

# Service for domestic violence extended in CH

## Xstrata funds Centacare program

By DI STANLEY

DOMESTIC and family violence is a significant issue within the Emerald community that warrants ongoing support, according to State Government Department of Communities Minister Karen Struthers.

Ms Struthers said in the 2008/09 financial year, there were 78 domestic violence protection orders made in the Emerald Magistrate's Court, along with 27 temporary orders issued.

"So that's 100 or more contacts through the court where people have needed an order and it's certainly significant," she said.

Ms Struthers was in Emerald last Friday to launch the Emerald outreach domestic violence service in partnership with Xstrata, a company she acknowledged as recognising its social responsibility.

While the former social worker joked there was "nothing sexy" about domestic



■ **SUPPORT NETWORK:** Minister Karen Struthers with Centacare regional director Ricky Jeffrey, Senior Sergeant Graeme Reeves, Xstrata's Narelle Wolfe, and Centacare Emerald's Kate Venables and Sue Manthey.

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violence, she also noted research had shown it was no more prominent in mining communities.

"And it is no more prominent in regions like Emerald and surrounds, but I think there's certainly more time-added pressures with families moving around that don't have that initial support," she said.

"And when they're doing the fly-in, fly-out, there are other pressures on them.

"But you've certainly got a significant problem here."

Centacare's diocesan director Ricky Jeffrey praised the program's extension through the new partnership with Xstrata and the Central Queensland staff whose 'enthusiasm for their work is

contagious'.

"It's emotional work but our staff love working with the service," she said.

"They love to see someone who has experienced isolation at many levels, grab hold of life and run with it."

Ms Struthers has mooted the idea of empowering police to issue temporary domestic violence orders.