



THRIVE

WINTER 2015



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

THE GROWING PROBLEM OF HOUSING AFFORDABILITY PANTRY APPEAL WILL SUPPORT THOUSANDS
ST JOHN'S CARE DIRECTOR RETIRES
DR MATT BRAIN CONSECRATED AS BISHOP





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CONTENTS

- 02. CEO'S MESSAGE
- 03. WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ANGLICARE
- 04. HOUSING AFFORDABILITY
- 05. PANTRY APPEAL
- 06. CHURCH AND COMMUNITY
- 07. SPOTLIGHT
- 08. DIARY DATES

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CEO'S MESSAGE

For young people today, gaining a formal qualification is a key step in landing a secure job and escaping the cycle of poverty. But this pathway is becoming increasingly rocky for young people who can't rely on their parents for support, as supply of community housing options dries up and private rental is out of reach.

Single mother of two Tilleah Roselli, lived on the streets in Melbourne as a teenager, but moved to Canberra in order to study. Ms Roselli, whose Canberra support network consists of one friend and youth workers from agencies like Anglicare, said her recent hunt for a home was a "massive hit to her self esteem".

"If it was on Gumtree and under \$400, I was applying for it, and every time it was 'you don't earn enough'," she said.

Finally, she successfully applied for the single National Affordable Housing Scheme (NRAS) property available, and is now paying \$320 a week. But given that even this amount is two-thirds of her income, Tilleah has a tough path ahead paying for study expenses and caring for two kids on \$160 per week.

In this edition of THRIVE we tell the stories of a number of other people from our communities who have struggled to secure safe and stable housing, and how Anglicare has been able to make a difference.

Meanwhile Anglicare will continue to advocate for a fairer approach to housing policy in Australia. It is important to recognise that NRAS scheme which was so critical for Tilleah has now been wound up by the Federal Government. And there is no replacement on the horizon.

On June 16, the national Anglicare network of CEOs held our annual day-long forum at Parliament House. The key leaders and ministers met by the Anglicare CEOs included Opposition Leader Bill Shorten, Assistant Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg (representing the PM) and Richard Di Natale, Leader of The Greens.

Key policy threads that weaved throughout the day included the extent to which the Federal tier of Government is responsible for addressing housing affordability. The Anglicare delegation encouraged politicians across the political spectrum to see the housing affordability issue through the prism of rental affordability for the lowest income households. There is some hope for change. The suggestion from the Anglicare delegation that negative gearing should be adjusted to target the development of new affordable and community housing development received a fair hearing from all sides of politics.

Yours Sincerely,

Jeremy Halcrow

Chief Executive Officer, Anglicare

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ANGLICARE



Robyn Martin, Jenny Kitchin, Tamika Townsend and Jeremy Halcrow at Anglicare's Reconciliation Week morning tea.



Anglicare staff and members of the Orange community celebrate at the official office opening.

ANGLICARE 'RECOGNISES' RECONCILIATION

Anglicare has joined more than 50 other organisations nationally in the Recognise Campaign Partners Network. 'Recognise' is the people's movement to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Australian Constitution.

Anglicare has been showing support by proudly displaying 'R' badges and hosting events such as the National Reconciliation Week morning tea at the ACT regional office on 28 May.

If you, your church, school or workplace would like any additional information or 'R' badges, please contact Hannah McQuiggin via (02) 6245 7119 or Hannah.McQuiggin@anglicare.com.au. For more information, visit www.recognise.org.au.

SUPPORT ANGLICARE BY GOING OUT TO DINNER!

You can buy Entertainment Books 2015/2016 from Anglicare and enjoy over \$20,000 of value for just \$60! Even better, \$12 from each sale goes to Anglicare to support the valuable work we do in our local communities. Help us fundraise by ordering your membership today. Visit www.entbook.com.au/2i6258

ANGLICARE LAUNCHES DVD TO HELP EDUCATE VULNERABLE YOUNG MOTHERS

You won't want to miss the new Motherhood documentary, featuring mothers supported by our South Coast Office. The three Moruya women share their stories in a way that is helpful for other young mums in similar situations.

"It takes a village to raise a family, and we do that here by connecting them to their community," Anglicare's Krystal Tritton said.

