



THRIVE

AUTUMN 2023



Pictured: Support worker pictured with two participants of Holt Disability Service at an outing to the Canberra Royal Show.



Message FROM THE CEO

As I introduce myself to the Anglicare community, a community I am honored to serve as the new Anglicare NSW South, NSW West and ACT CEO, I would like to focus on the shared values that drive our decisions, determine our purpose and help us do good in the world.

The values of Anglicare: compassion, integrity, inclusiveness and dignity are a large part of what led me to relocate from Geelong to Canberra to take on this new role. Already in my short time here I have been inspired by how deeply entrenched these values have become in the culture and conduct of staff, in their interactions with each other and with our partners and participants.

The dedicated leadership of former CEO Jeremy Halcrow and former Deputy CEO Brad Braithwaite has ushered Anglicare through challenging times to its current strong position in the community sector. The decision to adopt a Sanctuary Model has led to a healthy, safe and productive work environment. I am pleased to lead such a vibrant, well-placed

organisation in our meaningful work; work made possible by a robust team of staff, volunteers and donors.

While we continue to face challenges, housing, disaster relief and increased costs of living in particular, I feel confident that by cultivating strong working relationships, harnessing the wisdom of our diverse experience and remaining true to our core values we can adapt, remain relevant and keep connecting to those in need.

I am thankful for the support and encouragement I have received from staff members, board members and the Canberra and Goulburn Anglican Diocese. But more importantly, I am thankful for the passion and commitment Anglicare workers show every day; commitment to our shared mission, commitment to our participants and commitment to empowering the communities we serve.

Most of all, I am thankful for the generosity and faith of supporters like you, without which we could not begin to do what we do.

Brandon Howard
Anglicare CEO



DAY OUT AT THE CANBERRA SHOW

Thirteen participants and ten staff members from Holt Disability Day Centre spent an exciting day at the Royal Canberra Show. Anglicare Support Planner, Jessica Ramsay, said a highlight of the day was strolling through Showbag Alley where "everyone loved the bubbles, music and stalls". The animal area was also very popular with participants.

"At the end of the day" said Jessica "everyone said they were tired, but had a really good time, which is always good to hear!"



Turning the Sod ON CRISIS HOUSING IN YASS

Early in April, Anglicare CEO Brandon Howard visited Yass for a "turning of the sod" ceremony to mark the commencement of what will become six new crisis accommodation units. Once completed, the Anglicare-run housing will provide a refuge for local individuals and families who would otherwise face homelessness.

"These units will fill a desperate need in the community," said Mayor Allan McGrath.

The project has been made possible through the incredible support and partnership of the Yass Valley Anglican Parish (St. Clements) and the Federal Government's Safer Places funding program.

We give special thanks to Member for Eden Monaro Kristy McBain, Rector Judy Heggard, Rector Ken Rampling, Mayor McGrath and the many representatives and special guests from Yass Valley Council and Yass Valley Anglican Parish who joined us for this celebration.



GET INVOLVED

Club Catalina's GIFT TO MORUYA ER HUB

In February Anglicare's Emergency Relief Hub in Moruya was thrilled to receive a generous donation from Club Catalina's "Friday Skins" group. "The donation will have a real impact" said Anglicare's emergency relief coordinator Pauline Sullivan.

The emergency relief hub provides essential food, clothing, toiletries and tents to locals struggling with the high cost of living and the catastrophic rental crisis. "We are seeing greater numbers of locals seeking our services, and many new participants who have never needed us before", said Mrs. Sullivan. The gift from Club Catalina will help vulnerable community members receive the practical assistance and emotional support they need at this difficult time.



SOUTH COAST FINANCIAL COUNSELLING SERVICE

Two new financial counsellors have joined the Anglicare South Coast team, with another addition expected in Goulburn soon. Funding for financial counselling in the region increased following the Black Summer Bushfires, and with many families still impacted by that devastation now facing high interest rates and high food costs, the need for financial assistance continues.

Anglicare Coordinator, Kirsty Daley, based in the Ashmont Community Resource Centre, says they are

seeing more new clients, those who have never needed financial support before, and that more clients are keeping their appointments then in the past. "We have noticed a lot of clients coming to us because of the interest rate hikes, those who had to stretch themselves to purchase homes."

If you, or someone you know, is in need of financial counselling, call (02) 6232 2488 and our team will put you in contact with the financial counsellor in your area.



