



MISSION +
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT

Volunteers at the Anglicare Christmas services

- > Compassion
- > Integrity
- > Inclusiveness
- > Dignity

ANGLICARE NSW SOUTH | NSW WEST | ACT

Disaster Recovery NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2021

Welcome to our second online newsletter.

It is good to connect again with all our DR volunteers. I have missed seeing you in person at training sessions and events but look forward to increased opportunities for these interactions as we enter into a new year and beyond. Hopefully some of those planned activities that had to be put off can be rescheduled.

Normally at this time of year I would be providing a briefing to team leaders about upcoming fire conditions and asking them to make sure they are aware of their team's availability over the holiday period should an activation occur. Instead I have just forwarded a link to the BOM site which talks about water and flooding in the Summer 2021-2022 Climate and Water Outlook and asked them to check that DR volunteers are double vaccinated before any activation!

Please use this link <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary/> if you are interested in the forecast for the next three months. The video is also available on YouTube.

We did manage to hold one face-to-face workshop at Wagga in March and as a result welcomed 20 new volunteers to our DR teams in Wagga Wagga, Bungendore, Cootamundra, Yass and Junee. We also had a couple of returning DR volunteers which was a delight. Then in September and again in October, Magnus and I conducted online workshops using the newly developed training modules and of course Zoom. For someone who has been somewhat intimidated by technology for years, I have come a long way! These workshops brought another 29 new recruits spread across our region and 11 reaccreditations.

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Please keep an eye on when you are due for a refresher and seek information from either the Anglicare website, your team leader or myself as to what is available. As a reminder, the date at the bottom of your DR ID card indicates when your accreditation expires. We truly appreciate you volunteering with Anglicare but it is your responsibility to keep your accreditation current. This means an up to date Working with Children Check or Working with Vulnerable People card, attendance at refresher training (or another approved training) at least once every three years and a current Anglicare approved police check. Please remember we cannot call on you when our teams are activated if you do not meet all these requirements. They are in place for your safety just as much as for those we work with.

On a broader Agency level, Britt Campbell has joined Anglicare as a Volunteers Coordinator across many of our Programs and Jo Murrell and Carlin Stanford continue working in the bushfire affected areas of the coast and Snowy Valley.

Various policies have been written, and rewritten, to accommodate the changing COVID environment. We have taken on a designated role supporting some of the residents at the Ragusa Quarantine facility in the ACT. Tabards have changed in colour and each team now has an Anglicare Disaster Recovery banner.

Other initiatives have included exploration of optional uniform polo shirts and a review of activation procedures. More about this later.

Finally I want to again sincerely thank you for your commitment as Disaster Recovery volunteers with Anglicare. We value each one of you and couldn't do what we do to support disaster-affected people in our community without you! Have a wonderful Christmas, be blessed and full of joy and may this extend into the new year.

Keep safe and enjoy every moment,

Helen Bennett, Regional Disaster Recovery Coordinator



Staff News

Anglicare welcomes **Britt Campbell** to a new Volunteers Coordinator position within Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & ACT.

Dan Copland has joined Magnus Linder, at Anglicare Sydney, as Assistant Manager, NSW/ACT Disaster Recovery. Those of you who participated in the recent online training will have met Dan and we look forward to involving him in further workshops.

Jill and David Voss, foundation team leaders of the Bungendore DR team have stepped down from this role but continue on as team members. Thanks go to both of the Vosses for their ongoing efforts, innovations and nurturing of this team. **Peta Mudge** will continue on in the capacity of Deputy Team Leader of a combined Bungendore/Queanbeyan team.

Wendy Morrissey, previously a member of the Canberra South team, has relocated to Cootamundra and assumed a leadership role in the Cootamundra/Young DR team.



Dear Volunteers,

Hello my name is Brittany Campbell, Anglicare's new Volunteers Coordinator.

Words cannot describe how excited I am to be here, with Anglicare as I move into my fourth week.

I have a love for connecting and working with individuals, community members and groups for the betterment of our people, services and regions. There is nothing more rewarding than working with likeminded individuals striving for positive social impact, change and growth.

Previous to the here and now I held both the Volunteer Coordinator position within Communities@Work and Volunteer Services Manager within Calvary Public Hospital Bruce. I left Calvary and my substantive position as Communication Team Leader November 2021.

I have re-found my roots whilst admitting that I never lost my appreciation, passion and love for volunteers and all that you do. My heart is happy and soul content. I look forward to working alongside you all.

Britt



Team Leader Forum

It was great to catch up with our DR leaders at Part 1 of our Team Leader Forum at the end of October. Team Leader Forums are usually held every two years and give leaders the opportunity to discuss issues, share ideas and learn from each other and to catch up on changes in policy and procedures. This gathering was necessarily by zoom but we hope to meet in person at a second gathering in February or March 2022. Magnus Linder, NSW/ACT Disaster Recovery Manager took us through some new videos which are likely to become pre-training material for all new DR volunteers. If you would like to look at one of these, please go to Anglicare DR-Getting Ready for Activation - YouTube.

Uniforms

Have you noticed the new DR logo on the banner and the light blue tabards? All Anglicare teams now use these instead of the red tabards which got confused with Red Cross. Team Leaders hold a supply of these for use when teams are activated. Please hold on to your red spray jackets though – these can still be worn in wet weather if outreach doorknocking. We also have some hats. It is hoped that soon there will be optional polo shirt available for purchase.



Ragusa

A little outside our usual Disaster Recovery role within the ACT, Anglicare volunteers and staff have been meeting a trickle of requests to support families who are staying at the Ragusa Quarantine Facility in O'Connor. Named after the Adriatic port city which first mandated quarantine for incoming ships in 1377, this centre was established in September for families temporarily requiring self-contained and separated cabin accommodation whilst in quarantine for COVID-19 related symptoms. Most

requests, usually for clothing and children's toys have come in on weekends, and at other times when the usual shopping facilities have not been accessible. Many DR volunteers - more than we could use - offered clothing, children's games, puzzles and other equipment to help these families pass their time in quarantine. Thank you for your generosity.

For the Canberra Times story about this facility - [click here](#).