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##### **Anglicare Australia E-News**

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Authorised for distribution by Roland Manderson

## **From the Executive Director...**

### **What we do and why we do it**

Anglicare's annual conference is in Adelaide this September. Please come along!

It may seem odd to be writing about Anglicare Australia's annual conference in the heat of an election campaign, but the tone of this political contest gives us pause for thought.

Many commentators are bemoaning a lack of vision and substance in the commitments and views of both Labor and the Coalition. As opposed perhaps to the Greens. See satirist Dominic Knight's [Julia Gillard and the promise to try](#) on ABC's The Drum.

While this creep towards the middle maybe merely disheartening for many of us, its effect on social policy can be more insidious. It seems that any social contract that we might imagine exists, such as the agreement to look out for *everyone* in our community, can be traded off against the instinctive and superficial interests of those swinging voters in marginal seats.

That may be an unfair characterisation of the decisions that our political leaders take when presenting themselves in an election campaign. However, the story as we understand it – as mediated through... the media – is that for Labor and the Coalition this election is about reassuring these particular voters by pandering to their insecurity. And it is not about conviction, it is about who is the most convincing in that role.

I am repeating a fairly common assertion when I say that the problem for most of us is that we would like the parties competing for government to be contesting ideas. To really be talking about policy as a way to make a difference in how we live together. For us to know what both those parties stand for, and for them to have an agenda which reflects that.

Reflecting then on ourselves, we also need to continue to check out what is it we stand for. Why we do what we do in our work. What we hope to achieve, with individuals and in our broader communities.

The theme of the 2010 Conference is *Learning from the past, Creating the future*, but underpinning that is a requirement to know who we are. By getting together regularly as a network, to learn from, to challenge, to get to know each other, we continue to develop a shared vision.

Back in the world of this election some of us across the Anglicare network have been talking about Housing, and about introducing some of our shared vision into the election debate. We talked about unaffordable private rent, the need to grow the supply of public housing, the value of wrap around services, and about putting that together in an election statement.

Then in conversation with David Peake, in Canberra for another reason, we segued into community cooperatives providing houses for the social mix within our communities, and creating employment to maintain them. And thought about using superannuation to fund it.

Rather than investing our retirement funds, trillions of dollars, in coal mines and arms manufacturers and shopping centres and alcohol; why not invest our retirement funds in houses and aged care facilities and the light-rail systems that we need. It's not a new idea but it's the kind of transformational idea that would be good to see in an election about our future together.

But in the context of an election, big ideas like that – which will particularly benefit the least powerful – are hard to sell. If you know what you stand for, and where you are going, and have the courage of these convictions, you can maybe take people with you. Although not if the campaign is about winning over a small number of people instead.

Across the Anglicare network, in addition to delivering services and caring for people our community – we share the sense of working to some greater purpose. Building a society in which everybody counts, for example. And our conference (in Sept 12-15 Adelaide) is one of many ways of connecting, strengthening our work together, and growing the courage of our convictions.

See you soon

Roland



Roland Manderson  
A/g Executive Director  
Anglicare Australia

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## National Office News

### Anglicare Australia Awards

The Anglicare Australia Awards recognise the outstanding contribution of member agencies, their staff and volunteers to the service of people in need and draw attention to new, innovative approaches and programs being implemented within the Anglicare Australia network.

The Awards program affirms the contribution of Anglicare agencies to the health and wellbeing of not only individuals, but also Australian society.

Profiles of Award winners from previous years appear on the [Anglicare Australia website](#).

In 2010 awards will be offered under the following four categories:

- Innovation
- Excellence
- Partnership and
- Individual Achievement.

Applications will be accepted up until **6 August**. Further information nominating may be found [here](#).

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### Anglicare and the 2010 Election

Anglicare welcomed the election with a call for a focus on [Building a society where everybody counts](#). However, commitments from the major parties to address inequity have, until now, been thin on the ground.

That point was made elegantly by Peter Kell from Anglicare Sydney with the launch of their report on Social Exclusion in Sydney - see [Race for the middle ignores the most vulnerable](#).

