

# Night angels off to a flying start

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LENDING a helping hand to a drunken reveller or two will be all in a night's work for Cairns' newly minted street chaplains.

The service, which was originally founded in Brisbane by senior chaplain Lance Mergard 12 years ago, began in the CBD last night after 10 street chaplains were officially inducted.

Cairns Street Chaplains coordinator Carol Christopher said there had been an enthusiastic response from police, nightclub owners and security staff for their services on the streets of Cairns.

"We've had amazing support from the community, from the mayor right through to all of the services," Ms Christopher said.

"We don't preach or proselytise. We are simply there to help, to be problem solvers and be peacekeepers."

Ms Christopher said her volunteers would be "looking out for vulnerable people on the street" who could possibly be affected by drugs and alcohol.

"We'll look after them and do



**Helping hands:** Cairns Street Chaplains Carol and Angela will patrol the CBD nightclub precinct offering support to revellers.

Picture: MARC McCORMACK

basic first aid where it's necessary," she said.

"It's all about working with other services – police, taxis, venue and street security – to make sure everybody's safe on the street and to get them home safely."

Ms Christopher said the service had 12 volunteer chaplains ready to pound the pavement and

several more currently in training.

Once they have enough volunteers, the chaplains will patrol the CBD nightclub precinct every Friday and Saturday from 11pm to 5am.

►► For more information, head to [cairnschurches.net.au/index.php/street-chaplains](http://cairnschurches.net.au/index.php/street-chaplains)