Thanks to a generous donation from a local philanthropist, Anglicare was able to use skilled filmmaker, Lou Glover who has a background in TV producing with the ABC to capture their stories. To view the video, head to www.anglicare.com.au

ORANGE OFFICE RELOCATES TO EXPAND SERVICES

More than 50 people turned out to see the Anglican Bishop of Bathurst, Ian Palmer bless Anglicare's new regional office in Orange. The opening on 4 June has paved the way for the new building to become the major service hub for the Central West region. The Byng Street office is more than triple the size of the previous location and will provide space for new programs to support families and their children.

KEEN TO HELP?

BECOME AN ANGLICARE VOLUNTEER

Our supporters contribute so much to the work of Anglicare and our volunteers are critical to the delivery of many of our services. We are looking for volunteers who can help in a range of roles across ACT and Southern and Western NSW. Whether it is volunteering on an ad hoc basis with specific appeals or activities, or giving regular time, there are numerous opportunities for volunteers to get involved.

If you have a few hours or a few days that you can volunteer, please contact us via our website or email volunteers@anglicare.com.au

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Yass resident Tanya Shepherd sitting outside the Rae Burgess Centre.

THE GROWING PROBLEM OF HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

The current public discussion taking place around housing affordability highlights a huge and growing problem for thousands of Australians and even more so for our community's most vulnerable people – Government benefit recipients and minimum wage earners.

Every year since 2009, the Rental Affordability Snapshot developed by the Anglicare Australia Network has confirmed the lack of affordable and appropriate housing for people on low incomes. This year's data reveals 96% of housing surveyed in our region is unaffordable for single people on low incomes. It adds to the campaign calling on all levels of government to start taking cooperative action to address the affordability pressures.

"If you are going to fix poverty in our community you have to fix housing affordability. Housing is the most crucial infrastructure to support people's social and economic participation. Without safe, stable and affordable housing it is impossible to get on top of their issues and live a decent life," CEO Jeremy Halcrow said.

Young people exiting the care system are particularly disadvantaged in the search for affordable housing in the private rental market. If relying on Youth Allowance or Newstart, they are forced to live on as little as \$35 a day.

Single parents on a low income have difficulty affording accommodation that is located near schools, community services and transport.

TANYA'S STORY

Twelve months ago, Tanya Shepherd experienced one of her darkest moments. The 37 year-old suffered a nervous breakdown as a result of severe depression.

Tanya described her world as a big black whole.

"I had severe rent arrears with a 98 per cent chance of becoming homeless," she said.

The mother of five was living in a community housing property in Yass, with a growing debt of more than \$10,000.

For a brief period, the house had no gas or electricity.

Tanya was referred to Anglicare's Rae Burgess Centre for help with family support services and it was her final chance to be pulled out of her spiralling mental health issues.

"I was terrified of becoming homeless. I felt so hopeless but when I realised how close I was to having no roof over my kids' heads it all just clicked," she said.

The Rae Burgess Centre heavily supported the family with phone calls and house visits.

Tanya says her turnaround in attitude was largely due to the patience and commitment of the employees at the Rae Burgess Centre. In twelve months, her debt has halved and she is on track to finish her Certificate III in Aged Care at TAFE Illawara Institute's Yass Campus in November.



Excited students from Anglicare's Googong Early Learning Centre and The Anglican School Googong contributing to Anglicare's Pantry Appeal.

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY

Thanks to your generosity, Anglicare's annual Pantry Appeal will help thousands of people. With over 40,000 items collected, and still more coming in, we have already surpassed our collection target! On average, a family of three will be supported by 32 items. This translates to around 1,250 families being helped thanks to all the donations we have received.

The Pantry Appeal is run each year during winter, and is held across ACT and regional NSW in local shopping centres, schools, churches and businesses. The non-perishable food and essential living items collected during Pantry Appeal are distributed through Anglicare services and church pantries, making a vital difference to those in need of emergency food assistance.

"I am amazed by the big-heartedness of people who have donated. The generosity of our local communities mean we are going to be able to help thousands of people struggling to feed themselves and their families," Pantry Appeal organiser, Nikki Hinton said.

A huge thank you to all who joined with us and helped make a difference in the lives of those in our local communities.



Anglicare's Pantry Appeal helps Wagga woman Sharon Stoll feed her children.

SHARON'S STORY

While wood fires and reverse cycle air conditioners warm homes across Wagga, Aboriginal woman Sharon Stoll is struggling to afford her electricity bill.

The single mother of two girls, aged seven and nine, says she was forced to ask Anglicare for help when she couldn't afford to pay for basics like food and clothes.