Mental health was clearly the first social service cab off the rank. The coalition's billion dollar commitment has made Labor's diverse array of smaller initiatives look weak. Anglicare, with the other major church based networks, has raised concerns that community mental health – including supported housing, employment programs and family support - may be left out if the focus on new

investment is limited to therapy. See [Major church groups seek action on community mental health](#).

More hopeful was a recent statement by Minister Roxon at the opening of the International Youth Mental Health Conference that Labor understands *“the level of concern that there is in the community about this issue – and the level of public support for getting it right. And we hope to work with you in the months and years ahead so that we do.”* We aim to get that down to a more concrete commitment to work collaboratively with the sector. With a bit of luck get the Coalition to match it.

Labor’s most recent announcements on disability, including immediate access to resources for families when young people are first diagnosed and investment in supported housing, as part of a more comprehensive national plan, appears to be steps in the right direction. See Cec Shevels’ [Understanding disability](#) on the Samaritans website.

Meanwhile a public campaign on dental health now seems to be emerging through the Greens and a broad dental health alliance including ACOSS.

Clearly many more initiatives will be disclosed over the next few weeks although I’m none too confident that the underlying issues of inadequate income for people on benefits will get a guernsey from either major party.

On the other side of the agenda, as it were, the Coalition’s announcement that it will extend Income Management across Australia was matched by the government claiming it was doing that already. And tax rebates on school uniforms have been matched with rebates on school fees and music lessons. All a part of the race to the middle.

The general public frustration with this negative unimaginative campaign appears to be making its mark. The next few weeks will be interesting. To say the least.

So keep on contributing to the campaign activity, through internet commentary and letters to the editor as well as more formal activities. Everybody counts when it comes to the campaign, as well.

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## Cycles of Disadvantage: Consultations

Recently, Anglicare Australia provided a [submission](#) to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet regarding its work looking at breaking the cycles of disadvantage.

Further consultations were arranged to occur in all of the major cities in August and September

however due to the election those being held in August have been postponed. They are:

- Canberra on 22nd July 2010
- Sydney on 26th July 2010
- Adelaide on 30th July 2010
- Brisbane on 23rd August 2010
- Darwin on 24th August 2010

If you had already registered for one of these sessions the organisers will be in touch when new arrangements are in place.

Consultations still going ahead as planned are:

- Perth on 2nd September 2010
- Melbourne on 3rd September 2010
- Hobart on 6th September 2010

For further information contact [Roland](#).

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## Disability Consultations

Anglicare Australia consultations are near conclusion for the Productivity Commission inquiry into the feasibility of a national long-term care and support scheme for people living with a disability and their carers.

So far there has been much agreement from different members as to the issues and also what should be done about them. The Commission has specifically requested that submissions not focus on what is wrong with the current system but what could be improved in a new system and members have taken this on board offering strategies to improve the disability support sector.

Submissions close on 16 August and a draft will be circulated around the network on Friday 30 August. If you have not yet had an opportunity to contribute to the submission you may do so before or after the draft circulation by contacting [Michelle](#).

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## Emergency Relief Project

The emergency relief project is in its final week of data collection and has had an amazing take-up rate from members. Around 85 per cent of agencies within the Anglicare network who provide emergency relief are participating in the project and we look forward to fantastic results.

The project aims to establish a national perspective on the use of emergency relief services and the importance of emergency relief providers in engaging with and providing support to individuals and families experiencing disadvantage and exclusion.

For further information on the project please contact [Michelle](#).

## Restart of Green Start

The current Australian Government plans to restart the green start scheme which went out for tender at the beginning of the year but was then put on hold.

In a media statement early this month Minister Wong announced the new Green Start program will be a grants program delivered in two rounds:

- the first round funding the delivery of household energy assessments by accredited assessors and

- a second round, in which the Government will seek proposals from community and welfare sector NGOs and other organisations to provide practical help to low-income and disadvantaged Australians to improve their energy efficiency.

