



THRIVE

SUMMER 2023





Message FROM THE CEO

It is hard to believe the year is nearly over, and the time of giving is upon us again! As we enter the Christmas season, it is a natural time to consider the things we are thankful for.

For the past few months, following Jeremy Halcrow's departure, I've been privileged to act as Anglicare's Interim CEO. Jeremy took Anglicare from an organisation that had to navigate very stormy seas in 2012-13, to the thriving organisation it is today. I feel very fortunate to have worked closely with Jeremy over the most recent of those years, and learned from his wisdom and that of Anglicare's wonderful Board.

When I chose to come and work for Anglicare, four years ago, it was because I wanted to work for an organisation that tries hard every single day to live out values that I hold dear. Personally, as a devoted follower of Jesus Christ, I am compelled to put others first and challenged to show radical compassion and love toward those most in need. These are the very things that drew me to Anglicare, and I am thankful to continue to be inspired by the work we do and the supporters like you, who allow us to do it.

Recently, I've been honoured to represent the organisation at key sector events—including those recognising National Carers' Week, Anti-Poverty Week and a tribute to social impact leader Brian Murnane. I look forward to chairing the upcoming Anglican Leadership Forum on 24-25 November, where we will aim to move our organisational perspective from that of being a "service provider" to a "creator of social impact" for our clients and communities.

From each of these events I have gained, and will continue to gain, understanding about how both Anglicare and myself can adapt, thrive and change.

Christmas should be a time of reflection, thankfulness and giving. In a year where many community members are in need, I am honoured to represent Anglicare's many workers, volunteers and donors who daily show their dedication to Anglicare and the people we serve.

Thank you for your support.

Brad Braithwaite
Interim Anglicare CEO



Our Gordon Community Centre celebrated five years of impacting the local community by hosting the Gordon Community Day. Our teams were joined by local stall holders and provided a sausage sizzle, Anglicare Retail pop-up shop and children's craft and activities. "We are so thankful to everyone who came along our recent Gordon Community Day," says Rose, Gordon

Community Centre Coordinator. "We were blessed with beautiful weather for the day, lots of great conversation and coffee from Little Luxton."

The opening of Little Luxton cafe on site at Gordon Community Centre was another cause for celebration. Little Luxton donates a portion of profits to fund the programs at Gordon Community Centre.

\$1,076

was raised from stalls and activities at Gordon Community Day. The Centre also recieved several generous cash donations from community members on the day.

250+

individuals and families receive emergency food relief from Gordon Community Centre each month (average based on monthly data May-Oct 2022).



ANGLICARE TEAM Farewells

After 12 years as an Anglicare Executive, and nine as CEO, Jeremy Halcrow moved on from Anglicare last month, taking a leadership role at The Benevolent Society.

In a message to staff and colleagues, Jeremy said "It has been a great honour to lead you all over the past decade and privilege to get to know so many of you. My time leading this wonderful organisation has been the most challenging and enriching decade of my life".

The Anglicare Board of Executives responded to Jeremy's departure by saying "You have been an outstanding leader for Anglicare and have achieved a great deal, steering the organisation through COVID establishing sound business performance in all our portfolios and building a culture of safety and high engagement. Our outstanding staff engagement scores attest to this."

Jeremy's dedication and leadership will be profoundly missed.

This year we also farewellled Ann Ponsonby, former Executive Manager for the Permanency Support Program, who stepped down after a decade with Anglicare – and more than 40 years in the community sector.

"This has not been an easy decision," said Ann "Indeed the last 10 years of working with Anglicare, have been some of the most enriching, challenging yet also incredibly powerful and interesting work of my career. The opportunity of working within a faith based NGO – with the freedom, creativity and innovation that is so possible when compared with my previous experience of working within Government - remains a gift."

Ann was instrumental in strengthening Anglicare's culture. It was Ann's initial leadership and ongoing vision that saw Anglicare build a strong therapeutic capability over successive strategic plans and her innovative spirit, follow-through and dedication will be sorely missed.



EDEN CANOES AWARDED

Congratulations to the Eden Canoe Project! The team were awarded Highly Commended in the Partnership category at the recent Anglicare Australia Awards in Hobart.

The Eden Canoe Project was developed by Anglicare Rural Chaplain, Michael Palmer (pictured right), in partnership with the local Aboriginal community and local high schools. The project is a practical opportunity for young people to be immersed in a cultural experience of building wooden canoes, grow in confidence, have a greater sense of cultural identity, and feel more equipped to become custodians of their culture. We are so pleased to see this incredibly valuable program recognised at a national level.





ANGLICARE Sunday

The theme of this year's Anglicare Sunday, held on the 23rd of October as part of Anti-Poverty week, was 'Connecting for Community' and more than 35 churches participated by focusing their weekly service on the work of Anglicare.

The day is an opportunity for Anglicare to thank parishes for the prayers, volunteering and financial support they contribute and to encourage continued partnership between church, community and Anglicare to help break the cycle of intergenerational poverty for children, young people and families.