Volunteer FEATURE

The Gordon Community Centre, run in partnership by Anglicare and the Lanyon Valley Anglican Church, would not run so well at all without its team of volunteers—especially long-term volunteer Pat Houghton.

For going on 5 years, Pat has been an integral part of the centre. She is heavily involved in the food pantry operation and has used her 20 years of child care experience to run the Wednesday playgroup sessions since they began.

"I was working for Anglicare's Calwell Early Childcare Centre when the Gordon Community Centre opened and I was sent over to help set up the playgroup" she said. Once the playgroup was up and running, Pat decided to stay on as a volunteer—and she's stayed on ever since. "Back when we started we had maybe 5 or 6 children," she said. "Last week we had 19 and sometimes it is as high as 25!"

A highlight for Pat is planning holiday playgroup sessions, such as the recent Christmas party. "I had a lot of fun making little Christmas presents for all the children" she said. Pat also planned a special Easter craft for a session earlier this month.

Pat's efforts with the onsite food pantry are another way she's become essential to the Gordon team. "Pat is one of the longest serving volunteers in the Pantry. We are grateful for the support she is able to provide to newer volunteers, and the additional time and energy she puts into our Christmas activities", said Gordon Community Centre Coordinator Rose Flintoff.

The pantry is open twice a week for community members struggling to make ends meet. Participants receive bags of food and other necessities such as toiletries and laundry detergent. Food donations come from OZHarvest and occasionally local bakeries or shops. Generous



community members donate dry goods and financial gifts which are used to fill in the gaps.

"We don't always have everything we'd like, said Pat, but we do the best we can". With increasing numbers of clients "we have needed to get creative. Sometimes we won't source hair conditioner so we can afford more shampoo, as that's more essential."

When asked what motivates her as a volunteer, Pat responded that the support she receives from the staff and other volunteers has brought her through some very tough times. Without a doubt Pat's dedication and commitment to the Gordon Community Centre has done the same for many of the vulnerable clients and young families she has helped through the years. Anglicare couldn't continue to serve the community without volunteers like Pat.



THREAD TOGETHER IN PARKES



Following the unprecedented flooding in the Parkes region last November, Anglicare partner Thread Together coordinated with the local Anglicare team to provide essential clothing, shoes and towels to impacted individuals and families, many of whom lost everything.

Thread Together works to prevent excess clothing and materials from ending up in landfills by rerouting them to those in need. Their relationships with fashion industry partners means the materials they source come brand new, direct from the manufacturer.

Anglicare is pleased to announce that Thread Together plans to continue to their presence in Parkes by opening a clothing hub based in Georgie's Pantry. The pantry, and associated op shop, Georgie's Boutique, are run in partnership by Anglicare and the Anglican Parish of Parkes.

There continues to be great need in the region. "Families have been displaced," said Anglicare Coordinator for Parkes, Ann Olson. "Many have had to move in with their parents or into their children's homes. There are no caravans left and the rental crisis is making things even harder."

By providing flood victims and other vulnerable community members in Parkes access to free clothing and other essentials, Thread Together brings a sense of dignity and hope as the community rebuilds.

Pictured: Ann Olson at Georgie's Boutique in Parkes



BR TEAM PLANNING DAY

Anglicare Bushfire Recovery Team from across the South Coast and Snowy Valleys, recently gathered in Canberra for a special reflection and planning event. Marking three years working together to support communities through the aftermath of the Black Summer fires, they spent time reflecting and planning how they can best support the community in the months and years ahead. Funding agreements for Bushfire Recovery programs are expected to change soon but our teams remain committed to supporting and empowering the local community.



Little Luxton MAKING EVERY CUPPA COUNT

Little Luxton owners Nate and Tara Swift are on a mission to harness the strong coffee culture of Canberra and use it to connect community resources with community need.

Both locals of the Lanyon Valley, the Swifts opened their permanent café adjacent to Anglicare's Gordon Community Centre, hoping to make a positive impact in their own neighborhood. And they already have. Since opening in November the café has donated one dollar from every coffee sold to the centre.

Gordon Community Centre Coordinator, Rose Flintoff has been thrilled with their new neighbours. "Little Luxton has already had a positive impact on the centre," she said "increasing energy and enthusiasm, supporting the local community, building awareness of and engagement with the centre. We are grateful for their wonderful team—always friendly and

welcoming and are looking forward to seeing how God will use this new venture."