Details of Round Two will be announced at a later date this year. People interested in providing input on the design of the program, can flag their interest via email: [greenstart@environment.gov.au](mailto:greenstart@environment.gov.au)

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## From the Network

### Anglicare SA celebrates 150 years

Since 1860...



Chair of the Board Andrew Marshall with former chair of the Anglicare Council Dr David Game and chief executive Dr Lynn Arnold toast 150 years at the celebration in St Peter's cathedral on 2 July.

It was in 1860 that a group of concerned churchgoers got together to help orphaned children in Adelaide. The first 'orphans home for girls' was opened later that year.

As the years passed, there were many local South Australian ventures set up to help people in need: homeless children, single mums, men living on the streets, the frail and elderly.

Anglicare brought together these services under the one umbrella. We are still proudly local and proudly South Australian. While we now operate from more than 30 sites, instead of just one, we are still caring for all sorts of people in need.

We work for vulnerable people: families, youth, whole communities in difficult situations; some of which have been around for years, some bad luck happens in the blink of an eye. We care for those at risk of homelessness, the addicted, people suffering loss, the disabled, refugees and those made frail by old age.

Most importantly, Anglicare is still bringing hope.

For further information see the [Anglicare SA website](http://www.anglicare.sa.gov.au).

### St Luke's *Putting the Pieces Together*

The Minister for Home Affairs in Victoria Brendan O'Connor and Member for Bendigo Steve Gibbons announced \$135,000 for the St Luke's Anglicare *Putting the Pieces Together* project.

"*Putting the Pieces Together* will provide training to teachers, volunteers, coaches and other adults who work with children to develop new ways of resolving conflict and creating change. This project is about moving from a culture of violence to a culture of respect and well being," Mr O'Connor said.

*Putting the Pieces Together* will be delivered by St Luke's Anglicare and will help provide safety and security to some of the most vulnerable members of the Central Goldfields community.

The funds for the project are made available through the *Proceeds of Crime Act*.

The *Proceeds of Crime Act* enables money from assets of crime confiscated under Commonwealth law to be returned to the community to prevent crime and reduce its harmful effects.

This year the Gillard Government will provide up to \$12 million of *Proceeds of Crime Act* funding for crime prevention projects around Australia.

For further information on *Proceeds of Crime Act* funding see the [Attorney-Generals website](http://www.attorney-general.gov.au).

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### A Leader in Her Field- Sandra Hills, Benetas

Sandra Hills, CEO of [Benetas](http://www.benetas.com.au), has been recognised for her work in the not-for-profit sector and her dedication to building a society where older people are respected and valued. A finalist for the SACS Award for Leadership, Sandra said that "recognition from SACS and my peers is confirmation that I am fulfilling my objectives and

inspiring others to do the same. I'm really honoured to be recognised as a finalist."

Congratulations Sandra.

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## The Gift of Hope in a Calico Bag

A few years ago, Anglicare North Coast was looking for ways to actively involve parishes in their work. Many parishes had already offered assistance and several had donated items to be passed on to our clients. This led to the development of the Calico Bag project which is a program that distributes simple calico bags filled with goods that are basic to people's needs as they try to re-establish themselves but which are often overlooked.

"We have some wonderful people who have been busy making bags out of calico with the Anglicare North Coast logo embroidered on them" said Estelle Graham, Executive Director of Anglicare North Coast.

Lists have been put together that go into the bags to guide donors to the types of items that could be included in a bag to help someone get their start. There are [six different lists](#)- Personal Hygiene Pack, Household Starter pack, School Pack, Living Skills Pack, Baby / Toddler Pack and a Linen Pack.

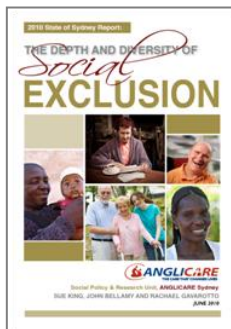
Bags have been provided to local parishes and in recent times Anglicare NC have given out a large number of filled calico bags and blankets from the Anglicare offices to people living with hardship. "Donors have been very generous in filling the bags, some have even come back with all six lists filled" Estelle said. "We have seen very clearly that people are keen to help and sometimes just need a little bit of guidance about the type of help we need."

