

August [View Aspect in your browser](#)

From the Executive Director

Agreement on change and now, the way forward?

This week I attended the National Reform Summit. Sponsored jointly by rival newspapers the Australian and Australian Financial Review along with KPMG, it was badged as the first true reform summit since the Hawke Keating reform summit of March 1983.

Left feeling bereft that true reform has fallen victim to the whim of modern day politics - a Facebook style popularity contest for the number of "likes" - ACOSS, ACTU, Business Council of Australia (BCA), the Chambers of Commerce and Industry brought together 90 invited leaders from thinktanks, community groups, business, banks, universities and unions from all colours of the political spectrum.

The forum was addressed by the Treasurer Joe Hockey, Leader of the Opposition, Bill Shorten, a video from Prime Minister Tony Abbott, Reserve Bank Governor Glenn Stevens, Chair of the Productivity Commission Peter Harris, as well as the leader of each of ACOSS, ACTU, CCI, and BCA.

Remarkable by its absence was government – either its politicians or its officers. While Mr Hockey and Mr Shorten attended for the morning they were afforded no more special treatment than anyone else, sitting amidst the general floor with the rest of us. The message was both that "government is not tackling the issues it needs to" and government cannot do this alone".

As can be expected with such a group there were some things that were not to be agreed on, however even naming these and carving them out of the space where agreement and compromise could be reached is a very useful start.

One message that came out resoundingly throughout the day and that could not have been clearer was that "nothing should be off the table". That is, already determining that some things are not up for discussion in tax reform is at best unhelpful. As Ian Narev, CEO of the Commonwealth Bank said "we haven't seen enough facts to rule anything out".

The Treasurer talked about reform needing to be driven by and responsive to the "sovereign consumer". A consumer who has economic activity available to them 24 hours a day, sourcing from and selling to anywhere in the world; buying products that may or may not be available (or even legal or desirable) at home. About a ride sharing, peer to peer "collaborative" economy that goes well beyond traditional regulations, or even ability to be regulated.

I confess I find myself deeply troubled by this notion that we should fit our society around what is technically possible rather than harnessing technology to serve the needs of an agreed social compact. While this view might be simply characterised as outmoded and old fashioned it stems from a concern that the people who will benefit least from this, while at the same time providing the out of hours, low cost, low hours contract labour for this will be the people Anglicare serves.

Much was made at the summit of the need to mend the budget. Ex Treasury Secretary Martin Parkinson said at the summit that if we do nothing we will simply be "sleepwalking into a real mess". The notion of the argument that the budget should be mended by either spending or by cutting was shown to be naively binary. Over and again the need for reform was made clear. The lack of adequate and affordable housing, the unsustainability of retirement incomes, and youth unemployment were heralded as real concerns from all sides. Issues that need to be tackled if we are not to slip into recession like times and see detriment to our environment and our quality of life.

While this sounds like doom and gloom Change Management 101" always starts with "create a shared sense of urgency and recognition of the need for change". The Summit certainly did that.

The areas of agreement were many and four policy priority areas were identified: Participation and Productivity; Fiscal Policy; Tax Reform; and Sustainable Retirement Income.

Obviously each of these areas has relevance for the people that Anglicare members serve. They each shine a light in a particular way into the lives of Australians on lower incomes.

The areas of agreement were refreshing – there was almost unanimous agreement on the inappropriateness of policies which continue to award concessions to high end Superannuation whilst not providing low income concessions for example. There was also an agreement that youth unemployment is simply too high and intolerable.

Over and again the meeting agreed that nothing should be off the table. For Anglicare we see that that refers to political statements that have already ruled out ideas such as a buffet tax, changes to negative gearing and capital gains tax, high end superannuation concessions and the like.

Of course maintaining the agreement in how these issues should be tackled will require more work. As we are all fond of noting the devil resides within the detail. However the knowledge of groups like Anglicare that work alongside people with mental illness or disability, with carers, people with low incomes and insecure jobs or housing; it is this experience and expertise that we will seek to keep inserting into the debate so that policy does not have unintended detrimental effects on these groups.

As the Editor of the Australian, Paul Kelly, noted in his summing up, the tenor of the meeting was at odds with the view of the government. The challenge now is how to move ahead on these issues without the self-interest of individual groups getting in the way. To enable policy discussions without the personal politics of the day. And that will be quite a challenge, but one that we'll do our best to rise to.

For more on the outcomes of the Reform Summit see [here](#).

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Treasurer Joe Hockey and Opposition Leader Bill Shorten address the Reform Summit



Treasurer Joe Hockey and BCA Chief Jennifer Westacott sitting among participants at the Summit.

