



THRIVE
 AUTUMN 2015



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 ISSUE**

**ESCAPING THE CYCLE OF DEBT
 ANGLICARE HELPS PARENTS SUCCEED
 SHARE THE BENEFIT**

ANGLICARE
 NSW SOUTH, NSW WEST & ACT





CEO'S MESSAGE

Lily accepting the Outstanding Achievement Award at the Night of the Stars.

Welcome to Thrive! Previously known as Matrix, we have chosen to rename our newsletter "Thrive" as it captures our vision for our communities, and the people we support. Anglicare's mission is to provide holistic care and support to vulnerable people so they can become thriving participants in their communities.

The transformative effect this mission can have in the lives of individual people was brought home to me very powerfully this month at a very special event in Sydney.

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The highlight of my year is attending the Night of the Stars. Akin to a "prom" or "formal", Anglicare puts on this function each year, thanks to the financial support of our corporate sponsor Bartercard, to celebrate the achievements of young people from our St Saviours residential out of home care service. Some of these young people come from the most traumatising backgrounds you can imagine. They are growing up without any family supports at all, and this is where Anglicare steps in providing 24/7 accommodation and support.

This year I was especially proud to present the Outstanding Achievement Award to 18 year old Lily (pictured above). Lily's achievements are truly extraordinary for someone who has spent six years in residential care. She gained the highest HSC result from her High School and has won a scholarship to Sydney University where she will study Psychology. Lily is a uniquely gifted young person and she deserves every accolade she has received for her dedication and hard work to overcome her challenging upbringing. That said, her achievements are also a testament to the stability and culture of support provided by our staff at St Saviours.

One of the biggest issues facing these young people is the anxiety they feel as they approach their 18th birthday. On this date they cease to be a ward of the State and the Government withdraws OOHC funding support. Recent research has shown that about half of young people who leave the Care and Protection system end up homeless. Is this any surprise? Public housing is unavailable and private rental is unobtainable without a secure job and rental history to provide referees. Very few high school leavers could survive without parental support in today's high cost, high unemployment environment.

As a result we have initiated an 18 month pilot "Leaving Care" program to provide housing and case support to assist young people leaving St Saviours to move slowly into independence. The aim of the program is to gradually withdraw supports as the young person becomes engaged in a stable career pathway and can financially support themselves. We are currently able to support about a dozen young people to transition from care into adult independence. Lily is one of the young people we are continuing to support through this pilot program.

Yours Sincerely,

Jeremy Halcrow
Chief Executive Officer, Anglicare

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ANGLICARE

NATIONAL APOLOGY ANNIVERSARY

Staff members attended services across our region to recognise the seven year anniversary of the formal apology in Federal Parliament to the Stolen Generations of Australians on Friday 13 February.

The impact of the forced removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families and their country continues to profoundly impact communities across the nation in the present day.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS RAISE FUNDS FOR ANGLICARE

A big thanks to St Paul's Ginninderra Parish, Sally and her neighbours Bev and Kevin Rogers, who raised over \$1000 at Christmas time! The Rogers' showed off an amazing light display in their front yard, while the Parish offered free drinks and nibbles and collected donations for Anglicare from the community at the same time. Great work!

INDIGENOUS ADVANCEMENT STRATEGY FUNDING

The Youth at Risk program, which has been a strong presence in Wagga for nearly a decade, has secured funding for three additional years under the Government's new Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS).

'Youth at Risk' aims to intervene in the lives of young people at risk of entering the justice system.

The Youth at Risk Team is committed to working to support vulnerable Indigenous young people to engage in more positive life opportunities including their education, special interests and hobbies and assisting them to develop strong connections with their culture and community.

Meanwhile, a new program 'Learning for Life', aimed at providing early intervention services, has also secured some initial base funding for 18 months under the IAS to be trialled at sites in Wagga, Leeton and Griffith.



Tash and her daughter Tori celebrating the opening of the Googong Anglican School.



Tamara playing guitar with her son Angus at the Googong ELC.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE ANGLICAN SCHOOL GOOGONG

Dignitaries and families came together to officially open the Googong Anglican School in February 2015. The ceremony celebrated the partnership between Anglicare's Early Learning Centre and the school.

Mother of two, Tamara Bundy, was there to support her two children including three year old Angus, who attends the Early Learning Centre.

"We are 300m from the School," she said. "The kids love riding their bikes and in the coming years they will be able to walk on their own."

Tash Hall attended the opening with her four year-old daughter, Tori.

"The biggest drawcards for my husband and I are the small class sizes and quality teaching staff," she said.

The Googong ELC is the eighth run by Anglicare in NSW and the ACT and has been designed with a focus on nature to promote a stimulating and inclusive early learning environment.