This is love in action and is a great way of showing people who seek assistance that the Anglican agencies care about their local communities.

A copy of the *Calico Bag Lists* is available on Anglicare Online.



## The State of Sydney: The Depth and Diversity of Social Exclusion



People experiencing social exclusion are largely being ignored by our political leaders in the lead up to the Federal election.

New research released by Anglicare Sydney shows that single parents, people who are single, Indigenous or have a disability experience deep social exclusion in Sydney.

"Where is the social inclusion agenda that the Government promoted a few years ago? It seems the poor and marginalised won't even get a mention in the lead up to this year's election as both parties race to capture the hearts and minds of middle Australia," says Anglicare Sydney CEO Peter Kell.

The Report focuses on entrenched need in three groups in Sydney; people using Emergency Relief, African refugees and ageing parents caring for their disabled children.

The Report finds:

- More people are seeking assistance from Anglicare's Emergency Relief services because of multiple and complex issues;
- Refugees are struggling to find secure housing, income, employment and experience discrimination; and
- Ageing parent carers experience poor levels of well being and disconnection from their local communities.

The report makes a number of recommendations on areas like refugee housing and in-home respite care and transition care plans.

For further information or a copy of the report see the [Anglicare Sydney website](#).

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## Voices on Choices: Anglicare Tasmania



Anglicare Tasmania has released [Voices for Choices: Working towards consumer-led alcohol and drug treatment](#), a research study whose findings endorse the inclusion of clients in the development of their own drug and alcohol treatment plans.

The research shows that lessons are there to be learnt from international counterparts such as the UK and that those

lessons have broad applicability in Australia. For instance the research shows that consumer engagement as a process should be nurtured from all levels including government to ensure that mechanisms are of a high standard and consistently applied; that models continue to develop and to offer a variety of options for the involvement of clients; that the spirit and attitudes with which the process is conducted is as

important as the model and requires long-lasting cultural change; and finally that with all practice models requires further research and development to sustain a strong evidence base.

The full report and summary may be found on the [Anglicare Tasmania website](#).

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## **Policy, Research and Resources**

### **Family Law Pilot Project**

The Attorney-General announced this month a pilot project that will take place in the Dandenong Federal Magistrates Court.

What has been named the 'Dandenong Project' will establish new case management powers for the Federal Magistrates Court to actively manage all matters filed at Dandenong Registry. It also features a 'triage' process to establish up front the issues in dispute and whether a matter is suitable for dispute resolution.

The pilot project aims at improving collaboration in the family law system and also aims to assist self-represented litigants by working closely with community legal assistance providers to ensure sufficient information and support is provided.

"To get the help they need separating families often need both legal and non legal advice and support. By bringing together a range of professionals, the Project will ensure that people get the advice and support they require," Mr McClelland said.

The Project involves the Federal Magistrates Court and the Victorian Family Law Pathways Network assisted by Victoria Legal Aid, the Peninsula Community Centre, local providers of family relationship services and students from Monash University Family Law Assistance program.

The Dandenong pilot will run until the end of December 2010, following which the Project will be evaluated for possible roll-out in other locations.

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### **Draft Out of Home Care Standards**

Minister Jenny Macklin announced the release of the draft *National Standards for Out of Home Care* this month. A [working document](#) has been released outlining the 14 draft standards and the context in which they were developed.

The standards are set within four key areas aimed to improve the experience of living in out of home care arrangements. The areas are:

- Entering into the system
- Growing up
- Emotional and physical health
- Transitions

KPMG, the consulting group who conducted the consultation process has also delivered their [final report](#) on the process.

The Community Services and Disability ministers will be considering these standards in December ahead of a July 2011 implementation date. Anglicare Australia provided a [submission](#) to the first round of consultations and will be providing further comment to these draft standards.

