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## ◆ Changes in the National Office

### ◆ Farewell note from Sue Leppert

It is with mixed feelings that I inform you of my imminent departure from Anglicare Australia. After six years with the Anglicare network, I will be moving on to a quite different area of work – the Federal Department of Environment and Water Resources, working with two Ministerial Councils in the area of environment protection, including that relating to sustainable urban populations – quite a change! My last day in the national office is 20 February.

It won't be possible to make contact with each and every person I've been privileged to meet and work with over several years, so please accept this as a final thank you, and farewell. Firstly, thank you for your willingness and enthusiasm to engage in the collective work of the national network. That participation has been rich indeed, with contributions to so many projects and activities made by so many people – Anglicare staff, volunteers, parishioners, clergy, and partner organisations or community groups. For me, the essence of the Anglicare network is captured in the theme of last year's national conference – *it's all about people*. So thank you all, for helping to make a difference as together we've striven to fulfil our shared vision of promoting a just and caring society.

Saying goodbye is never easy, so I'll keep it short. My warm regards extend to you and the people you work with. Go well, keep doing what you do, and know that where there's love, there's life. Choose life!

Warm regards,

Sue

### ◆ Interim arrangements

The Anglicare Australia Council has begun the process of recruiting a new Executive Director. As this may take several months, the Council has appointed an interim Executive Director to ensure momentum is maintained as Anglicare Australia enters a new phase in our strategic plan. Libby Davies, former Chief Executive Officer of Family Services Australia and well known to many Anglicare members, will take up this position from 26 February 2007. Please make Libby welcome as she steers the network into what promises to be a very exciting year (oh yes, and there'll be a Federal Election this year – fasten your seatbelts!)

Recruitment of the two new positions, 'Policy Adviser' and 'National Projects and Member Services Coordinator', has been placed on hold for the short-term while we recruit a new Executive Director.

## ◆ Planning Ahead

### ◆ National Conference and Awards 2007

It's all systems go for this year's national conference, to be held in Darwin from 2-4 September. Co-hosts Anglicare NT have already started planning

### ◆ State of the Family 2007

Development of this year's *State of the Family* has begun. The focus of last year's report was 'Life on a Low Income'. The 2006 Report included examination of the implications of recent changes in three particular (federal government) policy areas - emergency relief, welfare-to-work and industrial relations. Our emphasis for 2007 will be on further examining the ongoing impact of these policy shifts, but concentrating on the implications for work/family balance and the wellbeing of children. Our political leaders are quick to talk

about 'family values' and corresponding 'fair go' values, but does this rhetoric consistently extend to actual policy implementation? The proposed theme (working title) is ***Families and work: an uneven playing field.***

Given that 2007 is an election year, it is timely to examine regional variations in the pressures on families' work/life balance, with a close look at what's happening in (a) disadvantaged communities and (b) marginal electorates: Note:

- Jesuit Social Services' next 'disadvantage by postcode' report will be national (the first two covered NSW and Victoria). This is due to be released in 2007.
- Several other organisations are currently monitoring aspects of welfare-to-work. *State of the Family* will draw on these, adding weight to the findings with the 'hands-on' experience of the Anglicare member agencies.
- Child protection and related services continue to experience a high number of notifications. Violence against children is part of a bigger context of family dysfunction and social exclusion.
- Examination of regional variations in the balance between family life and work will include reference to the experiences of Indigenous communities with which Anglicare organisations work.

Timing of the report: for launch at the National Anglicare Conference in September.

The Council sub-committee steering this year's project comprises Cec Shevels (Samaritans), Rob Foggo (Anglican Community Care), Ian Carter (Anglicare WA) and the Executive Director. **If you are interested in participating in the sub-committee and/or contributing input from your organisation's research and hands-on experience, please email [anglicare@anglicare.asn.au](mailto:anglicare@anglicare.asn.au).**

#### ◆ CEOs Forum – 29 May 2007

Planning for this year's Anglicare CEOs Forum is underway. We propose to hold the one-day Forum at Parliament House in Canberra, with a dinner the evening before as an opportunity for a more informal gathering to meet and catch up on member agency news. The last Forum held at Parliament House (August 2005) proved an excellent opportunity to engage with a diverse group of senior Members of Parliament. In an election year, and immediately post-Budget, this year's Forum offers a unique opportunity to not only gain particular perspectives from our elected political leaders, but to bring to them our own 'Anglicare' perspectives and experience. More information will be provided over the coming weeks.