"I find I start to struggle during winter and also before and after Christmas. The main things that I compromise on are clothes and food," she said.

With the help of Anglicare's Ashmont Resource Community Centre, the 41 year-old is able to access emergency food relief to help her and her girls.

"My partner is deceased so I'm on my own financially. I receive a Parenting Payment but it's not enough. I only just scrape by every week," she said.

The Ashmont Resource Community Centre is a lifeline for people like Sharon in the community. Weekly donations of bread and fruit are quickly snapped up by locals and the donations from the annual Pantry Appeal go a long way to helping hundreds of people doing it tough.

"It makes life a bit easier knowing the service is here. I know some people feel ashamed coming here and asking for help but I had no other option," she said.



St John's Care Director Sue Jordan will miss the volunteer camaraderie in her retirement.

FAREWELL SUE

After nearly 12 years as St John's Care Director, Sue Jordan is retiring this month and is looking forward to a well-earned rest after playing an instrumental role in the establishment of the Anglicare partnership service.

Despite its humble beginnings, St John's Care, with the help of Sue's leadership and its dedicated volunteers, has transformed into a thriving Emergency Relief Centre assisting more than 7,500 people each year.

"When we first started, we could only provide clients with a couple of cans of food, however, we are now able to provide enough food and other items to each client to last three to four days," she said.

"Often the food that we give our clients is enough to get them out of immediate poverty and that is incredibly rewarding."

Sue has a passion for serving the Canberra community and assisting people in need. She has taught each of her volunteers to put judgement in their back pocket and to treat each person with dignity and respect. This foundation has allowed St John's Care to continue to grow and Sue is incredibly thankful to all her volunteers for their hard work, patience and dedication.

"We have around 130 volunteers and I want to recognise each and everyone one of them. We have such a great team and St John's Care really wouldn't exist without them."

Although Sue will be resigning from her post, her legacy at St John's Care will live on as the organisation continues to serve Canberra's most vulnerable people.

Sue's last day is on 22 July.



Dr Matt Brain greeting family at St Saviour's Cathedral.

DR MATT BRAIN CONSECRATED AS BISHOP

Despite the winter chill, the congregation in St Saviour's Cathedral, Goulburn, warmly received Dr Matt Brain as Bishop following his consecration on Saturday 13 June 2015.

Dr Brain was consecrated as the new Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn with responsibilities for training and development, making him one of the nation's most youthful Bishops.

Since 2013, he has been Director of Parish Support, Chaplaincy and Mission where he has worked closely with parishes and chaplains to develop their capacity for ministry. Dr Brain has also worked strongly alongside Anglicare to develop close ties between the organisation and Anglican parishes.

"I have loved the significant contribution to many people's lives that the Anglicare team makes, and hope that together we may help people to thrive."

NEW CHURCHES, SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES WEB PAGE

Explore our new Churches, Schools and Communities web page, and discover events, content and resources specially designed to enhance your partnership with Anglicare.

Visit www.anglicare.com.au to find out more!



Address 114-120 Monaro Street Queanbeyan NSW 2620

Phone (02) 6232 9272 | **Email** food.fair@anglicare.com.au

Open Times 10am - 12pm and 1 - 3pm on Thursdays & Fridays

Anglicare's **Food Fair** initiative is a community pantry that will help vulnerable families stretch their dollar further. Food Fair is run out of Anglicare's Queanbeyan-based recycling store, Bargain Hunter, and is stocked with a wide range of grocery items at discounted prices.

For more information contact Food Fair Supervisor, Melanie Turner on **(02) 6232 9272**, email food.fair@anglicare.com.au, or Retail Development Manager, Kaye Pritchard on **0419 241 282**.

+ **Conditions apply** Must have a Centrelink or Health Care Card, or proven low income • One Membership per family • Items will be offered at a per kilo rate • Customer chooses their own items • Limit will apply on quantity per family • One visit per week • Some free items • Limited emergency relief will be available.

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DIARY DATES

JULY 2015

Dry July

Launch of Food Fair

5 – 12 July | NAIDOC Week

AUGUST 2015

3 – 10 August | Homeless Persons' Week

23 – 30 August | National Op Shop Week

SEPTEMBER 2015

10 September | R U OK? Day

6 – 13 September | Include a Charity Week

11 – 13 September | Synod

13 – 16 September | Anglicare Australia National Conference

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