

## MEDIA RELEASE

**Embargoed until 12.01pm on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October**

### **Rocky's local baton bearer announced**

Friday 23 March will be a memorable experience for local legend Diana Wode as she proudly carries the Queen's Baton through Rockhampton on its 100-day journey to the Opening Ceremony of the XXI Commonwealth Games.

For 250 metres, Diana will do her region proud as her outstanding commitment and dedication to helping others is recognised.

As a volunteer of 37 years who has raised funds for local families in need, Diana has coordinated fashion parades, charity auctions, raffles and cent sales for Anglicare Central Queensland.

Much of the money raised has been directed towards supporting Anglicare's Adopt a Family Christmas hampers – ensuring that hope is provided to families and individuals needing it the most during the festive season.

Anglicare Central Queensland CEO, Suzie Christensen says that Diana truly embodies the spirit of Central Queensland and is thrilled that Diana's achievements are being celebrated in this way.

"It is wonderful to give back to someone who, throughout her life, has given so much to so many people," said Ms Christensen.

Diana was selected alongside 3800 bearers to carry the baton across Australia – a group of individuals who inspire others to be great.

Upon receiving the good news, Diana reflected on her childhood, alongside her four sisters (two who have only recently passed), as her mother 'did it tough', and wishes there had been the support back then that is now available through organisations such as Anglicare Central Queensland.

Through their family's hardship, Diana's mother managed to pass on something incredible to her daughter – the gift of helping others.

Generally one to keep a low profile, Diana couldn't be prouder to signify the Commonwealth Games by representing Rockhampton in March.

Diana said that she owes much of her passion and commitment to her husband Clyde who has walked alongside her through everything she has achieved.

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“I always said to Clyde, that if ever we could afford to help people, through time or money, that we would,” shares Mrs Wode.

“He has been my rock and this humbling acknowledgement belongs to him aswell.”

“The community needs to know that there are people out there who care,” said Diana.

“Joining an organisation such as Anglicare has truly fulfilled my life and given me purpose.”

Anglicare Central Queensland will be among the crowd cheering on Diana as she takes on the baton relay route, contributing to what will be the biggest sporting event in a decade in Australia.

-ENDS-

**For more information and to arrange a photo opportunity, contact Alyssah Anderson on 4837 5390 or [aanderson@anglicarecq.org.au](mailto:aanderson@anglicarecq.org.au).**