The centre caters for 44 children in a variety of flexible care arrangements including before and after school care, vacation care, long day care and pre-school sessions for four year olds.



Mikayla enjoying the HIPPY program induction with her daughter Amayah-Keé.

ANGLICARE HELPS FAMILIES SUCCEED

Thanks to an early education program run by Anglicare, Mikayla is ensuring her three year old daughter, Amayah-Lee has the best start in life.

Amayah-Lee will start school at Mount Austin Public in Wagga next year, but this year she will begin learning, exploring and trying new things to give her a good learning foundation to enter Kindergarten.

"I'm looking forward to spending time with Amayah and taking her through the booklets," mother of two, Mikayla said.

The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY) is run by Anglicare Riverina at the Ashmont Community Resource Centre in Wagga.

This year, the fourth group of children have begun the free two year program that empowers parents and carers to be their child's first teacher and help them prepare for school.

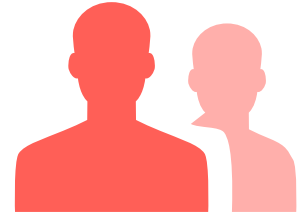
The program increases the chances of positive early learning experiences and can improve learning by 30 per cent in some youngsters.

In Wagga, 70 per cent of the 2015 intake of families engaged in HIPPY are Aboriginal.

Coordinator, Roanna Sanbrook says it's an outstanding program because it engages parents and their kids.

"It gives parents a confidence boost and we see them go on to help other families within the community," she said.

"Wagga is one of 100 sites in Australia running the program and we have some of the highest retention and recruitment rates in the country."



50% of HIPPY tutors are Aboriginal*



100%

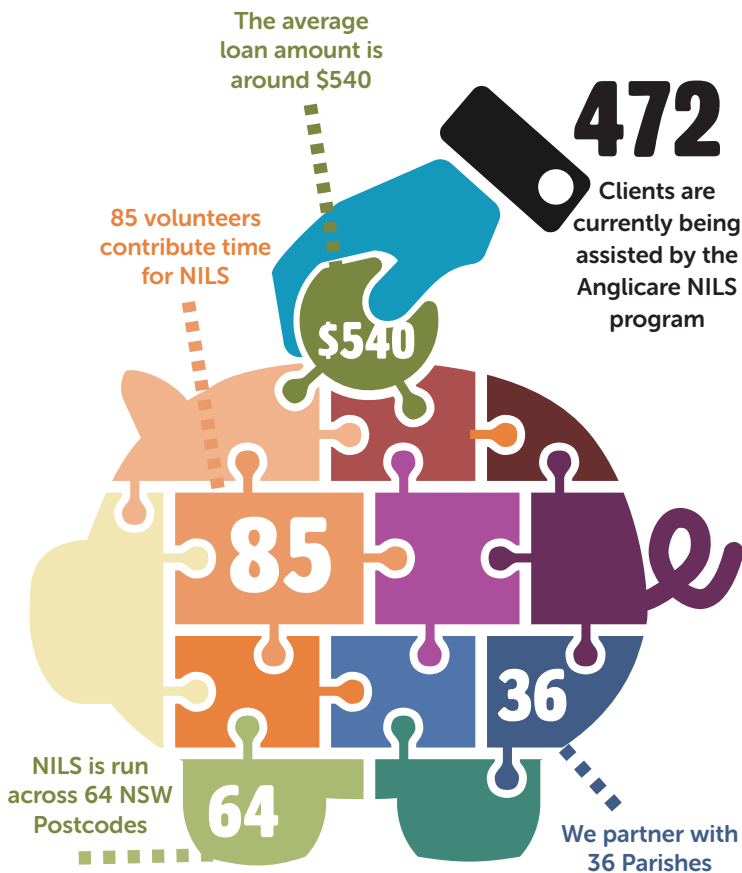
The Hippy Program has a 100% retention rate

*statistics based on 2015 intake numbers



Amayah-Lee has fun with paint at the Ashmont Resource Community Centre.

ESCAPING THE CYCLE OF DEBT



When you're struggling to make ends meet and unexpected expenses pop up it can be really distressing not knowing how you will afford to pay the bills and keep food on the table.

Too many people in these situations are forced to turn to short-term, high interest loans, which are impossible for them to pay back, trapping them in a cycle of debt they can't escape.

Anglicare's No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS) is a micro-finance initiative offering small loans of up to \$1200. It is designed so that recipients only need to repay the borrowed amount, with no set-up fees, charges or any interest accrued over the duration of the loan.

Evelyn Trainor, Financial Services Manager of NILS says the service helps to develop people's financial literacy, self-confidence and dignity.

