

Pictured: NAIDOC event in Wagga Wagga.

THRIVE

SPRING 2024

NAIDOC COMMUNITY EVENT IN WAGGA
KEEP THE FIRES BURNING! BLAK, LOUD AND PROUD!

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Message FROM THE CEO

It is a pleasure to connect with you again through our latest edition of THRIVE. As we continue to walk alongside the most vulnerable members in our communities, I am reminded of the vital role each of you plays in our mission at Anglicare. Your support, whether through volunteering and donations, or prayer, is the cornerstone of the work we do together.

This edition of THRIVE is packed with stories that highlight our ongoing commitment to partnership and collaboration. Anglicare is joining forces with nearly 60 community organisations, as part of the ACTforCommunity campaign, to advocate for increased government funding to meet the growing needs of our region. The impact of this campaign could ensure that vital services reach everyone who needs them.

You'll also read about the conclusion of our Bushfire Recovery program, a testament to the resilience and dedication of our team members who have been on the frontlines of disaster relief since the 2020 Black

Summer Bushfires. Their work has been nothing short of extraordinary, and we recognise their efforts as this chapter comes to a close.

And finally, I encourage you to delve into the stories that showcase the difference our community of supporters has made in the lives of those we serve. From the heartwarming Goulburn's Got Talent Show, where participants showcased their skills and creativity, to the spirit of generosity we experienced during our latest June Appeal.

As we look to the future, we have hope and anticipation for what lies ahead. We are reminded in Galatians 6:9, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Your continued support and partnership ensure that Anglicare remains a steadfast source of help, healing, and hope for those who need it most.

Thank you for being an essential part of this journey. Together, we are making a difference that will be felt for generations to come.

Warm regards,

Trevor Ament

Trevor Ament
Interim Anglicare CEO



NAIDOC EVENT SHOWCASES COMMUNITY CONNECTION IN WAGGA WAGGA

Our Ashmont Community Resource Centre (ACRC) truly kept the fires burning during their annual NAIDOC Week celebration last month. Local elders, community members and the Anglicare team all gathered around a yarning fire, participated in a traditional smoking ceremony and cheered for the local young people who shone on stage during a heartwarming talent quest.

Despite the cold temperatures on the day, a great many community members came along to celebrate and show their support for the ACRC. "The centre is really integrated into the community", said Anglicare's Senior Manager for Community Services, Kristy Daley, "and that is in large part due to the relationships of individual staff members. The

guests, the elders, the DJ, they all come because they are connected in that way."

Over the last 20 years, the ACRC has built a reputation as a welcoming, safe and respectful meeting place for all community members. Run in partnership by Anglicare and the Ashmont Anglican Parish, the centre offers emergency food relief, parenting support, play groups, community lunches, financial support, and cooking, crafting and gardening activities.

The centre is a brilliant example of Anglicare's community hub model in practice and cherishes its role within this interconnected and diverse community.

Pictured: Some highlights from the NAIDOC event in Wagga.



COST OF LIVING INSIGHTS AT SCHOOL

Volunteers from Anglicare's emergency relief team linked up with local families at the latest Cost of Living @Schools event at Caroline Chisholm School in early August. These once-a-term events are intended to increase access to services for busy families who are struggling with financial pressures, reduce stigma about seeking assistance, and increase understanding about what support is available.

"There are a lot of families in need at the moment", said a social worker from the school. "We have students that come to school without food. It's a real issue that doesn't look to be going away anytime soon".

Anglicare is here to help. In the face of elevated demand in the community, Anglicare's emergency relief teams try to provide families with lunch-box items—along with the more traditional food and hygiene products. Where possible, teams try to source fresh produce and other nutrition-rich foods, recognising that many people are now regularly relying on food banks.

Thank you to our volunteers and everyone who contributes to our Pantry Appeals. It is your generosity that allows us to do this important work.



Pictured: Anglicare staff and volunteers at the Cost of Living event.





