



THRIVE

SUMMER 2016



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CEO'S MESSAGE

As 2016 kicks off, it is important we look back over the past 12 months and remember all that we have achieved and celebrate our successes.

I have no doubt that the most life-transforming moments occurred in the privacy of the counselling room or in ways that will in future be remembered and articulated by the children and young people in our care. Nonetheless there have been some key organisational milestones that deserve to be especially noted. I have chosen a few highlights. The following list is not ordered by significance but by the date they occurred:

Opening of Googong Early Learning Centre: In January, Anglicare opened a new ELC at Googong, in partnership with the local Anglican School.

Recognising our Volunteers: Volunteers stand at the heart of Anglicare's mission as charity formed to benefit those in need. For this reason it's so important that we give our 600 volunteers the recognition they deserve.

Launch of Motherhood DVD: The extraordinary brain-child of specialist housing worker Krystal Tritton, Anglicare launched the 'Motherhood' video project in May.

Launch of Survive & Thrive, Orange: Winning new funding from the Commonwealth Government's Department of Social Services for Child and Parenting programs has enabled us to develop and launch our first Survive & Thrive hub in Orange.

St Saviours Transition to Leaving Care program: TLC provided me with some of the most memorable personal highlights of the year as I met and learned the incredible achievements of the young people in the program.

Award for Southern Cross partnership: Anglicare's Southern Cross Early Childhood School won this years' ACT Public Education Award for most Outstanding Partnership for our collaborative work with the ACT Department of Education and Training (DET).

Food Fair Queanbeyan opens: The long-time dream of retail manager Kaye Pritchard to utilise the Bargain Hunter Op Shop in Queanbeyan for food relief came to fruition in August with the opening of Food Fair.

RTO revamped and rebranded: In September our RTO was rebranded "Anglicare College" and moved under a new leadership structure.

Yours Sincerely,

Jeremy Halcrow
Chief Executive Officer, Anglicare

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YEP Students at graduation.



The new Anglicare Early Childhood Centre garden in Goulburn.

YOUR GENEROSITY HAS MADE THIS POSSIBLE

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS TOGETHER...

In a wonderful partnership event between our Early Childhood Education and Care and Retirement Village services, children from Anglicare's Southern Cross Early Childhood Centre, Scullin visited our Brindabella Court Retirement Village in Downer. The children sang Christmas carols for the residents and enjoyed a lovely morning tea with them. The children are looking forward to visiting the Village more regularly next year.

ANGLICARE TO EXPAND EARLY LEARNING SERVICES IN GOULBURN

"Anglicare is excited to announce that we are in the process of applying for a licence to operate an Early Childhood Service in Goulburn from the current TAFE Children's Centre," said Anglicare's Goulburn-based Executive Manager Simon Bennett.

The new Anglicare Goulburn Early Childhood Centre will continue to provide the highest quality early education and care to serve the Goulburn community.

Anglicare is a significant provider of Early Childhood Education in Southern NSW and ACT. Anglicare already provides Family Day Care, Orana Preschool, Long Day Care, Marulan Preschool and Supported Playgroups to the Goulburn-Mulwaree community. In addition to these services, Anglicare operates four Early Learning Centres in Canberra and also opened a new centre at Googong near Queanbeyan in January.

SUCCESS LEADS TO SURVIVE & THRIVE PROGRAM LAUNCH IN WAGGA WAGGA

The Survive & Thrive program launched in Orange in 2015 has been so successful in making a difference to the community that it has now been launched in Wagga.

Anglicare Riverina Community Services Manager, Kristy Daley said the program is primarily aimed at families with children aged 12 years and under with a key focus on early intervention for children aged 0-5.

"We are also mindful of the need to deliver a service that is universal and holistic that engages parents, not only in their child's early years of care and education but also equips them with developing skills to remain engaged with their child's learning throughout childhood and adolescence."

The Survive & Thrive program will complement Anglicare's current suite of Child and Family programs in the Riverina including the Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPPY) and the Lifetime Learning Indigenous Family Support Program.

YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM GRADUATION

The YEP Graduation and End of Year Celebration was held on Wednesday 9th December at the Glass House Cafe in Civic. Eight students attended, along with guests and staff, to celebrate their achievements from the year. In 2015, YEP had four students complete their Certificate II in Access10 and two students complete their Certificate II in General Education for Adults. Executive Manager for Business Development and Innovation, Ann Ponsonby, congratulated all students on their participation at YEP and their demonstrated resilience in working towards their education.

The night was enjoyed by all who attended. "The event was very flashy with the way everyone dressed and how it was set up with all the lights. Everyone was in a cheerful mood." - YEP student.



Brendan, TLC program participant.

TRANSITION TO LEAVING CARE

For young people leaving out of home care, the risk of homelessness is devastatingly high.

According to Create Foundation's Transitioning from Care report card, as many as 40% of young people discharged from statutory care experience homelessness within the first 12 months of independence.

