

Aspect

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 **In this issue**

From the Executive Director

CHAMPIONING A TANGIBLE VISION FOR AUSTRALIA



Kasy Chambers
Executive Director

We have spent much of our time over the last couple of months in conversations about the nature of welfare, inequality and by proxy therefore Australian society itself.

The McClure report into welfare reform handed its interim report to government and responses were invited from interested parties. The Senate held an inquiry into inequality in Australia and more specific ones into Social Service measures of the Budget.

A number of these proposals strike at the very heart of the nature of Australian society.

It is worth challenging some of the narrative that needs to exist for these changes to be tenable. These changes are put forward as a cure to a set of problems and those problems are being covertly and overtly prosecuted through conversations official and informal. Each of these myths is worth calling, for bringing it out into the open means that we can examine it in daylight, with evidence and research to check its efficacy instead of letting it fester and grow unchallenged.

The first myth is that welfare spending has spiraled out of control. Most people are aware that we can make numbers tell any story we like and it is worth looking at the numbers behind this statement. The spending on welfare has grown, but so has the population. As we put forward in more detail in January's Aspect, examination of the Department of Social Security's own report

into the numbers and cost of welfare spending over the 10 years to 2013 shows that per capita the spend has gone down. As we pointed out at the time, an ageing population means there are also more people now accessing the aged pension, which means that the spend on DSP and NSA per person is lower again.

The second myth or story is that there are jobs and there are people who are unemployed, they just need to be brought together. Firstly, even numerically this is blatantly not true. With 142,000 vacancies and over 700,000 unemployed the maths just doesn't bear this out. That is before we add those who are underemployed. Add to this the things we know about attaching people to jobs and the simple peg and hole approach doesn't work in the long term. The recent publication from the Anglicare Australia network, Beyond Supply and Demand, shows clearly that if we do the work up front to understand the jobs people want and can do and the parts of their situation that may inhibit gaining and retaining a job, then people will move into jobs they can stay in and contribute in.

The third area where this national discussion has gone astray is the assumption that the Budget can only be balanced by cutting welfare spending. Welfare is not a dirty word, its existence is the sign of a mature and successful society. We need to keep working on it to ensure that it fits the needs of a modern society, but assuming it has no place in a modern world is short sighted. There are more ways to balance a Budget than cuts. The taxation review promised for later this year will examine the inputs, so maybe these conversations should be held at the same time. Modeling for the Budget cuts by NATSEM clearly shows that the pain of this Budget is borne by those on the lowest incomes. Taxation of those on higher incomes has to be considered if we are truly to share the pain.

The fourth fiction is that sticks are more effective than carrots. In the Anglicare network we know that keeping people poor does not work if we expect them to be able to be functional and contributing members of society. Removing a safety net is untenable to many of us. The impossibility for those living without money for up to six months at a time, in a period when there aren't enough jobs for everyone, is unthinkable. The effects on the individual, communities and families affected are shocking enough. The effects on society as a whole, the effect of an altered default setting, of a change in baseline, is massive and potentially irreparable.

Another theme discusses the need for a sustainable welfare system. We argue that the measure of that should be that people get jobs for which they are suited, in which they can stay, contribute and develop, which protects them against future reliance on the welfare system. This is not the same as spending as little as possible over a financial year.

In challenging these stories we are also developing our own narrative, telling the real stories of those who are without money, putting together research on what works to get people into employment and hopefully championing a different vision for this country.

National Office News

ANGLICARE AUSTRALIA IN THE MEDIA

Welfare Reform Interim Report

Australia's Major Church Providers held a joint press conference in Canberra on 8 August, calling on the Welfare Review Reference Panel to recognise that Australia's safety net is an important protection against poverty, which should provide an adequate level of income to enable a decent quality of life.

The united call was on the final day for lodging submissions on the Welfare Review Interim Report. At the press conference,

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the groups outlined the key principles their organisations saw for an adequate and fair social welfare system.

Press conference spokespeople were Anglicare Australia ED, Kasy Chambers, UnitingCare National Director, Lin Hatfield Dodds, The Salvation Army National Secretary, Major Kelvin Alley and Catholic Social Services Australia Senior Policy Officer, Liz de Chastel.