BEING USEFUL IN TIMES OF DISASTER LESSONS FROM LONG-TIME VOLUNTEER

Anna Conyers of Wagga Wagga has been an active Disaster Recovery volunteer with Anglicare for nearly two decades. For much of that time, Anna has been the Wagga-based team leader, helping to manage, coordinate and recruit volunteers—and she’s learned a few lessons from the unique nature of Disaster Recovery volunteering.

“In times of disaster it is good to be able to do something useful. It may only be a small thing, but it’s satisfying to be assisting when you can”, she said.

One such memorable moment came for Anna in 2012, when the entire Wagga Wagga city centre was evacuated due to flooding on the Murrumbidgee River. *“They thought the levee bank was going to break. It was in the evening, it was already getting dark, and it resulted in a massive traffic jam in the middle of Wagga”,* said Anna. *“We had a couple of schools set up as evacuation centres and I was called to go and assist at one of those. We didn’t have a lot of local evacuees, but we had visitors for a sporting event and people who’d come to Wagga for cancer treatment whose hostel had to evacuate.”*

It may have been a stressful situation, but Anna was confident in her role. *“It’s simply a matter of helping everyone be relaxed, seeing what they need and maybe making them a cuppa”,* she said.

Anna’s confidence comes from her training and her years of experience. *“I’ve learned I can stay calm even if I’m not feeling calm inside, and that we can usually find a way around things. If someone in the evacuation centre needs something we can usually find some way of assisting them. It requires thinking outside the square sometimes.”*

Another important lesson for Anna has been around teamwork. *“You can’t do it on your own; you have times when you need to take responsibility—and also let go of responsibility. You can’t be at the evacuation centre 24 hours a day but have to trust your team members. It’s so important that you have good people around you, which I do fortunately.”*

Through the years, Anna has noticed a trend of increased interest in volunteering during and following large scale disasters. *“Often, when people see something is happening, they think, ‘Oh it’d be really good if I could help’ but if you’re not trained and you don’t know what to do, you can’t”,* she said.

Anna encourages those who are interested to get involved now. *“Everybody has something to contribute”,* she said, *“and this is a great way to be available and to help out in a disaster. But you need to be trained and approved prior to when a disaster hits to be of assistance”.*

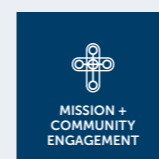
Fortunately for Anna, who has multiple church and community responsibilities, and for others interested in volunteering, the time commitment for the Disaster Recovery team is quite limited. *“Very little time is needed when there is no emergency”,* she said. *“We do have re-training every 3 years and I try to meet with my team every 3-6 months, but it is very light on.”*

While across our region we have been fortunate to have limited disasters over the past few years, it means that volunteer numbers are again starting to dwindle. If you’d like to be ready to assist when the next disaster occurs, we encourage you to become trained now.

Visit the Disaster Recovery page of our website or call 02 6245 7100 to learn more.



Pictured: Anna (third from left) pictured with other volunteers and Anglicare staff celebrating anniversaries.



A CALLING TO SERVE: A CONVERSATION WITH CHAPLAIN SUE ROBERTSON



This month, we sat down with Sue Robertson, Anglicare’s new chaplain, whose journey of faith and service has taken her from various ministries to her current role. Sue shares her experiences, her approach to chaplaincy, and her hopes for the future.

Sue, could you tell us about your journey to becoming a chaplain? What inspired you to follow this path?

From an early age, I felt a strong calling to ministry, even when it was challenging. Over the years, I’ve served in various capacities, including children’s ministry, pastoral counselling, and hospital chaplaincy. Each experience deepened my faith and prepared me for this role. It’s always been about helping others see Christ in themselves and understanding God’s unconditional love.

How does your faith shape your work as a chaplain at Anglicare?

Faith is at the heart of everything I do. It’s not just a job—it’s a calling. I believe in building a personal relationship with God and seeing each person as Christ would see them. It’s about offering comfort, yes, but also about being a conduit of hope and love to everyone I meet.

Can you share a story from your work that has particularly impacted you?

One story that deeply moved me is about a woman I worked with who struggled with severe mental health issues. Over several years, I walked alongside her in her journey, seeing her move from a place of feeling completely unworthy of love to embracing the fullness of God’s love. Through patience, compassion, and the transformative power of God’s grace, she found healing and now lives a content and fulfilled life, happily married in a rural community.

