

# THRIVE

Thrive Winter 2020

## Amber's Story

Amber is grateful for the roof over her head, but as a single mother living in a one-bedroom apartment with four children, it's still difficult.

Sadly Amber's situation reflects the findings of Anglicare's annual rental affordability snapshot. **Story continues on page 3.**





**"..Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly..."**

- Martin Luther King Jr

**"Learn to do good, seek justice, correct oppression..."**

Isaiah 1:17 ESV



## Message from the CEO

While we struggle to cope with the changes COVID-19 has brought to our lives it's important we don't gloss over the point being made by the recent black lives matter movement. The Black Lives Matters protests refocused our attention on the shocking rate of Aboriginal deaths in custody which are driven by disproportionate imprisonment rates. If we say we care about justice or "fairness" then we need to reflect on our part in a harmful and problematic system and do something about it.

Research shows that Indigenous men are 15 times more likely to be incarcerated than non-Indigenous men and that Indigenous women are 22 times more likely to be in jail. That the gap is getting worse every year. Systematic racism which leads to higher incarceration rates for Aboriginal people is a wicked problem and so we should resist defined and predetermined plans. Clearly a paradigm shift is required. An example of a paradigm shift in the criminal justice is moving away from a punitive function towards restorative justice

with a purpose of restoring community relationship.

One solution is to customise and tailor individual interventions. Sometimes it is as basic as having a youth worker operate from a police station to help find safe accommodation for a young person.

Many people that Anglicare works with are vulnerable. A number are from an Indigenous background. Finding culturally appropriate and compassionate approaches are essential in the development and outworking of our services. This is being driven by the Board and Executive teams and ably led by our Cultural Safety Officer, Karen Kime who is a Birripa woman, educator and social worker. We still have a long way to go, and Anglicare is on the journey too.

**Jeremy Halcrow**  
Anglicare CEO



## 'Raise the Age' the Criminalisation of First Nation Children

On 4 August 2020, Australia marked National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day. It's important to remember, especially on a date like this, that tragically, our affluent and socially 'enlightened' nation still sees children as young as 10 years of age incarcerated and criminalised. This combined with the enormous and disproportionately high rates of removal of First Nation children from their homes into foster care, shows we still have a lot to learn from the past.

These ill-informed and unjust laws that see children criminalised, particularly since we now know that they're often too young to realise the long term consequences of what they do, highlights a serious failing in our communities and our nation. Statistics show that the majority of children

serving prison sentences are Australia's Indigenous children - removed from home and family. Research also reveals that many of them grow to become part of the ever expanding prison population flourishing in this country.

We must not marginalise the voices of Australia's First Nation peoples. Journalist, Stan Grant Jnr points to the racism across all of our institutions. He rightly asserts that to realise a fairer and just nation, we must become 'better than that'.

The Apostle Paul highlights what solidarity looks like for the people of Jesus - "If one member suffers, all suffer together with it," he wrote, while St James asserted that "one cannot have faith, without action". These are

words that must inform the Church and Christians everywhere. We are not called to be silent when children and families are suffering. Not addressing racism by being silent is condoning racism. I believe we are called to speak up against the criminalisation of our children and raise the legal age of incarceration.

Doing so helps us all to heal, not only the children and families directly affected. It lifts our integrity and connectedness as an entire nation, and it fulfils what Christ calls us to do. To make your voice heard, visit [www.raisetheage.org.au](http://www.raisetheage.org.au) and sign their petition and engage with their resources.

*By Rev Karen Kime, General Manager  
Cultural Safety for Anglicare*



# Celebrating Bronnie

Children from Goulburn ECEC



Bronnie began volunteering at our Goulburn Early Childhood Centre when she was just 14 years old. Three times a week for 38 years, she provided morning tea for the children and educators to enjoy.

For all connected to the centre, Bronnie was a much-loved part of the team

and her passing earlier this year from a genetic condition was heart-breaking.

To celebrate and remember Bronnie, children and educators at Goulburn Early Childhood Centre hosted a small morning tea (within health guidelines) during National Volunteers Week.

To honour Bronnie's amazing contribution and loving service to the Centre and local children throughout her lifetime, a memorial bench was unveiled – painted in her favourite colour with a plaque that reads "in case you need a Bronnie cuddle".