Setting the bar for welfare reform ([joint media release](#))

Church groups commit to principles for welfare reform ([Radio National Breakfast](#) – James Carleton interviews Kasy Chambers)

We certainly support some simplification. These kinds of reforms are a wonderful opportunity for us to have a look at a system that has become fairly complicated over time. We need to make sure that the system that's put in place is fair, adequate and transparent, and actually reflects the kind of society we want. We need to remember that welfare is not a dirty word; it's actually a word that enables the wellbeing of a fair and strong society. And I think over time we can come to see this as something we should be avoiding, whereas we're saying this is something that actually describes the kind of society we want to look at.

Church stand on Welfare Reform response ([ProBono Australia](#))

Church groups call for independent body to set welfare payment levels ([The Sydney Morning Herald](#) – interview with Kasy Chambers)

Welfare blues ([Sunday Nights with Ray Cleary](#) – Kasy Chambers, Lin Hatfield Dodds, Catherine Yeomans)

NATIONAL OFFICE OUT AND ABOUT

During August, Executive Director Kasy Chambers attended the Service of Inauguration of the new Primate at St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne. She also gave evidence at the Senate Inquiry for Social Services and other Legislation Amendment (2014 Budget Measures No. 1 & No. 2).

Policy and Research Director, Michelle Waterford, and Kasy spent 40 minutes with the Minister for Social Services, Kevin Andrews on 27 August. The meeting was called in response to a letter from Anglicare Australia following the CEO Forum in June, thanking him for his attendance and requesting a meeting to follow up on several of the conversations.

In raising the potential of the National Centre of Excellence to collect data about the sector, it was felt this would enable the sector to learn about itself and allow for targeted and strategic planning into the future. Overall Kasy felt it was a positive meeting with several points of follow-up and engagement on various issues.

Deputy Director Roland Manderson attended the NACA meeting in early August and represented Anglicare's membership at the National Centre for Excellence engagement workshop later in the month. The workshop was one of several consultations involving people from key charities on which model of a centre of excellence for Civil – Society Organisations would be most useful. Among common interests were that the centre aggregates (rather than produces) research and information from across the sector, and that it acts as a collaborative partner, incorporating universities, government and business.

ANGLICARE AUSTRALIA SUBMISSIONS

August saw the National Office awash with submissions. Five submissions have been made including the major submission to the [McClure Welfare Review](#) and submissions relating to the budget measures which had been referred for inquiry to the relevant Senate committees. Anglicare Australia also made submissions to the Senate Inquiry on Income Inequality in Australia, the ACNC options paper and the Employment Services exposure draft.

[Pathways to participation](#), which was made in response to the compendium appropriation bills that covered off a number of other proposals put forward in this year's Budget argued that the government agenda for fiscal restraint runs counter to its other agenda of workforce participation, with the combined impact of the Bills more greatly undermining the second than any gains made in the first can justify. The Bills cover issues of indexation, payment eligibility, earn or learn, portability, and a number of other measures across government benefits. For this inquiry, similarly to the stronger compliance arrangements inquiry, Anglicare Australia was invited to appear before the Senate Committee to provide further evidence supporting our claims.

[Inequality, Hardship and Social Change](#) was the submission to the Income Inequality Inquiry in which we argued that the key to inclusion is not the further marginalisation of disadvantaged groups through policies that perpetuate the gap, rather than work to close it. In this submission and all others made through August, we drew heavily on the experience and expertise of the network.

Anglicare Australia also made a submission to [Australia's Charities and Not-for-profits Options Paper](#). Anglicare Australia, along with many not-for-profit organisations, sees a real value in the functions currently carried out by the ACNC and believes the opportunities for increased efficiency, transparency and insight which would be lost in its abolition are substantial if not replaced.

Finally, in response to the [Employment Services 2015-2020 tender exposure draft](#), Anglicare Australia drew on the work we undertook for the submission to the previous review arguing that employment services of the future must take a social view of employment if they are to be effective in addressing entrenched unemployment.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE UPDATE



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CONFERENCE TICKETS ARE STILL AVAILABLE AT EARLY BIRD PRICES.

Every Anglicare Australia National Conference has its own particular look and feel, depending on where it is held, and the program and activities attached to it.

The Melbourne conference program is choc-a-block with exceptional speakers, special extras (Masterclass, Networking Session, pre-conference dinner MCG tour, to name a few), and visually stimulating and participatory features (portrait artist, displays and markets).

The new head of the Anglican Church of Australia, The Most Rev Dr Philip Freier, Primate, will officially open the 2014 national conference with a service in St Paul's Cathedral on the Sunday evening. This will be immediately followed by the Welcome Reception.