If you would like to make comment on the draft standards you may provide them to [Michelle](#) or directly to [FaHCSIA](#).

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### **Sharing Information Helps Kids**

The move has been made to include the Child Support Agency in the Information Sharing Protocol established to assist child protection agencies to help protect and support children at risk of abuse or neglect.

The information sharing protocol formalises the process for passing on client details to child protection agencies, where a child is at serious risk of harm or in the interests of their health or welfare. With the inclusion of the Child Support Agency, information about the custody arrangements for a child, addresses, and

information about other children in a person's care can now be shared.

Since the information sharing protocol was introduced, child protection agencies have requested the following information from Centrelink and Medicare:

- From 1 January 2009 to 30 June 2010, Centrelink received 4795 requests for protected information, most seeking addresses to locate a family.
- From 1 November 2009 to 30 June 2010, Medicare Australia received 243 requests for Medicare card numbers, 799 requests for Medicare and PBS claims information and requests for immunisation history statements for 3245 children.

Anglicare Australia has called for increased and improved information sharing across agencies in the interest of protecting and supporting a child's safety and wellbeing. Minister Jenny Macklin has announced that additional Commonwealth agencies are being considered for use within the protocol.

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## Are Babies Expensive?

Research released by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) has shown that the pattern of spending by families when children are born changes significantly after the birth of the first child, and then again after the birth of a second and third child.

The research found that with the first born, there's a significant increase in spending on clothes. By the time baby number two arrives, the spending on new clothes falls dramatically – presumably in favour of hand me downs.

Spending on groceries remains stable for first, second or third born children, but after the second birth with time and sleep at a premium, families resort more to eating out and takeaways.

In the wake of the GFC and on the cusp of the Governments new Paid Parental Leave scheme, this report will go some way to highlighting some of the financial concerns faced by new families in our communities.

Further information and the report may be found on the [FaHCSIA website](#).

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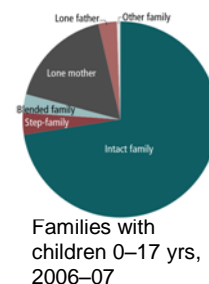
## A Modern Family

A new paper from the Australian institute of Family Studies marking the anniversary of its 30<sup>th</sup> year outlines the shifts in family trends since its inception. Professor Alan Hayes, the Institute's Director, said the data collected over three decades showed an increase in divorce rates, a decline in marriage rates and family size, and a shift to double income families and paid childcare.

"Compared with 30 years ago, parenthood today tends to start later in life, couples tend to have fewer children, and both parents are likely to be in paid employment. Despite these changes, the family unit has thrived and continues to play a central role in shaping the health and wellbeing of all immediate family members," Professor Hayes said.

Some of the key trends to come from the fact sheet are:

- The crude marriage rate (the number of marriages for every 1,000 Australians) fell from 9.3 in 1970 to 7.4 in 1980, falling to 5.3 in 2001 and only increasing slightly after that to 5.5 in 2008.
- The average size of households has fallen from 3.5 members in 1966, to 3.0 in 1981 and to 2.6 in 2006.
- The proportion of families with dependent children has fallen, while the proportion of couples living with no children has increased progressively.
- In 1980, women most commonly had their first child in their early twenties. By 2007, most new Mums were in their late twenties, with marginally less in their early thirties
- The proportion of mothers living with dependent children who were in paid work increased from 43% in 1981 to 63% in 2009, although mothers were consistently more likely to be in part-time rather than full-time paid work.
- There has been a small decrease in the number of couple parents with no job between them.
- Just under half of all lone mothers (48%) had no paid work in 2009, compared with around two-thirds in 1983.



For further information or to download the fact sheet see the [AIFS website](#).

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## Boost for Social Enterprise

The Government has announced a new initiative to increase the presence of social enterprise in the community. The Social Enterprise Development and Investment Fund (SEDIF) is a specialised investment fund providing financial products and encouraging capacity building for social enterprises in Australia.