"It opens doorways for people on low incomes to get access to the essential goods and services they need. It helps to break the cycle of poverty."

The service works closely with clients to walk them through the process, and set their repayments at a level that's affordable for them.

NILS helping Forbes resident Karen manage life's challenges.



KAREN'S STORY

Local Forbes resident, Karen, is an independent woman in her late 50s. She suffers from a chronic physical illness that causes her to endure immense back pain.

Karen required a yearly pass to the local heated pool, as she was told that warm water therapy would reduce her pain levels and improve her quality of life. Unfortunately for Karen, the cost of the yearly pass was too much and she faced months of enduring constant pain while trying to put away her savings.

Having been assisted by NILS three years ago for a computer loan, which she paid back with no issues, Karen approached Anglicare to help her with the cost of her membership.

"The warm water therapy has made such a huge difference to my pain levels, and is really helping my back."

"Anglicare has been absolutely wonderful and easy to deal with," Karen said, adding that she highly recommends NILS to her friends and family.

Karen has set up her loan repayments to be deducted from her Centrelink payment each fortnight and is aiming to finish paying back her loan soon.

THE PARISHES & ANGLICARE

GOULBURN CHALLENGES POVERTY STEREOTYPES

Over the duration of Lent, Anglicare has been running the Share the Benefit (STB) course to raise awareness about the struggle that job seekers face and encourage people to experience the restrictions endured by those who live in poverty.

Coordinator of the initiative, Anglicare's Rev'd Ian Coutts says one of the main aims is to allow people and churches taking part to discover what it really means, for a brief time, to walk in another person's shoes.

"We hope and pray that this will be a transformative experience and journey for the participants," he said.

Jane Robinson is one of several worshippers at the Fellowship at 5 Church at Goulburn Cathedral that is part way through the course and has already been challenged by the harsh reality facing the 500,000 Australians living on the Newstart Allowance.

JANE'S STORY

I am a retired primary school teacher and taught children with special needs for many years. I have always had a heart for others and when the opportunity to participate in STB arose, I immediately put my hand up to get involved. I know what it's like to try and feed four children every week, but I couldn't imagine how hard that would be receiving Newstart payments.

I have been incredibly challenged by the weekly bible study group and my eyes were opened once I found out how little those on Newstart are given each week.

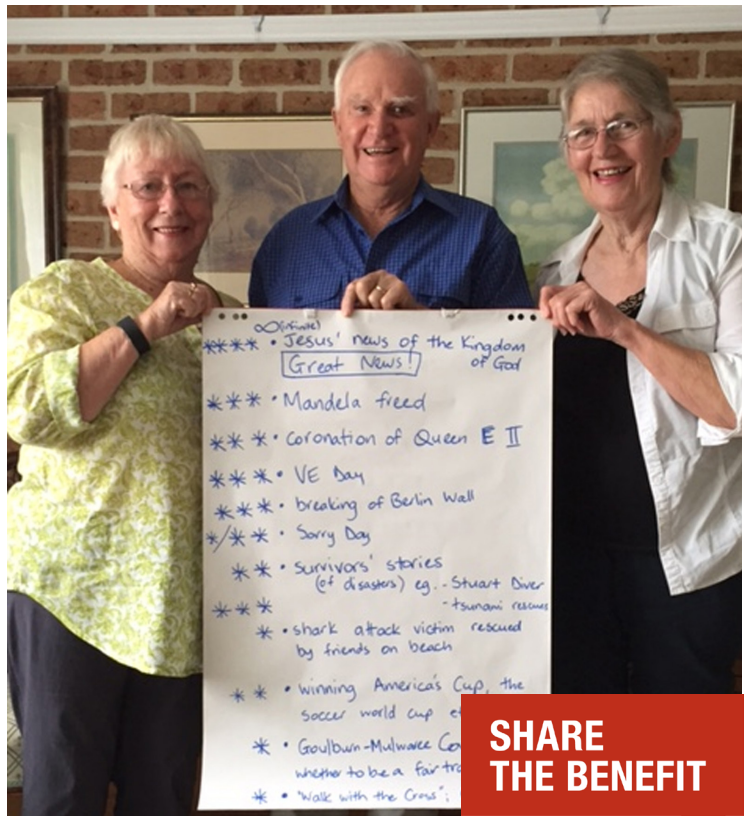
I just cannot believe that a couple without children receives only \$5 less a week than a couple with three or more children*. That's so scary!

While I am yet to live on the allowance for one week as part of the Newstart challenge, I have already been thinking about the difficulties that I will face. It's so different from everyday life where I can just enjoy those little things like going out for coffee with my friends.

Throughout my STB experience, I have noticed that society does not cater for those living on low incomes and that our society is such a social society! It's less about going to each other's houses for dinner and more about going out to dinner, drinks and coffee. I feel that people in our society, especially young people, must be so cut off because they can't socialise like many others.