This year there will be a whopping 10 display tables, many of which will have goods for sale. Something particularly innovative will be the Hunter Gatherer stall where delegates are invited to bring along pre-loved clothes, shoes and accessories to give to the stall and in return receive a 20% discount voucher for Brotherhood Books online bookstore.

The other display tables are Hesta (our conference sponsor), Innovative Resources, Stepping Stones, St Peter's Book Shop, Creative Australia, Community 21, Broughton Hall crafts, Recognise and Supply Nation.

Then we have the always popular and well-attended Newcomers' Reception, National Awards presentation, the official conference dinner and network meetings.

We look forward to seeing members of the Anglicare family at the conference in Melbourne and encourage you to make the most of your stay!

NATIONAL AWARDS UPDATE



Anglicare Australia received a surprisingly high number of nominations this year for its National Awards for Innovation and Excellence.

Surprising because we know Anglicare organisations were flat out with the new grants tender process that occurred during the same period. Fortunately we were able to extend the deadline for nominations, which certainly looks to have helped.

Our judges have now made their decision on the winners and highly commended, which was also particularly challenging this year because of the quality of the work being carried out by our agencies across the country.

We now look forward to finding out who the winners are at the National Awards presentation evening on Monday 15 September at the Hilton on the Park Melbourne. Good luck everyone!!

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RESPONSE TO ROYAL COMMISSION ISSUES PAPER 6

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has published 78 submissions in response to its issues paper on Redress Schemes.

The Royal Commission Working Group appointed by the Standing Committee of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia provided a [submission in response to Redress Schemes](#).

Royal Commission CEO Philip Reed said the high number of submissions reflected strong community interest in the issue. The Royal Commission is undertaking broad consultation and research on the effectiveness of redress schemes in the context of child sexual abuse in institutions, and expects to make recommendations by mid-2015.

ANTI-POVERTY WEEK IS NEXT MONTH

Anti-Poverty Week is next month - 12 to 18 October. Are you ready?

Anglicare member agencies are urged to organise activities during the Week or join in others' activities. These might include public lectures, workshops, conferences, seminars, debates, concerts, petitions, exhibitions, displays, sports days, performances, surveys, rallies, media briefings, etc.

A calendar of events is on the Anti-Poverty Week website. You can find out what others are doing and you can add your activity to the growing list. This is a particularly significant event for our membership because both Anglicare Australia and Anglicare member, Brotherhood of St Laurence, are sponsors of Anti-Poverty Week.

Anti-Poverty Week is about highlighting or overcoming issues of poverty and hardship here in Australia or overseas.

Posters, flyers and postcards are available and can be ordered via the website. There is also a Join In Note and a Newsletter insert, plus basic fact sheets, promotional material and links to sources of information and ideas about ways of reducing poverty and hardship.

To notify your plans or get further information, contact Anti-Poverty Week at 1300-797-290 or click on the button below.



Anglicare Network News

DOUBLE CELEBRATION FOR BENETAS

Benetas came together as a community in August week to celebrate 20 years of dedicated service at its St George's facility in Altona Meadows.

The facility started as a 60 bed facility and after significant expansion, is home to over 120 residents. St George's residents have historically been a culturally diverse group, with the original group of residents representing over 20 nationalities, of which 50% were from non-English speaking backgrounds.

[RIGHT] Benetas CEO Sandra Hills and St George's resident Millie enjoying the 20th anniversary celebrations.

Benetas also celebrated 45 years of service to residents and the community at its Dowell Court facility in Ivanhoe East in August. Dowell Court first opened in June 1969 and has since thrived in the local community.

Today, Benetas Dowell Court maintains over 70 staff and volunteers who support its 40 residents. Some current staff have worked at Dowell Court for more than 20 years, with one in particular having been part of this community as a staff member, volunteer and most recently a resident.





REDUCING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS REPORT

[New research](#) released by Anglicare Tasmania in August features advice from young people about how to reduce youth homelessness. The report, launched during National Homeless Persons' Week (August 4-10), is based on interviews with 22 young Tasmanians who have experienced homelessness.

Most of the young people said they became homeless for reasons relating to their parents and family life. These reasons included abuse, parental mental ill health, poverty and hardship.

The report highlighted the importance of education and training, with some young people praising the support they had received from teachers and school welfare staff.



