS in South Australia to form the Silver Chain Group.

The Group currently delivers services in Western Australia, Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia, providing care to more than 84,000 people across Australia.

“We have a rich history of helping those in need and as we look to the future, we look forward to caring for Western Australians for many more years to come.”

For more information about Silver Chain services, contact our Contact Centre, which operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week on (08) 9242 0242 (or country callers on 1300 650 803).

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Media Contact

Laura Wilson, Team Leader – Communications, Silver Chain

T (08) 6318 7621 | M 0408 585 853 | E laura.wilson@silverchain.org.au

About Silver Chain Group

In September 2011, Silver Chain in Western Australia and RDNS in South Australia, two like-minded not-for-profit organisations, merged to become one of the largest in-home health and care providers in Australia. With over 2,940 staff, 400 volunteers, the Group assists over 83,000 people to remain living in their homes and community every year.

The Silver Chain Group's purpose is to build community capacity to optimise health and wellbeing. This is the core of which we are as an organisation and will help shape the future of in-home community care across Australia. For more information, please see www.silverchain.org.au.