

THRIVE

Thrive Winter 2018

LISTEN
LEARN
LIVE



pictured: Bob Slockee from 'Australians Together'

Reconciliation Day

The journey towards reconciliation is a priority for Anglicare. To mark National Reconciliation Week held 27 May-3 June, staff and clients from across the ACT region joined together for our annual Reconciliation Morning Tea.

A message from the CEO

As the parent of a teenager I know how difficult it is for young people to leave high school, live independently and find a career. The world is far more complex and the cost of living higher than when we were young adults. Evidence of the dire outcomes experienced by the thousands of 18-year-olds each year who transition out of the Care and Protection system has been mounting for decades. Whilst a past history of abuse and disrupted family attachments contributes to poorer mental health and lower educational attainment, lack of support in the crucial post-care years exacerbates their challenges, leading to high rates of homelessness, financial hardship and contact with the justice system. After years of Government inaction, Anglicare is leading a coalition of child welfare agencies pressure for reform. Under the banner of the Home Stretch campaign, we are calling on Governments to extend foster care to 21 years and to fund educational mentors to help these young people who don't have parental support to transition from high school. It makes sense both morally and financially. And your continued support of Anglicare makes a significant difference assisting those who are vulnerable in our communities. Thank you.



Jeremy Halcrow | ANGLICARE, CEO



Reconciliation Day - continued

Bob Slockee from Australians Together shared his experiences to help Anglicare staff develop a greater understanding of how we can forge a better future together.

Children from Anglicare's Googong Early Learning Centre presented their own Acknowledgement of Country to commence the event.

Anglicare CEO Jeremy Halcrow also passionately spoke about Anglicare's call

to fight structural racism and how we can understand the hurts of the past to better walk alongside people from an Aboriginal background.

"It is important that we listen to the tragedies and triumphs of Aboriginal Australia so that we can grow into a healthier society. If we can't understand the pain of others, how can we take a step towards healing?" said Jeremy.

Pictured above: Googong children at Anglicare's Reconciliation Morning Tea



2018 Pantry Appeal Launch

The Anglicare Pantry Appeal is held every winter and seeks donations of non-perishable food and essential living items. The items collected throughout the appeal are distributed to families and individuals in the community who need emergency assistance.

In 2018 we are delighted to have more than 16 schools and early learning centres partnering with

us to show practical love to vulnerable families and individuals in our community.

Many churches and businesses have also begun collections for the Anglicare Pantry Appeal with donations being promptly distributed to our emergency relief services across ACT and NSW.

Pictures: Pantry Appeal launch at Burgmann Anglican School.



Prayer Points



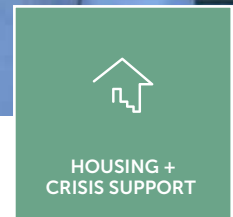
Please pray that we will continue to grow in understanding of our past as a nation, and walk towards greater reconciliation.



Please pray for families who are still recovering from the Tathra bushfires.



Pray for the Pantry Appeal, that people would be inspired to give and that many families would be blessed by the food donations they receive.



Rental Affordability Snapshot

In its ninth year, Anglicare's annual Rental Affordability Snapshot showing the availability of private rental accommodation for low-income Australians reveals the worsening trend of housing affordability across Australia.

Anglicare CEO Jeremy Halcrow, says the alarming downward trend in the affordability of rental homes requires an immediate response.

For families facing unforeseen circumstances such as relationship breakdown, loss of employment,

illness or injury, finding a secure and affordable home to rent is becoming further out of reach.

"The situation is critical and cannot continue without creating further pressure on families already struggling, in some cases literally deciding between whether to pay rent or groceries," says Anglicare CEO, Jeremy Halcrow.

Picture above: Anglicare CEO, Jeremy Halcrow addresses media at the Rental Affordability Snapshot launch event.

>1% of housing was affordable for people relying on parenting payments, Newstart, youth allowance or the disability support pension.



Wayne's Story

Wayne and his four-year-old son moved to Goulburn from Sydney after a relationship breakdown. Wayne and his son were facing homeless due to high rental prices in the regional centre. "I didn't want to ask for help but I'm so glad I did," says Wayne.

"I approached Anglicare for help and they stepped in. They got us into emergency accommodation, at first in a motel and then into one of their transitional units. Without Anglicare's help, I don't know where my son and I would be. He now has a yard to play in for the first time."

Pictured left: Wayne from Goulburn



HOUSING +
CRISIS SUPPORT

Maddison's Story

Maddison, her infant son and 15-year-old sister, Hailey came to Anglicare in Yass when they had to stay at a friend's house to avoid homelessness.

Maddison reflects that the three months when they needed assistance from Anglicare was a really difficult time but thanks to the support they received, they now have a place to call home.

"My little one's still going to school, he's back into a normal sleep routine ... I've got the little sister back in school today, and she said she's having a real good time."

Pictured above: Maddison (right) and Hailey outside Anglicare's Rae Burgess Centre

Zane's Story

Zane, 17, has been unable to live at home due to family conflict and has been couch surfing for 16 months. Zane expressed that his living situation has taken a toll on his mental health while he tries to complete his Year 12 studies and keep focused on a better future for himself.

He is currently completing his studies through Anglicare's Youth Education Program which caters for young people who are marginalised or unable to complete mainstream education.

Pictured right: Zane shares his story with local media at the Rental Affordability Snapshot launch





Local children help with planting at the new Community Garden at Ashmont



YOUTH +
FAMILY

Ashmont Community Garden

The sun was shining as the first planting began at Ashmont Community Centre's new Community Garden last month. Staff were joined by families from the centre and community members who helped with the planting. The garden is a safe and inclusive

space where members of the community can go. The garden will provide people with the opportunity to share in the production and consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables. Most importantly, it's a place where people can feel connected.