PROVOCATIVE PAPER FOR BSL FORUM

In a provocative paper adding to the emerging debate over the future of the community welfare sector, Professor of Social Policy at the University of Melbourne, Paul Smyth told a Forum at the Brotherhood of St Laurence that the trajectory the sector had been put on in recent years represents a radical departure from its 150-year historical path.

In his lecture, [The Lady Vanishes: Australia's Disappearing Voluntary Sector](#), Professor Smyth examined the sector's distinctive contribution and its relevance today. With particular reference to new public management theory and the current review of national competition policy, he warned of the risks that would lead to extinction of the sector as we have known it, only to become just another rival business in a privatised service market.

Professor Smyth will be leading the discussion at the CEO Forum at the Anglicare Australia National Conference.

National Awards Profile

2013 NATIONAL AWARDS - VOLUNTEER ACHIEVEMENT

The last in our series of profiles on Anglicare Australia 2013 National Award winners is the winner of Volunteer Achievement (team) category, Anglicare North Queensland's Glennis Webb and Theresa Roberts, who the judges felt were passionate and practical, and the definition of quiet achievers.

Since June 2012, Glennis and Theresa have been working six days a week to establish and manage some vital community initiatives for Anglicare Cairns, including a Food Bank, a Community Shop, the Beacon Café and the Children's Christmas Party.

These two remarkable women, who raise their own funds to run the initiatives, have made a huge impact within the Cairns community, providing genuine personal support and a compassion all too rare today.



Glennis Webb (left) and Theresa Roberts.

[DOWNLOAD FULL PROFILE](#)

Research and Resources

2015 RURAL WOMEN'S AWARD OPEN

Australia's top award for rural women, the [2015 Rural Industries R&D Corporation Rural Women's Award](#), is open to applications.

The Award identifies and rewards women's contribution to primary industries and rural communities by providing financial assistance, mentoring, resources and support via its nation-wide network of business and community leaders for selected state winners.

Applications close on 31 October 2014.

REPORT ON CALD AND REFUGEE YOUTH

For the first time in Australia, [The CALD Youth Census Report 2014](#) uses the latest Australian Census data to shine a light on key issues for the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) youth population in Australia and where those issues are most likely to be felt.

The report, commissioned by the Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network Australia and authored by a team of researchers led by Professor Graeme Hugo at the Australian Population and Migration Research Centre, University of Adelaide, focuses on the education, employment and living arrangements of young people.

The report finds that broadly, the rate of participation in education for CALD and refugee youth is comparable to Australian born youth if not slightly higher, and there appears to be strong emphasis placed on education among migrant youth.

CHANGING USE OF AGED CARE SERVICES

A report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) looks at the use of aged care services and the take-up of care following assessment by people aged 65 and over between 2002–03 and 2010–11.

The report, [Patterns in use of aged care: 2002-03 to 2010-11](#), links datasets about Australia's major aged care programs, allowing analysis of the patterns of these programs' use by the people who need them.

THE SEARCH FOR COLLECTIVE IMPACT INITIATIVES

A collaborative group of funders and partners committed to working differently to tackle some of Australia's biggest social problems has recently announced the launch of a national initiative called [The Search](#).

The first of its kind in Australia, The Search is building a resource pool of up to \$1 million for an Australian community that will

come together to tackle some of the nation's biggest social challenges.

The Search is looking for communities in the early stages of implementing the Collective Impact framework. This framework is a structured and disciplined way for government, not-for-profits, philanthropists and community groups as well as businesses to work together to create large-scale change.

A BOLD NEW VISION FOR FARE

The Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE) has released its 2014-2017 Strategic Plan - [Stopping Harm Caused by Alcohol](#).

FARE will pursue five strategic goals to reduce the harms to individuals and cost to the community that result from these harms.

1. Undertake and communicate world-leading strategic research.
2. Develop and advocate for policies and programs that work.
3. Mobilise communities and organisations to work collectively.
4. Promote open decision-making and hold the alcohol industry to account.
5. Build an enduring world-class organisation that effects health and social change.

PRISONER HEALTH SERVICES IN AUSTRALIA

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has issued Bulletin 123, [Prisoner health services in Australia 2012](#).

The bulletin provides an overview of health services in Australian prisons. It draws on data available from the 2012 National Prisoner Health Data Collection, supplemented by contextual information provided by state/territory departments responsible for prisoner health, to bring together a more comprehensive picture of services delivered to prisoners than has previously been available. The governance of health care in prisons in Australia is complex, with diverse services delivered, including some outside the prison.

