



## NEW FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS SAVE CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Canberra's traditional community Christmas lunch will be celebrated again this year thanks to the support of the Capital Region Community Foundation and the Snow Foundation.

Established six years ago, St John's Reid Christmas lunch was at risk of being cancelled because of a lack of funding.

However, that was overcome when the two Canberra based Foundations agreed to a new funding partnership which will enable St John's to continue to host its traditional Christmas lunch again this year.

A cheque for \$5,000 was handed over to St John's today (Monday, December 8) by the Snow Foundation's Executive Director, Georgina Byron, and the Capital Region's chair, Margaret Reid.

"We are delighted to help this special and important initiative which supports so many local people who often find Christmas a difficult and lonely time," Ms Byron said. "I congratulate St John's Care and the 60 dedicated volunteers who kindly give up their Christmas Day to support their fellow citizens."

Around 400 people attend St John's community Christmas lunch to enjoy a turkey and ham meal cooked by the catering staff of Burgmann College and served by an army of around 60 volunteers.

With good food, good company and good music, this is a special day for those who want company on Christmas Day, St John's Sue Jordan said.

"St John's also runs a Christmas Present and Food room from today where parents can find children's gifts and food for their families. No checkout registry is required and parents can also gift wrap their choices," she said.

The Capital Region Community Foundation also known as GreaterGood is a public charitable trust established in 2003 to support the projects, activities and charities which seek to address the region's most pressing social issues.

The Snow Foundation was established 17 years ago by brothers Terry and George Snow to benefit the disadvantaged in Canberra.

WHERE: at St John's Care, 43 Constitution Ave, Reid.

WHEN: Monday 8 December at 10.30am

Media welcome.

More information: Contact Bea Brickhill: 0408 741 534/Georgina Byron : 0417 227 506/Diane Kargas 0407 742 108.