Anglicare is working to reduce this number, and is currently piloting an innovative project to support young people in independence, once they leave the foster care system.

The 'Transition to Leaving Care' program, known as TLC, focuses on providing individually tailored support to the 13 young people in the pilot, during what can be a difficult transition from foster care into independent living.

The pilot has been extremely well received by the young people, who take comfort in knowing they have support from the Anglicare team at St Saviours whenever they need help or advice.

To date, 80% of the young people are holding tenancy leases, and 40% are in employment. One of the young people is enrolled at University, and two are studying at Tafe.

BRENDAN'S STORY

18 year old Brendan is a young person being helped by the Transition to Leaving Care program. Brendan loves footy and soccer, and has been in foster care since he was 3 years of age. But it's been a tough road for the young man along the way.

"I know what homelessness is like, cause I've been homeless before. It's not very fun".

Brendan was 11 years old when he was homeless. He then bounced around a few foster carers before he came to St Saviours, where he found a place to settle in our residential care home. Thanks to the TLC program, Brendan is still able to turn to St Saviours for help and advice as a young adult.

"They helped me get the house. If it wasn't for them, I probably wouldn't be in the house. They give me help with food whenever I ask for it. If it's ever an emergency situation I've got these guys to fall back on."

Sadly not all young people who leave foster care have the same support. But thankfully for Brendan, he has a safety net as he learns to navigate through life as an adult, learning the necessary life skills like budgeting and paying bills.

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 the 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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**KEEN TO
HELP?**

GIVING JOY THIS CHRISTMAS

Hundreds of children, young people and families recently got the chance to celebrate Christmas, where they would have otherwise missed out. Anglicare's Teens, Toys & Tucker Appeal once again ran in 2015, and was strongly supported by the community through out the ACT and NSW.

The Goulburn Art Regional Gallery was one of our corporate supporters in 2015, incorporating the Appeal into their 'What's in the Toybox' exhibition. They focussed on gifts for teenage boys, who are often overlooked when people are buying gifts to donate at Christmas. "It is only a small part of the Appeal, but we were very glad to get people to contribute to effort" said Director Jane Cush.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and supporters, we have been able to give out more than 450 food hampers and over 600 gifts of toys, books, make-up, games and movie tickets for children, teens and families to enjoy.



The dedicated volunteers from Curtin Parish giving up their time to collect food for Christmas Hampers. Left to right: Chloe Leung, June Woodfield and Libby Oliver.



11 young people in the Transition to Leaving Care program received these gorgeous Christmas gift hampers thanks to our generous donors.



ANGLICARE EXPANDS SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AT RISK IN WAGGA

Anglicare is set to provide a wider range of services to the Wagga Wagga community to help children and young people at risk. The facility named Dhaan Yanha, which is Wiradjuri for 'meeting place', offers multiple meeting rooms, offices, a pool and tennis court.

At the official launch in December 2015, Riverina General Manager Brad Addison spoke about Anglicare's new vision for the building:

"Anglicare has been a provider of Out of Home Care (or Foster Care) services in the Wagga area for more than two decades. In that time, we've learnt the importance of developing strong bonds between children and their families, even when they are not able to live together."

Birth families give young people a sense of identity. They help them to develop a sense of who they are and where they've come from. A strong bond in childhood lays the foundation for a healthy relationship as children become young people and as young people become adults.

Dhaan Yanha has been developed to be inviting and family friendly. Throughout the refurbishment there was a clear vision for a space that allowed natural interactions in a home-like setting. Spaces have been designed both for families with younger children and those with older kids. The space moves seamlessly from contact space for children and families, to offices for staff and areas for training and staff meetings. Families are able to play games in the lounge room, prepare a meal together in the kitchen or sit and talk around the table.

"RECOGNISE" AUSTRALIA DAY

For many Australians, January 26 marks a time of celebration, fun, citizenship and of course, a public holiday. However, for others Australia Day is a commemoration of a deep loss.

Australia Day, for some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, represents the day that their lives were forever changed by invasion, or marks a celebration of survival of their people and culture.

In the lead up to January 26, and in the spirit of reconciliation, Anglicare would like to recognise these differences and ask you to reflect on how we can create a day all Australians can celebrate and enjoy.

In 2015, Anglicare joined over 50 other organisations; including QANTAS and the Red Cross, in officially recognising the 'Recognise' campaign.

'Recognise' is the people's movement to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Australian Constitution.

"Anglicare strongly advocates this essential next step to reconcile the past treatment and discrimination of Australia's traditional owners" says Rev'd Dr Ian Coutts, Anglicare General Manager of Mission & Community Development.

This Australia Day, consider checking out the local Indigenous celebrations in your area and think about the continuous contributions Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make to Australia.

"Let's celebrate and be part of a day that all Australians can enjoy" says Rev'd Dr Coutts.

WILL YOU SHARE THE BENEFIT DURING LENT NEXT YEAR?