NATIONAL ALCOHOL AND DRUG KNOWLEDGEBASE

The National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction has launched of Australia's first comprehensive online [National Alcohol and Drug Knowledgebase](#).

The Knowledgebase gives health practitioners, researchers, policy makers and the general public a valuable new tool to help them address alcohol-related issues. It provides a concise and user-friendly way of accessing the vast amount of information in existing alcohol-related datasets that cover health, social welfare, law enforcement and education issues. In the first instance, the Knowledgebase addresses alcohol and in the near future other drug topics will also be covered.

REGIONAL AUSTRALIA IN THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

[A survey](#) conducted by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) has found that regardless of where people live in Australia, they are increasingly going online and using the internet more frequently.

Use of the internet via mobile phones has seen the biggest increase across Australia, with mobile phone internet services typically being used as a complementary service to a home internet connection.

Across all regions, Australians are diversifying their online activities, with the number and nature of activities performed online increasing and diversifying. This diversification is being led in particular by growth in two areas of activity—'entertainment', and 'blogging and online communities'.

Government Policy and Information

NATIONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY STRATEGY LAUNCHED

The Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) has launched its [National Financial Literacy Strategy 2014-17](#).

Women are a key target audience in the Strategy with ASIC identifying women's financial literacy and building women's economic capability as a priority issue to focus on.

A core action of the Strategy is to drive greater use of ASIC's MoneySmart tools and resources, providing more tailored information and greater accessibility for target groups within the community. The MoneySmart website is dedicated to helping all Australians manage their money and make informed financial decisions.

THE GREEN ARMY IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Young Australians will be able to help deliver local conservation outcomes with the first round of [Green Army](#) projects formally launched in August. The first year of the Green Army will see 2,500 young people aged between 17 and 24 years work on 250 projects across Australia. This will build to 15,000 by 2018/19.

Green Army projects include koala habitat restoration; protecting national heritage places; revegetating river catchments, coastal foreshores, rainforests and wetlands; constructing boardwalks; working closely with traditional owners and restoring culturally significant sites; pest animal management; upgrading walking tracks; and monitoring threatened species.

NHMRC DEMENTIA BOOST

The National Health and Medical Research Council has announced a new [Dementia Research Team Grants scheme](#) to support research into the causes of dementia, improved methods of prevention, new treatment options and improved patient care.

The scheme is modelled on NHMRC's Centres of Research Excellence and is expected to fund five teams over five years.

Anglicare Events

ANGLICARE EVENTS

[Brotherhood of St Laurence Research & Policy Centre Lunchtime Seminar – Colin Falconer, Director of Innovation, UK Foyer Federation](#)

Date: 4 September 2014
Venue: Father Tucker's Room, Brotherhood of St Laurence, 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy
RSVP: jdouglas@bsl.org.au

[Anglicare Australia National Conference](#)

Date: 14-17 September 2014
Venue: Hilton on the Park, Melbourne

Sector Events

SECTOR EVENTS

[National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020](#)

Families Australia will run consultations throughout 2014 about the National Framework:
10 November – Canberra
4 December – Perth

[Third National Elder Abuse Conference](#)

Date: 3-4 September 2014
Venue: Hyatt Regency Perth

[Aged and Community Services Australia \(ACSA\) National Conference](#)

Date: 7-10 September 2014
Venue: Adelaide Convention Centre

[Australian Community Workers Conference](#)

Date: 10-11 September 2014
Venue: Etihad Stadium, Melbourne

[8th National Homelessness Conference 2014](#)

Date: 10-12 September 2014
Venue: Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre, Qld

[IAVE \(International Association for Volunteer Effort\) Youth Conference](#)

Date: 15-17 September 2014
Venue: Gold Coast

[IAVE World Volunteer Conference](#)

Date: 17-20 September 2014
Venue: Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, Qld

[Anti-Poverty Week](#)

Date: 12-18 October 2014
National and International

[LASA National Congress 2014](#)

Date: 20-22 October 2014

Venue: Adelaide Convention Centre

[FRSA Conference 2014](#)

Date: 4-6 November 2014

Venue: Adelaide Convention Centre

[Australian National Carers Conference](#)

Date: 16-18 November 2014

Venue: QT Hotel, Gold Coast

[International Day of People with Disability](#)

Date: 3 December 2014

National and International