I think that there is no safety net for those living on Newstart. Once everything in the cupboard is gone, there is nothing left! We should be thinking about this more.

*This Newstart allowance has been calculated based on what would reasonably be left over for food. See www.anglicare.com.au



SHARE THE BENEFIT

Share the Benefit participants from the Goulburn Fellowship at 5 Church brainstorm defining moments in history



Katrina Hodgkinson opening the 'Gates to Narnia' with members of the Murrumburrah community.

MINISTER HODGKINSON OPENS THE GATES TO NARNIA

Member for Burrinjuck and NSW Primary Industries Minister, Katrina Hodgkinson officially opened new fencing constructed at the Murrumburrah Harden Parish using a \$9,300 State Government funding grant applied for by Anglicare.

The special fencing was built to safely enclose part of the grounds of the Parish Hall for the Narnia Kid's Club, an initiative developed by Pam Jamieson.

With the fence completed for the start of the 2015 program, it's hoped the space will also be used for future children's activities.

Q. Tell me a bit about yourself?

A. My name is Reverend John Campbell . I have four children - one son and three daughters, and six wonderful grandchildren. My background is in teaching, I've spent 42 years in schools as a teacher or principal and 30 years as a priest. I enjoy being busy doing lots of work and this is the third time I've come out of retirement.

Q. What do you do at Anglicare?

A. I recently joined Anglicare as the Warden at St David's Close, a retirement living facility in Red Hill, Canberra. I'm here to assist the residents as needed and give spiritual guidance to those who seek it.

I also take a service in the on-site church on Thursday and Sunday mornings, which are open to residents and anyone from the local community who wish to attend.



Rev'd John Campbell is settling into his role as St David's Close Warden.

MEET THE REV'D JOHN CAMPBELL

Q. What's your favourite part of your job?

A. It's the one on one relationship and getting to know all the residents that I really enjoy. I'm getting to know people quite well now and their families too. I also try to visit those who are in their late 90's and may not be able to get out much. In fact, I recently took Communion to one lady after church at her request.

Q. I hear you're also involved in the local parish?

A. In addition to being the warden at St David's Close, I'm also the Associate Priest at St Pauls Parish and do some services there. In fact, I attended St Pauls Parish as a young fellow back in 1972, and I remember coming to the dedication and opening of the church at St David's Close.



Sally Harris-Leys enjoying a cup of tea in her garden.

SALLY HARRIS-LEYS - VOLUNTEER

Sally Harris-Leys from St Paul's Ginninderra Parish is a long time supporter of Anglicare. Sally's talent for hospitality makes visitors feel instantly at home, and she likes to greet guests with a welcoming smile and a cup of tea.

Sally has been a strong supporter of Anglicare for more than 10 years and she hasn't done it alone.

"Everything I've done with Anglicare over the years has been with the support of my fellow parishioners" she said, adding that her parish is very active and has a big emphasis on social outreach, both in the community, and amongst each other.

"We are so lucky! I want to live my life knowing I've made a difference and helped people who are disadvantaged."

Sally and her parish have supported Anglicare in numerous ways, from selling Christmas Cards, to collecting donations at her neighbour's Christmas Lights display and much more. They have also previously joined up with St Simon's Parish from Kaleen to collect food and donations for the Anglicare Pantry Appeal, which is running again this year during May and June.

A big thanks to Sally and St Paul's Ginninderra Parish for all your efforts on behalf of Anglicare – we are looking forward to working together more in the future!

Donate here or on www.anglicare.com.au

ANGLICARE

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Thrive Autumn 2015

We LOVE how big
YOUR HEART is!!



DIARY DATES

APRIL 2015

4th April | Brumbies Charity Game
30 April | Rental Affordability Snapshot Launch

MAY 2015

Domestic & Family Violence Awareness Month
11-17 May | National Volunteer Week
15-16 May | Bishops Conference
21 May - 27 June | Pantry Appeal
23 May | Disaster Recovery Team Leader Forum

JUNE 2015

14-20 June | Refugee Week
14 June | Bathurst Wedding Fair
21 May - 27 June | Pantry Appeal

PANTRY APPEAL

Pantry Appeal | 21 May - 27 June

Every year, your donations to Anglicare's Pantry Appeal make a huge difference to the lives of those in your local community doing it tough. Pantry Appeal will be running from 21st May 2015 and you can get involved again this year by donating at one of our Pantry Appeal collection points. **Plus, if you want to be part of the Pantry Appeal volunteer team, we'd love to hear from you!**

For more information, to find your nearest collection point or to get in contact, visit our website www.anglicare.com.au



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