### ◆ Network News

#### ◆ Out of Home Care (OOHC) Network

The OOHC Network has been galloping ahead since coming together in September 2006. The Network is keen to meet regularly (by teleconference) to share information on a range of issues pertinent to out of home care, including risk management, staff recruitment and retention, resource sharing and opportunities for collaborative research. To find out more, contact Deb Tozer, Anglicare Canberra and Goulburn ([debbie.tozer@saviours.org.au](mailto:debbie.tozer@saviours.org.au)) and visit the [OOHC sub-web](#) on Anglicare Online.

#### ◆ Human Resource Managers Network

The HR Network continues to cover a lot of ground through regular electronic communication, covering such juicy issues as study assistance, redundancy policies, and possible employment of people on temporary business (long stay) visas through the currently hotly debated Overseas Skilled Worker Program. The Network plans to meet twice during the year – in April/May (dates to be advised), and in September, immediately after the National Anglicare Conference in Darwin. Contact Ian Barton at Anglicare SA if you'd like more information ([ibarton@anglicare-sa.org.au](mailto:ibarton@anglicare-sa.org.au)) or visit the [HR sub-web](#) on Anglicare Online.

#### ◆ Aged and Community Care Network

While some of us were relaxing in a post-Christmas haze, members of the Aged and Community Care Network were busy formulating an Anglicare Australia response to the Department of Health and Ageing's *Review of Subsidies and Services in Australian Government Funded Aged Care*. Many thanks to Sandra Hills (Brotherhood of St Laurence) who coordinated the submission, and to those people in the national network's aged care member agencies who contributed. A copy of the submission is available on the [aged care sub-web](#) on Anglicare Online.

## ◆ Some more goodbyes

There have been changes in other parts of the Anglicare network too.

In NSW, we say farewell to **Wayne Johnson**, Executive Director of Anglicare North Coast, who has moved to WA to head up the Kalgoorlie Bega Garnbirringu Health Service. Anglicare North Coast's Acting Executive Director is Estelle Graham. In Armidale, the Anglican Counselling Service (ACS) has bid farewell to its Director of many years, **Brian Kirk**. Brian is returning to parish ministry and ACS's acting Director is Bruce O'Hara.

## ◆ Other News

### ◆ Telstra Foundation Grants

The Telstra Foundation has announced \$1.8 million in new grants will be provided over the next three years to community-based organisations to help isolated children and young people across Australia have a better quality of life. Projects to build social connections and support networks for Australian kids, as well as improve access to services such as education and healthcare will be funded. Three new program areas have been developed with the objective of connecting children and young people to their communities – Social Innovation Grants, Indigenous Community Development and a Spotlight Issue, child abuse and neglect.

Up to seven grants from \$75,000 will support community-based organisations to implement their great ideas that build social connection and improve the health and well-being of children. Projects that develop and transfer new skills, as well as demonstrate creative use of information and communication technologies will be given priority. In an increasingly digital world, inventive and practical use of information and communication technologies can help bring children and young people together when face to face contact is not possible.

This is a great opportunity to realise your dynamic ideas about enhancing the work you do with children and young people who may be isolated from their community. Applications and further information can be found at [www.telstrafoundation.com](http://www.telstrafoundation.com).

**Applications will be open until April 20, 2007. The Telstra Foundation Board will announce the successful projects in July 2007.**

### ◆ Equal Opportunity Workshops 2007 (Victoria)

Safe, fair and productive workplaces don't come about automatically or by accident. Creating a respectful and flexible organisation that reliably delivers high quality goods or services requires knowledge and skills that must be learned. At its simplest, equal opportunity is about complying with minimum legal requirements. These workshops explore just what 'good practice' really means, equipping participants with the communication and problem-solving skills they need to create workplaces and services characterised by courtesy, dignity and respect. Email Paula Crimmins at the Equal Opportunity Commission for more information: [education@eoc.vic.gov.au](mailto:education@eoc.vic.gov.au).

### ◆ Latest research on fundraising, corporate giving and philanthropy in Australia

The summer edition of the *Australian Journal of Social Issues* covers a number of topics under the general umbrella of giving and fundraising in the Australian context, with a particular emphasis on non-profit organisations. For more information email [ajsi@anu.edu.au](mailto:ajsi@anu.edu.au).

### ◆ Social Policy Conferences

**From welfare to social investment: reimagining social policy for the life course**

Centre for Public Policy, University of Melbourne, 21-22 February 2007: [www.public-policy.unimelb.edu.au/conference07](http://www.public-policy.unimelb.edu.au/conference07)

**Australian Social Policy Conference 2007**

Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC), 11-13 July 2007, University of NSW, Sydney: [www.sprc.unsw.edu.au](http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au). Abstracts due by **9 April 2007**.

