

# Media Release

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**December 2019**



## New dog park to create connections

A new dog park at Port Noarlunga is set to get tails wagging and create community connections at ACH Group's Perry Park.

Located alongside the Perry Park residential care home and adjoining retirement living units on Murray Road and Riverview Drive, the park has been created in an enclosed communal space with a barbecue and seating, shading and dog water fountain.

ACH Group's CEO, Frank Weits, said it was hoped the park would bring together owners of dogs and others in the community.

"For many people, young and old, our dogs can be a connection point, a way of bringing people together, starting a conversation and helping people form new relationships," he said. "Pets are our companions, they can reduce loneliness and depression, relieve stress, lower blood pressure, provide opportunities for social interaction and exercise, a sense of purpose and belonging."

Residents also experience other benefits living in retirement villages as they can make use of a range of shared spaces, like Perry Park's new dog park. Common spaces and activities, whether they be a BBQ area, a community hall or a simple park bench make catching up with neighbors easy; helping to connect and bring people together and reducing social isolation and loneliness.

"ACH Group is committed to providing good lives for older people, which includes connecting and supporting our communities to be as healthy and happy as possible."

City of Onkaparinga Mayor Erin Thompson and ACH Group CEO Frank Weits officially opened the park at Perry Park Retirement Living Village Murray Road this week.

Residents from the village together with their dogs Bertie, Benji, Scruffy, Roxy, Holly, Olly and friends joined in the opening, enjoying 'puppuccinos', dog treats and free vet checks.

ACH Group allows people to bring a small pet with them when they move into most Retirement Living locations across South Australia and Victoria.

\*End Media Release\*

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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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