MISSION +
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT

Rebuilding Tathra

In March, hundreds of Tathra residents evacuated with little warning while an out-of-control bush fire destroyed dozens of family homes.

Anglicare Disaster Recovery volunteers worked alongside community organisation to provide emergency relief.

"It was a privilege to meet the amazing residents of Tathra and hear their stories, but also the other volunteers. It is an experience I will never forget" says Sue, an Anglicare Disaster Recovery Volunteer.

Sue retold the story of a resident she met in the days following the Tathra fires. The resident

was trying to keep her home safe when property along her back fence caught alight and as she rushed toward it with the hose, realised it wouldn't reach. She thought all was lost and prayed for help.

Suddenly a helicopter appeared with a waterdrop, so she quickly took shelter under a shrub.

The pilots mustn't have seen her, and seconds later the water came down. She said it was like being dumped by a wave but the fire that was threatening to engulf her beautiful home and garden was immediately extinguished, and she gave thanks for "the angels in the helicopter".



MISSION +
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT

Embracing Ministries

In April Embracing Ministries had their first Little Treasures Holiday Program. This provided 35 primary school children with the opportunity to learn the Easter story, make new friends, and have fun in a supportive and loving Christian environment.

One family asked to share their experience of Little Treasures...

"My son is a non-verbal boy with autism and with a high dependency on supports for even his most basic needs. He needs to be looked after one-on-one by a highly trained support worker.

The program was a resounding success. It provided my son with a safe place to participate in a comprehensive and creative daily schedule. The facilities with their amazing outdoor areas and several indoor spaces created a wonderful environment for him to thrive in.

But the best part of it all for me as a parent of a child whose world can be socially very isolating was the chance for my son to be in an inclusive program where he could mingle and socialise and be accepted as just another happy, energetic kid."



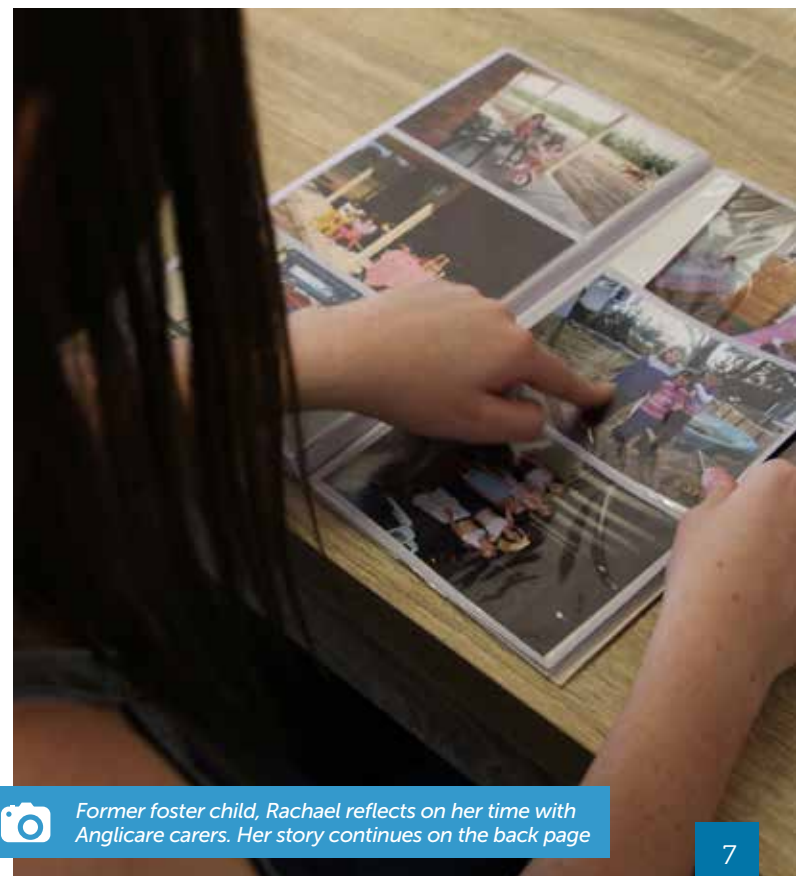
OUT OF
HOME CARE

Hope for young people leaving care

Over 8400 young people exit the care system in Australia every year. Tragic statistics reveal that half of them will become homeless, involved in the criminal justice system, unemployed or a new parent within the first 12 months of exiting care.

Rather than look toward their 18th birthday with excitement and celebration, for young people in care, it's daunting. It marks the date when they are left without support from the government and have to do life alone.

Anglicare is proudly supporting the Home Stretch Campaign. Home Stretch is advocating that state governments extend the out-of-home care system to the age of 21.



Former foster child, Rachael reflects on her time with Anglicare carers. Her story continues on the back page

Hope for young people leaving care

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Rachael was placed into care when she was 3 months old. Throughout her childhood she was moved between 13 different foster families.

"I always had in the back of my mind that nobody wants me" said Rachael.

Now 19 years old with a stable income and housing, Rachael reflects that once her foster care management was transferred to Anglicare she found the stability she craved.

"Without them I would be very far from where I am now. I am so grateful that they've opened their home to me."

Anglicare is proudly supporting the Home Stretch Campaign. Home Stretch is advocating that state governments extend foster care supports to the age of 21. Giving young people like Rachael, an extended care option will ensure they have a better start in life and a bright future.

For more information about becoming a foster carer visit anglicare.com.au

Statistics from Raising Our Children: Guiding Young Victorians in Care into Adulthood (2016).



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.

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Thrive Winter 2018

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