This experience reminded me that everyone is deserving of love and a second chance. It’s these stories of transformation that reflect the heart of Anglicare’s mission—helping people find hope, dignity, and new beginnings. I am excited to be a part of many more such stories here, witnessing the incredible ways God’s love can change lives.

What message would you like to share with our supporters?

I want to express my deepest gratitude to all our supporters for their faithful prayers and unwavering commitment. Your prayers sustain Anglicare in our mission and provide the strength and encouragement needed to continue this important work. Together, we are serving the Lord, lifting each other up in prayer, and witnessing the incredible ways God is working in our community.

As we conclude our conversation, it’s clear that Sue Robertson embodies a spirit of faith, service, and dedication to the community. In her role as chaplain, Sue will bring her compassionate presence and deep commitment to spiritual care, supporting those in need and guiding them through their journeys of healing and transformation. Her passion for helping others aligns with Anglicare’s mission, and we are eager to see the positive impact she will have on our community as she leads with empathy, faith, and hope.

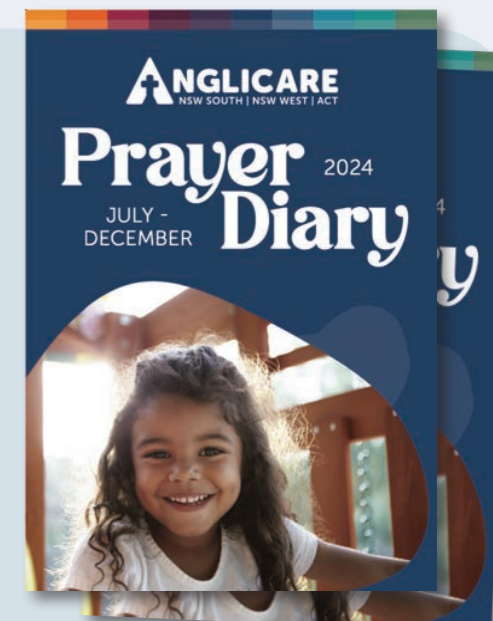
NEW ANGLICARE Prayer Diary

The newest edition of our Prayer Diary is now available! This sleek and easy-to-read diary is designed to guide you through six months of prayer, focusing on the many ways we can uplift our community together.

But the diary isn’t just for you – it’s for us, too! We would love to pray for you and your needs. That’s why we’ve included space for you to write your own prayer points. Simply send them to us, and our team will keep you in our prayers.



You can also order copies by phone or email:
Web: www.anglicare.com.au/prayer-diary
Email: supporters@anglicare.com.au
Phone: 02 6245 7100



HONOURING OUR SHARED ROLE IN BUSHFIRE RECOVERY

After four and a half years of providing relief and supporting recovery for individuals and communities impacted by the 2020 Black Summer Bushfires, the Anglicare Bushfire Recovery team will be wrapping up their operations over the coming months.

While the personal relationships forged between our regional team members—many of whom faced their own devastating losses in the fires—and those they served will likely continue, this remains a bittersweet moment for the Anglicare team.

We are proud to have been one of the first not-for-profit organisations to be involved in the bushfire response.

During the initial crisis, more than **60 Anglicare Disaster Recovery volunteers were deployed**, contributing to **over 4500 volunteer hours** across 15 evacuation centres. Our ability to respond with such speed was largely due to the generosity of our donors, who gave just over \$220,700 to our bushfire relief appeal—allowing us to immediately distribute food, clothing, mattresses, generators, fuel vouchers, and more to those who lost their homes.

As relief turned to recovery, the trust we'd established through our effective early response led to the receipt of funding grants from both the NSW and Commonwealth governments. With this funding, the Bushfire Recovery team led community discussions and community initiatives and supported families through local grants, financial counselling, intensive case management and the provision of relief funds.

In 2022, Anglicare's Rebuilding Advisory service, unique in Australia, began connecting experts in construction and home building with vulnerable families navigating the complexities of re-building following natural disaster.