National Office News

Anglicare Australia out and about

A major undertaking has occurred this month for the Anglicare Australia office which isn't so much out and about. We've broken through a neighbouring wall to create for ourselves an additional meeting space which has resulted in the refurbishment of a large portion of the office space. The new space will be a great addition and will allow us to remain in the same premises for the next few years. The refurb has taken longer than expected... doesn't it always? Though we've managed to continue with the day-to-day, despite roughing it a little this month.

Anglicare Australia Executive Director, Kasy Chambers visited the top end this month to experience the Garna festival. More on that later. She's also attended a number of forums and roundtables this month in both Sydney and Melbourne; looking at tax reform, focussing on the implications for women and also, the National Reform Summit.

Deputy Executive Director, Roland Manderson has attended the first meeting of Community Services Advisory Group, a group convened by the Department of Social Services to establish mechanisms to work more closely together on issues relating to DSS grants programmes and activities. Roland has also spent two days with NACA progressing the national agenda in aged care.

Policy and Research Director, Michelle Waterford and Kasy both attended the inaugural Out of Home Care Forum which brought together all the providers of out of home care services in the Anglicare Australia network to discuss issues of practice, quality and the future. More on that a bit later as well.

Michelle also appeared at the Inquiry into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Youth Employment and Other Measures) Bill 2015 Senate Hearing where we argued that the measures that would increase the age of eligibility and mandate a waiting period were not conducive to supporting people into work. Unfortunately the

report from the hearing recommended that the Bill be passed. At the time of writing this edition, the Senate had not yet voted on the Bill.

Anglicare Annual Conference: Registrations still open!!



Our national conference – from Sun 13 to Weds 16 September at QT Canberra – is almost upon us and you've seen the great features on offer:

- we've got a great array of key note speakers
- a fabulous range of engaging, inspiring and incredibly useful workshop presentations
- a bunch of invaluable, agenda setting special interest network meetings – Reconciliation, Chaplaincy, - Research, Media and Communications, Aged Care
- a glorious dinner at the iconic Australian War Memorial, with guided tours available before hand
- Anglicare Australia's National Awards for Innovation and Excellence, in a splendid Floriade setting, proudly sponsored by Telstra
- Specialist masterclasses by Stuart Waters of Twyfords Consulting on Making Partnerships Work and Emeritus Professor Dorothy Scott on Protecting Vulnerable Families

So you have every reason to join us in Canberra next month.

[Register now](#) so you don't miss out!

Staff changes at Anglicare Australia

This month we've had a bit of staff turnover at the Anglicare Australia Office with two departures and one new arrival.

Office Manager, Erin Clarke is expecting the arrival of her second child and is on parental leave. She'll be back with us in July 2016. We wish her and her family all the best as their families grows.

In the mean time, Pam Rowley will be taking up the post of Office Manager. Pam comes to us from the CSIRO.

Finally, Research and Policy Director Michelle Waterford will be leaving Anglicare Australia after almost six years in the role. Michelle is moving into the ACT Public Service to investigate the prevalence and prevention of child and adolescent deaths in the ACT. We wish her the best in her new ventures and appreciate all that she has achieved in her time with us. The Research and Policy position will be advertised in the coming days on major platforms such as Seek, Ethical Jobs, Pro Bono and of course the Anglicare Australia website.

Michelle will be attending the Conference dinner to say goodbye in person.



but in the meantime...Michelle says goodbye in her own way!

Garma

The Garma festival is a wonderful mix of policy, culture, ideas and fun. Politicians and industry leaders rubbed shoulders with local Indigenous people and leaders from the community sector.

I was lucky enough to attend this five day festival in Arnhem Land with a group of community sector leaders. The policy forum was addressed by Indigenous leaders, thinkers and academics and constitutional recognition was the issue of the day.

It was sobering too though to be reminded how basic many of the changes that need to happen really are. Land rights came up over and over again, as did horrific stories of discrimination rife in our community. The dancers who gathered to open the festival supported their brother Adam Goodes as he fought off taunts and racist slurs by wearing the number 37. Racial discrimination commissioner Tom Calma shared the unreality and the hurt of his life where in the same day he might meet with the Prime Minister and get driven past by drivers of empty taxis on a Main Street.

The highlight of the festival for me was catching up with local women friends from previous visits to the area. And the sheer joy of the human spirit expressed in dance, music, film and song.

It did however remind me how very, very far we have to go before we can truly say we are on the road to reconciliation.



Traditional dancers at some of the ceremonies from the Garma festival



Community sector leaders meet with Shadow Minister for Indigenous Affairs Shane Neumann

Anglicare Australia Out of Home Care Forum

Anglicare Australia's inaugural Out of Home Care Forum was held in Melbourne on 19 & 20 August, where guest speakers and delegates shared their experiences of working with and for children and young-people in the home-based care sector.