Bronnie



## Amber's Story *continued*

Almost 70,000 rental listings across Australia were assessed earlier this year finding a chronic shortage in affordable rentals even after recent welfare increases. Amber became desperate after a relationship breakdown at the end of last year.

"I had to move from the South Coast to Canberra at the end of last year and for a few months stayed at relatives' homes. Every few days I had to pack up and move with my four children. It was terrifying and really unsettling for my kids."

She approached Anglicare partner organisation St John's Care for assistance. Food, material aid and

housing support helped Amber get back on her feet, but so many more families are now finding themselves in housing instability.

St John's Care Director, Sarah Murdoch, said "We don't know what the long-term implications of COVID-19 will be for people, particularly in terms of job loss which is one of the biggest emotional and financial stressors on families. While we welcome the increased JobSeeker payments and the introduction of the JobKeeper payments, the reality is that there simply isn't enough affordable housing available for low-income families."

For Amber, she knows that having five

people living in a one-bedroom place isn't really a long-term solution but is optimistic about the future.

"It's better than some other families who have nowhere to go, especially after the bushfires," Amber said.

**"Without the support of organisations such as Anglicare and St John's Care, I don't know where I'd be – probably still couch surfing."**

- Amber





# 20

schools and businesses  
have donated to the  
Pantry Appeal to date



more than

# 16k

food items and  
toiletries have been  
donated to the 2020  
Pantry Appeal so far



# 12

Anglicare locations  
across NSW and ACT  
distribute emergency  
food relief



Students from  
Calwell Primary



## Pantry Appeal Donations

Thank you to all our community partners, churches, schools and businesses who have continued to donate food and toiletries for our emergency relief services. Even children from some of our early learning services have donated to support those in need.

Your generosity means that people who are struggling can still receive the help they need.

The fallout from COVID-19 with job losses and uncertainty has meant that families who never needed assistance before now find themselves struggling. Emergency food relief is needed now more than ever. Anglicare is still distributing food across the region including places still recovery from the NSW bushfires.

People still wishing to donate can contact Anglicare on **1800 18 77 68**.



Students and Staff from Radford College





# Riverina Police Breakfast

Riverina Police have been cooking up a storm at one of Anglicare's Intensive Therapeutic Care (ITC) houses in Wagga Wagga. ITC houses provide a safe living environment for teenagers when traditional foster care placements are not appropriate.

The police officers visit every Wednesday morning to cook and eat breakfast with the girls to encourage good relationships between young people and the local police.

Riverina Police have also been conducting discussion-style workshops regarding drug use and safety in the community.



Crust Pizza Goulburn donating hot meal to crisis housing clients

Goulburn businesses, Dream Admin, Crust Pizza and First National Real Estate, have partnered with Anglicare in Goulburn to give much-needed support to local families struggling with food insecurity this winter, especially in the wake of financial instability created by COVID-19.

Crust Pizza has been delivering hot meals to people at Anglicare's

Housing and Homelessness Service, with the other businesses supporting Anglicare's Pantry Appeal by collecting non-perishable food and toiletries for vulnerable families.

"We wanted to do something for people in our community," says Marnie Wragge-Morley, Dream Admin's digital manager. Food will be distributed through Anglicare Goulburn's Housing Support Service and Emergency Relief Service

## STAY IN TOUCH!

Find us on Facebook  
[@AnglicareACT](#)



## Goulburn Community Generosity

which provides assistance to over 600 people a year.

Anglicare's Housing and Social Services Manager in Goulburn, Toni Reay said, "Families will go without food to keep a roof over their heads. It's even worse at the moment given these uncertain times. It's wonderful for charities like ours to know that we aren't providing this support alone."



## A Note to **ANGLICARE**Retail

"The staff are all so wonderful and friendly, the manager is lovely and makes an effort to chat to the customers. The store is so well organised and a real joy to shop in and all of the stock is great quality. My 4 year old son and I went today and the staff chatted with him and made his day. You should be so proud of this great little shop!"

- Customer from Anglicare Retail Erindale

Anglicare Retail stores have now reopened following closures as a result of Covid-19.

Our Queanbeyan store also continues to deliver food through the Food Fair initiative and clothing collections are still taking place.

Thank you to our hardworking team of staff and volunteers who keep our retail stores clean and sanitised, making shopping a safe and enjoyable experience for all.