Since opening in October, Little Luxton has seen locals become regulars to the café, and regulars go on to become volunteers and committed donors to the Gordon Community Centre through its food pantry.



BUSHFIRE RECOVERY FINANCIAL COUNSELLING

For many of us the Black Summer Bushfires have become a distant memory. The pandemic, flooding, rental crises and rising interest rates have taken our attention in turns.

Yet, for those who were impacted, daily reminders of the devastation continue, and for Anglicare Bushfire Recovery Financial Counsellor, Chris Heckenberg, the job of helping is still ongoing.

In the immediate aftermath of the fires, everyone from the Red Cross to the Army came to help, Chris remembers. Chris was there with them at the start. He joined the Anglicare Bushfire Recovery Response Team, as a Financial Counsellor working across the whole of the Snowy Mountains, Monaro and Snowy Valleys.

"Given the devastating loss many who came to see me had experienced, I was extremely aware from the outset that I had to use a trauma informed

approach in all my client work," said Chris. "Many of the people I support were too bewildered in the immediate aftermath of the fires to act. Making long-term decisions are difficult for those impacted by trauma. I offered to draw up a "Road Map" for them setting out each step and crossing off each task as they reached each of their destinations along the way."

"I found when working in rural areas it is particularly important to meet face to face with people. Community leaders, service providers and clients all appreciate checking-out and summing up a person in the flesh," he said.

Nearly three and a half years have passed since the fires and while most, if not all, services are now gone Chris is still on the ground battling for his clients. Still on the same journey with clients as they face insurance companies, unscrupulous building companies and additional local

government building regulations which leave them with no options but to live in shipping containers and caravans for years to come. And experiencing some nice wins along the way too of course.

"I would never give up my job, he said. "It's being invited to share in the journey of recovery by these beautiful, resilient people who make it all worthwhile."



WAGGA WAGGA FAMILY Easter Egg Hunt

In early April, the Anglicare Permanency Support Program team hosted our annual Wagga Wagga Family Easter Egg Hunt at Gobbagombalin Park.

The team had so much fun hosting the egg hunt and kids craft activities as well as speaking to local families about how they can make a difference by becoming a foster carer.



NEW LEARNER DRIVER PROGRAM

Anglicare will soon pilot a Learner Driver Program for a select group of young people in the ACT who would otherwise struggle to fulfil Access Canberra's updated requirements for a provisional drivers licence.

The ACT's introduction of the Graduated Licencing Scheme in January of 2020 means that learner drivers under the age of 25 are now required to hold their learners licence for 12 months, and complete 100 hours of supervised driving, including 10 hours at night. This is a big change from the previous requirement of 6 months and zero supervised hours. For the vulnerable young people participating in Anglicare's Cyclops

young carers program or Junction Youth Services, access to a vehicle and suitable supervision is a challenge. Daniel Gaffney, Anglicare's Coordinator for Youth and Family Services in the ACT came up with the concept for the pilot program. "For young people without a robust support system in place, the new requirement could prevent them from attaining their provisional licence at all," he said. "The hope is that by helping at-risk young people to obtain a provisional licence it will prevent them from missing out on employment and housing opportunities in the future and help them become safe, confident drivers," said Daniel.

The initial program will work with five young people, nominated from Anglicare services, by providing access to a registered vehicle and a volunteer to supervise their driving hours. Before beginning the program, participants must hold a valid learners licence and complete seven formal driving lessons with support from Anglicare.

Anglicare has already commenced selecting participants for the program and supporting them to complete their seven required driving lessons. Anyone interested in volunteering as a driver supervisor can contact Daniel Gaffney at 02 6232 2488 or email volunteers@anglicare.com.au for more information.



GETTING KIDS GROOVING



in Gooongong

On Tuesday afternoons, children at Anglicare's Gooongong Early Learning Centre gather around to giggle and groove during Music with Emma sessions.

At Anglicare we are so grateful for our team of passionate educators, like Emma, who make learning engaging and fun for the children at our ECEC services.

If you're passionate about nurturing young learners and are looking for an exciting and rewarding career opportunity, consider joining the team at Anglicare!

We're currently recruiting new team members for our ECEC services in Canberra and Goulburn. Various positions available.

Visit our website www.anglicare.com.au for details.



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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www.anglicare.com.au

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Thrive Autumn 2023

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