The Anglicare Australia Out of Home Care Forum was held to bring together the providers of Out Of Home Care (OOHC) within the Anglicare Australia network. Over the two days we drew on internal and external expertise to identify work in common, where challenges exist and the solutions that might be applied for the future delivery of OOHC services. The aim was to establish internal connections, share practice, identify sector risks and identify common work agendas, in an effort to consolidate knowledge, improve quality and promote the standing of Anglicare services in the broader OOHC sector.

The presentations given by Noel Macnamara of the Australian Childhood Foundation and Commissioner Robert Fitzgerald of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse were particularly well received and inspirational.

The resulting communique does not attempt to capture nor summarise all of the conversation from the two days. It does seek to provide an overview of some of the overarching points and the actions that were suggested over the course of the event that could help take the conversation further. All the information from the Forum can be found on the Anglicare Australia Forum web page [here](#).



Kasy jotting down points from the discussion Panel of internal experts from the network



Commissioner Fitzgerald offering his insights from the Royal Commission.

Community Services Advisory Group

Deputy Executive Director, Roland Manderson attended the inaugural meeting of the Community Services Advisory Group, which was convened by the Department of Social Services as a key advisory group on issues relating to the Department's grants programmes.

The group consists of senior departmental staff and representatives of more than 20 major Not-for-Profit social service providers and networks.

The aim at this stage is to learn the lessons of last year's massive broadband grants process (the impact of which is still being felt, as you know); to contribute to future policy and planning processes; and to work together on designing future programs and support.

Around the table at this first session we all had a lot to say about the impact of year's exercise. But clearly the aim now is to build an open forum so as to lead to a more constructive and transparent method of implementing high quality initiatives.

The group will next meet in about two months.

NACA Update

Deputy Executive Director, Roland Manderson and Anglicare Southern Queensland CEO, Karen Crouch, attended the August meeting of the National Aged Care Alliance (NACA) for Anglicare Australia on 27th and 28th.

As everyone involved in any aspect of Aged Care in Australia is aware, there are lots of significant changes, or reforms, under way. It is important to acknowledge that much of this change has come out of consumer and industry agitation for a system that is more flexible, transparent and individually responsive. And those are the outcomes many of these reforms are designed to deliver: the shift to consumer directed home care; the creation of a new integrated home support service; the launch of My Aged Care - a website and call centre portal to

provide one stop access to the aged care system; the end of the divide between high care and low care in residential aged care, and a change in how all these services are costed.

But, as everyone involved in every aspect of Aged Care in Australia is also aware, things are not seamless, easy to understand, or without unintended consequence.

In recognition of the impact NACA has had and its broad mix of members, Government has - for a number of years - been supporting a number of NACA advisory groups to assist it with feedback and expertise in designing, implementing and correcting these reforms. The workload is very high for those deeply involved in the process, and key staff from the Anglicare network are members of some of these groups.

Consequently much of the business of NACA meetings these days revolves around how these groups are functioning, if and how well government responds to the problems and challenges when they arrive. There is a commitment from governmental attend, often through the Minister, and always through senior officers, to engage in fairly detailed conversations at NACA itself and to respond to NACA's aged care reform secretariat when it brings things forward as best it can.

And, speaking personally here, I'm not sure what the outcome will be really be in terms of access to high quality person centred care and support for older people on lowest incomes. There's a lot at stake and it's a tough, long process.

And that's why so much of NACA business at present is about working with government in one way or another. We think we are making the best contribution we can, but find ourselves so busy serving the process and maybe unable to think about much beyond it.

The meeting finished early on the Thursday so we could go to the Hesta Aged Care Awards. It was a great event that reminded us all of the profound, inventive and exciting work that goes on in the flesh across the sector.

And in that context it was so exciting to see Paul Brophy from the Brotherhood of St Laurence win the Award for Individual Distinction.

You can catch Paul who is presenting at the Anglicare Conference, in Canberra in about two weeks.

Anglicare Network News

Anglicare Victoria working for vulnerable children

Anglicare Victoria has released two reports this month looking at the experiences of young vulnerable people.

The Anglicare Victoria Report Card highlights the ongoing inequities young people in the Out of Home Care System experience as they fall further and further behind their non-care counterparts. The report card draws attention to the serious disparities in these children's outcomes, especially in physical and mental health, educational engagement and pathways into young adulthood.

The information is drawn from the Looking After Children (LAC) assessments of 353 children and young people conducted between January 2013 and January 2015. This represents the largest sample of children and young people in out-of-home care to have been included in a report card of this nature in Victoria.



The other, is an evaluation of the TEACHaR program which looks at specially trained teachers re-engaging "at-risk" children with education where teaching-aides may fail. This program has seen dramatic improvements in areas such as literacy, numeracy, happiness in school and school attendance for children in foster care and residential care.



Anglicare promotes National Op Shop Week: Op Till You Drop!

This week is National Op Shop Week. Did you know that? Many of the Anglicare Network members did and have been celebrating the week in style.