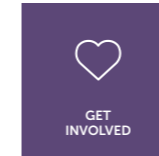
Initially, program funding was due to expire at the end of the 2022/2023 financial year, however, the deep relationships, trust and understanding developed by Anglicare staff living and operating in the regions allowed a compelling case to be made for extension and we were able to continue our support for an additional year.

From the very beginning, the face, heart and soul of the Anglicare Bushfire team has been Bushfire Manager Joanne (Jo) Murrell, who, along with her team, provided consistent, trauma-informed consultation and advocacy on behalf of vulnerable communities and individuals—never forgetting that recovery is often long and rarely linear.

We are deeply thankful to Jo and her team and to all the volunteers, donors, and grant providers who allowed us to make a positive difference to those impacted by such a life-changing disaster.

Thank you

Pictured: Jo at the Anglicare Bushfire Recovery Hub in Batlow.



ANGLICARE JOINS ACTFORCOMMUNITY

Anglicare is one of nearly 60 Canberra-based community organisations joining the ACTforCommunity campaign, which launched in July ahead of the upcoming ACT Election. Initiated by the ACT Council of Social Services (ACTCOSS), the campaign seeks to increase government funding to the community services sector in line with population growth and cost-of-living pressures.

Across the sector and across Anglicare's portfolios, services have had to spread their resources further to accommodate more clients. While Anglicare appreciates the government funding that some of our programs currently receive, we recognise that an overall increase

in funding to the sector is absolutely essential to keep services operational and effective.

We are hopeful that this campaign will provide the vital funding the community services sector desperately needs. If you would like to support this effort, we encourage you to write to your local candidate.



Visit the **ActforCommunity** website or scan the QR for more information.

Pictured: Community support at the ACTforCommunity campaign launch in Canberra.

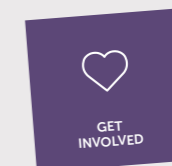
THANK YOU FROM ANGLICARE

Throughout the year, supporters like you play an essential role in driving Anglicare's mission forward. Several of our community-based services are fully funded by you, and others couldn't run without your generous donations. As we reflect on the 2023/2024 financial year, I am pleased to announce that our community of regular givers has grown, increasing our impact and reach in the areas we serve.

While cost of living pressures mean that demand for our services has also grown, the material, financial and prayerful support of supporters like you have made a difference. With your help, we are directing our fundraising dollars into the services that need them the most, so we can continue assisting those experiencing vulnerability, marginalisation and disadvantage.

Thank you for your generosity and faithful partnership this financial year. I am always excited to connect with our fabulous supporters, so **please email me at supporters@anglicare.com.au with your feedback, questions or thoughts—or to sign up as a regular giver!**

- Renee Dixon, Anglicare Director of Fundraising



UPCOMING EVENTS

save the date

SEPTEMBER

- Foster care week - 8-14 September
- Erindale Pantry Appeal - 20 September

OCTOBER

- Coffee catch ups - South Coast NSW
- Anglicare Sunday - 20 October

NOVEMBER

- Gordon Community Day

DECEMBER

- Anglicare Christmas Service



DISABILITY SERVICES

Stars OF GOULBURN!

In July, Patricia and Julie, two of our Goulburn-based Disability Day Centre participants were selected as finalists in the Goulburn's Got Talent showcase. Organised by the Goulburn Disability Forum, the event celebrated the talents of those living with physical, psychological or intellectual disabilities. Entrants were required to submit a video of themselves performing, from which the finalists were chosen.

"It was a big shock to be chosen as a finalist and be asked to sing in front of people, especially my mother who travelled up from Tomakin, and my cousin who I hadn't seen for a few years", said Julie. *"It was nice to have a day out at the Worker's Club with lots of friends."* Patricia agreed, saying it was a big surprise and she was very nervous to sing in front of people, but that it was a great day.

The Goulburn team is so proud of Patricia and Julie and look forward to seeing more of their performances!



Pictured: Anglicare Disability Day Centre participants performing at Goulburn's Got Talent

ANGLICARE Sunday

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SUNDAY 20 OCTOBER 2024

FOR INFO VISIT WWW.ANGLICARE.COM.AU/ANGLICARESUNDAY