The Government is investing \$20 million to be matched by fund managers to help provide employment and training for socially disadvantaged people, delivering important goods and services and undertaking fundraising for other charitable activities and community projects.

From early August, the Government will be consulting widely with the sector to garner views on the financial and business support needs of the social enterprise sector in Australia and to further scope the market for investment. It is hoped that the process of consulting with all sectors in regard to this project will demonstrate the advantages of working together to deliver services to disadvantaged communities and individuals

Consultation sessions will commence soon.

Further information may be found on the [Social Inclusion website](#) or [email](#) to register your interest.

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## Specialist Homelessness Service Data 2008-2009

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare have released their 08-09 data for the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) specialist homelessness services.

The report, [Demand for government-funded specialist homelessness accommodation 2008-09: a report from the SAAP National Data Collection](#), includes data from all states and territories except Victoria and shows that government-funded specialist homelessness agencies are operating to capacity and are unable to completely meet the expressed demand for accommodation.

The report looks at the rates of turnaways and particularly where children are involved the rates of turnaways for valid requests for new or immediate accommodation.

Some groups, such as families, experience more difficulty than others in obtaining immediate accommodation. The most likely group to be turned away were family groups. An average of 80% of couples with children, 75% of couples without children and 69% of individuals with children who requested new and immediate accommodation were turned away each day, compared with 50% of individuals without children. Single men's agencies had the lowest turn-away rate, with 31% of requests for new and immediate accommodation unable to be met.

For a copy of the report or further information see the [AIHW website](#).

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## Calendar Events

### Anglicare Events

#### Anglicare Australia Conference: Registrations



12 - 15 September 2010

Hilton Hotel, 233 Victoria Square, ADELAIDE SA 5000

**Early bird** registrations close **30 July 2010**- Further information on how to register may be found [here](#).

**Award nominations** close **6 August 2010**- Further information on how to nominate may be found [here](#).

#### Anglicare Canberra & Goulburn Winter Appeal

29 Jul 10, 10.30am - 3.00pm, Woolworths Moruya Queen Street Moruya

For further information contact [Eva Wheatley](#).

## Red and Blue Day- Anglicare WA

Schools across Western Australia are being asked to bring out their brightest blue and red clothes in support of this year's Blue and Red Day during Homeless Persons Week on 2nd-8th August

For further information contact Jillian Fraser at Anglicare WA on 9319 6406 or [fundraise@anglicarewa.org.au](mailto:fundraise@anglicarewa.org.au).

## Sector Events

### Samaritans Presents A Chat with Pat

Dinner with Australian of the Year **PAT MCGORRY, Saturday August 7, 2010 6:30 - 11.00pm**

Location: 16ft Sailing Club, Belmont (Spinnaker Auditorium)

Cost: \$80pp includes appetizers 2 Course Dinner RSVP: By 5pm July 31st

[Book tickets](#) or for further information [email](#) or phone 02 4960 7100.

### A Thousand Good Reasons – Early Intervention and Socially Excluded Young People

5th August 2010

Darebin Arts & Entertainment Centre, Cr Bell St & St Georges Rd, Preston

For further information or to register see the conference [website](#).

### What is the world worth? Putting nature on the balance sheet

The Centre for Policy Development is hosting Pavan Sukhdev, a pioneering economist and head of the UN Green Economy Initiative, who is an expert on the natural capital that gets left off corporate balance sheets: the services that nature provides for “free”, like clean air, fresh water, healthy oceans, fertile soil and stable ecosystems.

Sydney, 3 Aug, 6:30pm, Opera House, Playhouse Theatre. \$25. Ph 02 9250 7777 or [book online](#).

Canberra 4 Aug, 5pm ANU Molongolo Theatre, J G Crawford Building, FREE, RSVP to [Henry Keenan](#).

Melbourne 5 Aug, 5:30pm, Melbourne University Law Building (GM15 Theatre), 185 Pelham St Carlton, FREE. [Register here](#)



#### Mission Statement

Anglicare Australia seeks to engage with all Australians to build communities of resilience, hope and justice.

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