While Anglicare is always extremely appreciative of the financial support we receive from parishes, Anglicare Sunday is not a fundraising initiative. It's a time we set aside specifically to engage with

parishes and provide an update on the work we've achieved together over the past year.

Services on the day included videos of client's personal stories, prayer suggestions and information about how individuals can support Anglicare in the work they do.

"The personal stories [shared at Anglicare Sunday] really demonstrated the impacts Anglicare is having and made it very relatable to the congregation. I appreciated that it was not just seeking support and donations but also focused heavily on sharing the work of Anglicare and the effect on people's lives," says a congregant at Water's Edge Anglican Church in Googong.



MADDISON WINS EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & ACT is proud to honour Goulburn Family Day Care Educator, Maddison Lord, who has won Regional Educator of the year for Goulburn and Southern Tablelands in the 2022 Excellence in Family Day Care Awards.

Maddison, who has worked for the past three years as an Educator with Anglicare's Goulburn Family Day Care service operating Payton's Place Family Day Care, says the role allows her the flexibility she needs to also care for her own family.

"I have three children who are under six years of age and one of my children has additional needs. With a role like this I can choose my hours and make sure that my children are cared for too," says Maddison. "I feel really supported by Anglicare and the other Educators who have a lot of experience. The relationships with the other staff and with the parents of the children I care for are my favourite part about this role."

Katie Beelen-Smith, Anglicare's Goulburn Family Day Care Director, says that Maddison's award is well deserved. "Maddie is a vibrant and enthusiastic Educator

who creates beautiful environments for young people and is focused on inclusion, family and respect. We're so happy to have her as part of the team."

Anglicare is currently looking for further family day care Educators to join their team. "I encourage people to consider a role like this," says Maddison. "It's a really great stepping stone that opens doors into Early Childhood Education."



CYCLOPS YOUNG CARERS PROGRAM



Celebrates Twenty Years!

Our young carers program, CYCLOPS, celebrated during National Carer's Week to celebrate 20 years of supporting young carers and their families. A number of young carers, family members and sector partners joined in the festivities. Special guests included Minister Emma Davidson, member for Murrumbidgee, and Tim Moore from Australian Catholic University, who established the program back in 2001. Both guests spoke about the important role young carers play in our community.

CYCLOPS stands for 'connecting young carers to life opportunities and personalised support' and the program is a place of wrap around support for young carers. Young carers are young people who care for a parent or sibling living with a chronic illness or disability. These inspiring young people often sacrifice much to be there for their loved ones.

The CYCLOPS team are devoted to ensuring young carers have a place to turn for practical support in their day-to-day, plus lots of fun and friendship!

The birthday celebration was an opportunity to say thank you to everyone who has contributed to the program through the years.

50+

young carers are supported by our CYCLOPS program at any one time.

6.5hrs

of caring duties are performed by some of our young carers on a daily basis.



NAIDOC WEEK

In the lead up the NAIDOC Week, the Anglicare Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) team participated in a cultural walk on Wiradjuri Country with Uncle James Ingram.

The RAP team learned about Wiradjuri history and the significant cultural sites in the heart of Wagga Wagga – which translates to ‘place of many dances’ in Wiradjuri. Uncle James inspired the RAP team with stories and truth of this country and introduced them to deep listening.

Also appreciating Aboriginal culture and community, the Anglicare team at Ashmont Community Resource Centre hosted a NAIDOC Week Celebration which featured a range of activities and performances.

More than 250 members of the local community attended the celebration with performances by the Murrumbidgee Dance Group, cultural activities hosted by Luke Wighton, traditional camp oven food (including damper and kangaroo), unveiling of artwork by local Indigenous Artist Tyrone Hoerler, stalls by local community members and so much more.

WELCOMING BRIAN GOONEMAH DEVRIES



have him on board helping shape our services and the outward ripples they'll create.

"Coming to an organisation that has the scope in which Anglicare does was confronting at first, however each and every person I have come across from volunteers to coordinators to the CEO and Executive team, and everyone that works alongside them, have been extremely welcoming and supportive.

Karen Kime has embedded some incredible work here at Anglicare, and I now have the honour to carry the sacred fire to care for and grow. I want to respect Anglicare's journey around Cultural Safety thus far, but I am extremely excited to bring my skills and knowledge to the organisation.

Sarah Plummer in particular has been very supportive with this in these early stages. I am particularly looking

forward to engaging with community and my colleagues as I am lucky enough to have a platform in which I can highlight their words and ideas. I am grateful for this opportunity and looking forward to the journey ahead."

Brian's valuable knowledge and perspective from his work delivering Cultural Awareness training with KARI Foundation, as a member of the Sanctuary Aboriginal Advisory Group with Mackillop Family Services and more than a decade working in Out of Home Care services are helping Anglicare to consider Cultural Safety in everything we do.