Lent will be early next year (Ash Wednesday is February 10) and once again Anglicare is inviting people to take up the Share the Benefit challenge, either individually or as part of a small study group, or even as a whole congregation.

Share the Benefit (STB) is a challenge that involves four weeks of studies and activities centred around what it would be like to have to live on a low income. Participants are challenged in week four to live on Newstart for a week - a very confronting and educational experience for many of us!

"Share the Benefit allows us, in a small but powerful way, to experience the restrictions endured by those who live with poverty" says Rev'd Dr Ian Coutts, General Manager Mission & Community Development and 2015 STB participant.

The program highlights the food insecurity that many people feel when they are living on the Newstart allowance. STB will help participants realise some of the complexities of life on these 'benefits' through the Bible Studies on a Christian response to poverty, together with the challenge to live a week on a Newstart food and drink allowance. If you would like to find out more information visit sharethebenefitsite.wordpress.com.

SOUL SURVIVOR ACT - MORE THAN A SONG

This year, Anglicare is partnering with Soul Survivor ACT to bring their 2016 Christian Camp-Conference to Canberra. The camp theme for the year is 'More than a Song' and is about learning to live out the heart of worship.

"Our camp consists of four days jam-packed with main meetings, seminars, projects, worship and prayer ministry and camping" says Deb Stanley, Soul Survivor Director of Ministry.

The conference is for youth groups and leaders and will be held from April 13 - 17 on the grounds of Trinity Christian School in Canberra.

Last year, a group of High School students attending Soul Survivor assisted Anglicare. Two outdoor spaces at Anglicare's Goulburn site received a face lift to make way for new gardens and play areas for families and children in need. This year, students attending the conference will also be assisting Anglicare with a number of projects, making a real difference to those in need.

"Soul Survivor is a great opportunity to add a surge of helpers to existing community services and at the same time give young people an opportunity to put their faith into action" says Ms Stanley.

If you or your youth group is interested in attending Soul Survivor, visit soulsurvivoract.org for more information.



Wagga wagga team at the launch of Dhaan Yanha (Wiradjuri for meeting place).

soul survivor

MORE THAN A SONG

MORE THAN A SONG WILL LEAD US IN FOLLOWING JESUS WITH OUR SINGING AND OUR SERVING.

CAMPING, VENUES, PROJECTS, SEMINARS, WORSHIP, TEACHING, PRAYER MINISTRY, CAFE, SPORT + GAMES!

TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
REGO: SOULSURVIVORACT.ORG

13-16. APR. 16





Flo Young, Sapphire Coast Anglican Parish volunteer.

FLO YOUNG - VOLUNTEER

Sapphire Surprises is the Op Shop that has a reputation for having the best view in Australia. It is also run by one of Sapphire Coast Anglican Parish's dedicated volunteers, Mrs Flo Young.

Flo has always been involved in her local community. Her faith and beliefs that "we are not just here for ourselves" drives much of what Flo does. She runs Sapphire Surprises in Eden, operating not only the shop, but also working with her team of volunteers providing emergency relief to those in the community who are in need of emergency assistance. Her work in the shop "gives her purpose" and stems from an enjoyment of being able to help others. The provision of emergency relief, such as pantry items, and assistance with utility bills in times of financial crises, makes a significant difference in the lives of the individuals who are helped.

However, when you talk to Flo, you can see that she wants to do more than provide just emergency relief. She dreams of being able to help those in long term crisis move beyond just coping, to actually being able to get on top of the bills, and develop skills to be able to manage their finances on a long term basis.

Anglicare too wishes to support vulnerable members of the community, and help them to move from just getting by, to thriving. Anglicare, through Anglicare College, is delighted to have been successful in obtaining support from the NSW Government to deliver training to Flo and her team of volunteers in Eden.

The training will provide them with the skills and confidence to work with those individuals who seek assistance from the emergency relief services, and to help them understand and consider ways to get on top of their finances. Training is being provided across three key areas: communication, financial counselling, and first aid. It will provide the volunteers with the skills and confidence to do more than just provide emergency food.

Volunteers are essential for the delivery of services in many Parishes and within Anglicare. Anglicare highly values the work of volunteers like Flo, and is looking for opportunities to provide more formal training to our volunteers, to better equip them to support those in the community who come to us seeking assistance.

Thank you Flo and the team for all your work!

Anglicare College RTO No. 88177

ANGLICARE NSW SOUTH, NSW WEST & ACT

Learn, Earn & Thrive Join Anglicare College today!

UPCOMING COURSES:

HLTAID004 Provide First Aid
10 February, 2016 (Pambula)
11 February, 2016 (Canberra)

Certificate III in Individual Support (Aged Care)
03 February, 2016 (Merimbula)
10 February, 2016 (Dalmeny)
10 February, 2016 (Canberra)

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Thank you again to our generous donors for making these wonderful projects happen.
If you haven't donated, or would like to make a further contribution, your donation would be appreciated.

ANGLICARE

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Thrive Summer 2016

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