Find out more about Anglicare Retail at [www.anglicare.com.au/retail](http://www.anglicare.com.au/retail)



thank  
you

### on behalf of bushfire-affected residents on the NSW South Coast

Following the 2019-20 bushfires, Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & ACT rapidly formed a Bushfire Recovery team to provide support to people impacted by the fires within our region. Our priority was to recruit local staff to work on the ground hand in hand with community.

Anglicare is committed to being present within these communities for as long as possible to deliver meaningful support. We would like to thank all our supporters, staff and volunteers who make this work possible.

Along with funding from the Department of Social Services (DSS), Anglicare has received generous donations from organisations and communities to assist in the recovery process.

If I didn't have the people at Anglicare to talk to, I'd probably bottle it all inside and that's not good. Every time I come here, they listen and I feel like a weight has been lifted.

- Frances, NSW South Coast



Frances pictured with her grandchildren





# Calwell Art Donation



Artist Marje with Calwell staff and children

Children and staff at Anglicare's Calwell Early Learning Centre are enjoying an inspiring addition to their learning space following the donation of a vibrant and nostalgic painting from local artist, Marje Seymour.

The painting depicts local landmark, Lanyon Homestead with a dream

like Sydney Harbour Bridge under construction in the background as a tribute to one of Australia's most prominent female artists, Grace Cossington Smith.

Calwell Centre Director, Melissa Johnston is delighted by the donation and what it means for those at the service.

**"We're so grateful to Marje. You can see her love of this local area reflected in her painting. Like her, we want the children attending this centre to begin experiencing and appreciating beautiful works of art, even at a young age,"** says Ms Johnston.

"This painting brings a lovely feeling to the space... The Lanyon Homestead isn't far from the centre so having recognisable features in the piece is very meaningful," says Ms Johnston. "It reminds children and their families of the beauty around them and encourages them to be creative. Above all, it makes people happy."

The work will remain in the Calwell Early Learning Centre as the property of Anglicare ACT and was donated in the name of Seymour's daughter, Kim Maloney who is an early learning educator at the centre.

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA (left) with funding recipients



## Funding for the Junction!

We are thrilled to be a recipient of ACT Health's funding to support Canberrans who may have difficulty accessing and navigating mainstream health and social services.

Thanks to the boost in funding, The Junction Youth Health Service has been able to employ another youth worker to provide further wraparound support

to young people. We're also recruiting another general practitioner giving us greater capacity to invest in other essential resources such as a car for youth outreach in Canberra schools.

The Junction Youth Health Service provides confidential health services for young Canberrans between 12 and 25 years old.

The Junction has a particular focus on supporting young people who are homeless or are otherwise disadvantaged.

Special thanks goes to ACT Health Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith for supporting our work to provide essential services to young people in Canberra.

# **ANGLICARE** *Sunday* 2020

# LOVE IN ACTION

**PARTNERING WITH THE  
LOCAL CHURCH TO  
ALLEVIATE POVERTY**

**SUNDAY 18 OCT 2020**

Anglicare Sunday is a chance for you and your church to partner with Anglicare in our mission to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty for children, young people and families.

In 2019 more than 48 churches across our region participated in Anglicare Sunday.

Anglican parishes and other churches host Anglicare Sunday to encourage their congregation to be involved with helping people in their local community.

This year we will be preparing all resources (including the sermon/key message) as a pre-recorded video to accommodate parishes 'gathering' online or in person.

Want to be involved?  
Send an email to:  
[missionpartners@anglicare.com.au](mailto:missionpartners@anglicare.com.au)



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.

**Donate here or on  
[www.anglicare.com.au](http://www.anglicare.com.au)**

1. Please complete this form
2. Enclose this form / cheque in an envelope and post to us at  
GPO Box 360, Canberra ACT 2600

Name: .....

Address: .....

Phone: .....

Email: .....

Please accept my donation of:

☐ \$20   ☐ \$50   ☐ \$100   ☐ \$200   ☐ \$.....

Please debit my:   ☐ Mastercard   ☐ Visa   ☐ Amex

Signature.....Expires...../.....

Name on Card.....CCV: .....

☐ My cheque/money order is enclosed (made payable to Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & ACT)

**Thank you for your generosity. A receipt will be sent to you shortly. Donations over \$2.00 are tax-deductable**

**Thrive Winter 2020**  
THRWIN2020

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1800 18 77 68

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Canberra ACT 2600

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