

Media Release

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 2017



Irene breaks another sky diving record

Irene O'Shea has jumped into the history books – again - by jumping 14,000 feet from a plane at the age of 101.

Irene, who is an ACH Group Home Care Package customer, was already South Australia's oldest sky diver after jumping to celebrate her 100th birthday last year.

The latest jump, which was postponed five times due to strong winds, makes her the oldest woman in the world to sky dive.

She had hoped to become the oldest person with the jump, but that record was snatched by UK war veteran Verdun Hayes in May this year.

Mrs O'Shea, who still drives and reads without glasses, hasn't ruled out having another crack at that record later in the year.

"I might jump again if I'm keeping well, my brain is still working and I'm in good health," she said after her latest jump. "I've had too hard a life to give up easily."

Many of Irene's family, including grandchildren and great-grandchildren, came along to watch Irene make the latest attempt.

As well as fulfilling a personal ambition, Irene's jumps are to raise money for Motor Neurone Disease (MND) research. Tragically, Irene lost her daughter Shelagh to Motor Neurone Disease in 2008.

Her latest jump was aired on Channel 9 news across the country and she appeared on 'The Today Show', New Idea magazine, ABC radio and The Adelaide Advertiser.

Her story is all the more remarkable given that she broke her hip in a fall earlier this year. Irene admits to being a 'bit of a daredevil' – she enjoyed a ride as a pillion passenger on a Harley Davidson motorbike at 92 years young in the UK.

Irene has been a customer with ACH Group since September 2014.

She lives at home independently with support from ACH Group including shopping, domestic help and gardening.

To contribute to Irene's MND fund, please visit <https://give.everydayhero.com/au/irene-s-skydive-for-motor-neurone-disease-research>

To date, she has raised over \$7,000 for the charity.

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About ACH Group

ACH Group is a not-for-profit aged care organisation that has been offering services to support good lives for older people in South Australia since 1952. As well as accommodation options across Adelaide, the Fleurieu Peninsula and East Melbourne, the group offers a range of health, wellbeing, respite and support services, help at home and social activities. Our 1700 specialist staff and hundreds of volunteers share the belief that older people should be valued and respected, connected to their communities and in control of their lives.

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