The responsibility to look beyond the initial purpose of a program or service and to reflect on the lasting impact it may have is especially important for charitable organisations, and Anglicare is happy to have Brian walking alongside us on this journey.

"A program is like throwing a pebble into water: from one big splash, many ripples are sent out and continue to travel. These ripples will continue to grow and reach far and wide." Brian Goonemah DeVries, Anglicare's Senior Advisor for Cultural Safety made this statement while working alongside the KARI Foundation, but its truth is universal.

Based at St Saviours' Liverpool Office, Brian is a proud Wiradjuri and Kunya man with ties to Yuin and Budjari people and Anglicare is pleased to



DAY OUT WITH FRIENDS

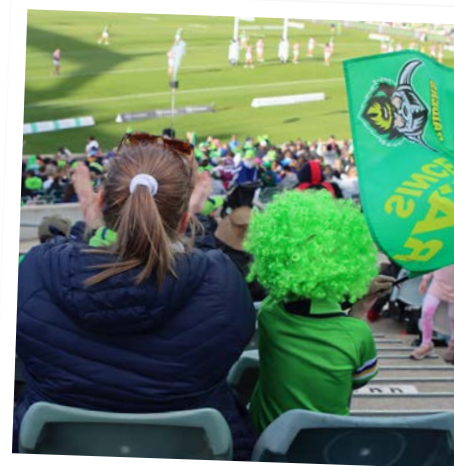
Bushfire impacted community members from the Snowy Valleys, Bega and Eurobodalla were given the opportunity for a change of pace and a chance to connect during two outings organised by Anglicare's Bushfire Recovery program.

The first outing in August involved a bus trip to Canberra to watch the Raiders at GIO stadium. The Raiders kindly supplied free tickets for more than 40 participants and 8 Anglicare staff. "It was an exciting day," said Bushfire Recovery Coordinator, Radek Hruska, "For many of the participants it was their first trip out of the region since before the bushfires happened."

Positive feedback from the Raiders trip led to another outing in October to Canberra's Floriade festival. More than 100 participants were greeted by Floriade organiser Anais Maro who arranged a private pavilion for the group as well as free potted bulbs for everyone to take home.

"It sounds silly", one participant said of the day, "but it made us feel normal again. Just to be out doing things like we used to do."

The idea for the outings was Radek's, who was inspired by research showing that trauma impacted individuals can benefit from removing themselves from the environment where trauma occurred and by connecting with others who have experienced similar trauma. These outings did both, and they also offered the Anglicare Bushfire Recovery team an opportunity to build trust with community members to better support their ongoing recovery.



Left: Bushfire Recovery community members at the Canberra Raiders Game.



Below: Community members at Floriade.



RILEY'S STORY

Riley was placed in care when he was approximately 10 years old. He turned 18 in 2019 and moved out of his foster parents' home into independent living in 2020.

"I hadn't lived alone before but the COVID lockdowns were happening in Sydney and I couldn't go anywhere. I felt so anxious and depressed," he says. "Being in foster care wasn't always easy, but I had really good support from my foster parents and from the team at Anglicare NSW South."

Fortunately Riley continues to receive support through the Premiers Youth Initiative (PYI) were able to assist him with the transition out of care.

"I'd feel lost with the PYI team," says Riley. "The staff provided a lot of support, and found me an apartment near my foster parents' home. It's in walking distance to everywhere. They also helped me to enroll in TAFE. I enjoy maths and technical skills, so I hope to work for a gaming company one day. Even though living on my own can be hard, the PYI team really help me in working out what path to take."

SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BECOMING A FOSTER CARER WITH ANGLICARE





STARTING FRESH



Batlow launch

Young people in the Bushfire impacted area of Batlow are learning incorporate exercise, team building and healthy eating in their day as part of Anglicare NSW South, NSW West and ACT's newest Starting F.R.E.S.H. initiative. Designed as a wellness program for Year 7-12 students, the program promotes physical and emotional health through gym and exercise training, life skills and wellbeing sessions.

Anglicare's Bushfire Recovery Coordinator in the Snowy Valleys, Joanne Murrell, is excited about what a program like this means for young people in the region.

"Exercising both mind and body in a group setting is a great way to improve overall health, and can also enhance relationships and social engagement. Anglicare's Bushfire Recovery team were looking for ways to support young people who had been affected by the Black Summer bushfires. Anglicare was already running the Starting FRESH program in Wagga Wagga, so we were able to adapt this for young people in our region," says Joanne.

The program, which began in term 3, operates three afternoons a week from the Batlow Technology School gym facility, and includes an afternoon tea/dinner.

Exercise options change daily, a range of healthy breakfast choices are on offer, and all transport is provided. In addition, young people will learn the skills needed to improve their mindset and create a positive future.

"We are currently looking for staff members to join our team. These roles are a practical way to support the local community and invest meaningfully in the lives of young people," says Joanne.



Thank you again to our generous donors for making these wonderful projects happen.
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Thrive Summer 2023

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