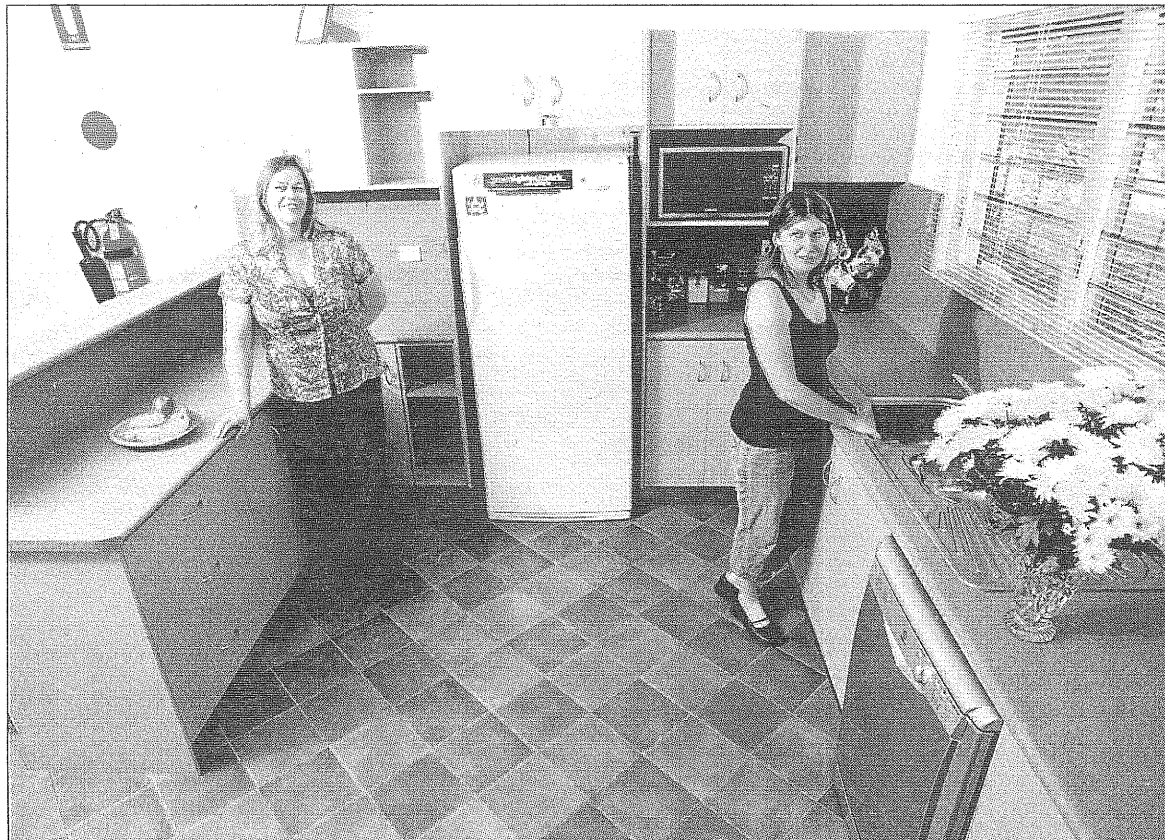


Makeover for respite house



By EMMA CHADWICK

CENTACARE'S respite house is on the lookout for clients after receiving a modern new facelift at its purpose-built house in Railway Estate.

Centacare's disabilities services program manager Pam Spelling said the \$30,000 upgrade included new furniture and had made the house much more user friendly, modern and more like a family home.

Mrs Spelling said the house had 24 registered guests who accessed the house at different times but said there was plenty of room to welcome new families.

The house has professional and welcoming support workers and so it can provide anything from day respite for families of children or adults with disabilities to overnight stays.

"We are staffed 24/7 by disability support workers and we have a respite house supervisor Mrs Antje Malan," Mrs Spelling said.

"We have vacancies, we are looking for more families to register with us."

Mrs Spelling said there was also afterschool respite stays and Centacare provided some local transport to the house and weekend and school holiday respite care.

"We have had a complete upgrade of the kitchen with new appliances, oven, hotplates, new dishwasher and new floor coverings, a pantry and benchtops," she said.

"The building is 21 years old and it was in need of an overhaul and the design was not very workable for the supervision of our guests, so that has very much improved.

"It is all very modern with neutral colours and more benchspace for our staff and guests to work in."

Mrs Spelling said the upgrade had been made possible thanks to the Gambling Community Benefit Fund.

"We also received money from the Breakwater Trust for a new plush leather lounge suite and computer," she said.

"An electric leather lift-recliner chair was bought with fundraising money raised from the Sacred Heart Cathedral congregation, Townsville Bishop Michael Putney and Centacare staff."

The house was purpose-built in 1989 in response to a dire need for disability respite services for Townsville families.

Call Centacare on 4772 9000 and ask for Pam Spelling or Antje Malan.

NICE . . . Antja Milan and Toni Lindridge show off renovations to Centacare's respite house kitchen