Anglicare network member Benetas has been celebrating by acknowledging the contribution its Mornington-based Op Shop makes to the lives of older people.

Benetas' Corowa Court Op Shop has been part of the local community since 1963, with proceeds from the store going towards the lifestyle program run at Benetas Corowa Court residential aged care facility in Mornington.

Benetas' General Manager of Residential Services and Quality and Compliance, Paula Trood, said the Op Shop heavily relies on its tight knit group of volunteers who donate their time to run the store. Money raised by the Op Shop has significantly improved the lives of residents at Benetas Corowa Court, with vital funds contributing to the purchase of a new mini-bus for outings.

Anglicare Campbelltown and Liverpool, part of Anglicare Sydney, are celebrating with specials throughout their stores like the 3, 2, 1 sales. Items for sale for \$3 one day, \$2 the next and anything remaining over the weekend will be sold for \$1. Massive bargains!

Anglicare WA is working with the local Council and other charitable agencies in Perth to ensure that people donate respectfully, in an attempt to overcome the huge problem of illegal dumping of unwanted goods at clothing bins and other depots. This is costly issue for recycled goods operations and can often lead to the closure of stores.

Even Australia's "First Lady", Margie Abbott was seen in an Anglicare Op Shop making some prized purchases.

National Op Shop Week: Op til you Drop! Is a campaign from the initiative of the Do Something Near You initiative from the Do Something Charity. More info can be found on their [website](#).

Multi-million dollar expansion kicks off at Traralgon retirement village

Benetas has commenced stage two of a \$22.5 million expansion of Dalkeith Heights Independent Living in

Traralgon this month, with 37 new units set to be built along with major civil upgrades to the site.

The development, which represents a \$10 million investment, is part of Benetas' commitment to meeting the needs of the local community by providing modern, contemporary housing options.

Benetas is very proud to be a part of the Gippsland community, and has a commitment to delivering the services that local residents want. This development represents a broad-base of aged care services, including home care and residential aged care, provided residents with an integrated and holistic approach to their health and wellbeing.

Every Child Succeeds

Local communities in Launceston and the Tamar Valley are committing themselves to creating better, safer and healthier futures for children.

The Every Child Succeeds initiative was launched by Anglicare at a special community event last month. The Communities for Children program, funded by the Australian Government, is providing back-bone support for the growing movement.

"Around 30% of children and young people in the state's second largest city are not meeting basic milestones," says Sharon Dutton, coordinator of Children and Community programs. "They are missing out because of poverty and inequality, and we know that if nothing is done, the problems will keep getting worse. Good work done in isolation is just not enough."

Compared to the state average, more children and young people in the Launceston Tamar Valley area are:

- Living in low-income households
- Not physically ready for the school day
- Demonstrating lower language and cognitive skills, communication skills and general knowledge
- Less likely to have had a routine health check
- More likely to be hospitalised due to injury
- More likely to have a child notification made about them
- Suffering higher rates of assault

Committees have been set up in six local communities to gather knowledge and generate new ideas.

"Communities experiencing disadvantage are saying they've had enough - that business as usual won't cut it anymore," says Sharon. "Children are at the heart of these communities. People are realising that to turn things around, there has to be a common agenda that prioritises children. Communities, politicians, business owners, investors, government agencies and services have to join forces to find innovative solutions to complex social problems".

Those at the community launch saw videos of local parents and children sharing their aspirations for the future. "I think you're here today for hope – to see something new in our community," Sharon said. "We want all children to be loved and safe, have the material basics, be healthy, participating, learning and growing up with a positive sense of culture and identity," said Sharon. "With the help of good ideas from communities, we can find new ways forward".

You can find out more about Every Child Succeeds at the [website](#).

This article was first published in Anglicare Tasmania Snapshot.

National Awards Profile

VOLUNTEER ACHIEVEMENT – ERIN YOUNG, BENETAS



Welcome to the last in our series of profiles on the winners and highly commended of the Anglicare Australia 2014 National Awards for Innovation and Excellence. The 2015 Awards will be announced and presented at the [National Conference](#), September 14th.

These profiles are also featured in [The Anglicare Australia Review](#).

The VOLUNTEER ACHIEVEMENT category is for exceptional service by an individual who has made a significant contribution or significantly changed and improved the quality of service to the client or work environment of the agency.

Anglicare Australia appreciates each and every one of our thousands of volunteers. They are the backbone of our society and true heroes, always willing to contribute their own personal time, talents and energy to so many of our worthwhile causes.

Winner - Erin Young, a volunteer at Benetas Broughton Hall

Every Monday and Thursday, Erin helps staff provide lifestyle activities for the 80 aged care residents, ranging from manicures and hand massages, running the footy tipping competition or spending time with individuals.

Residents at Benetas Broughton Hall look forward to Erin's volunteer days; the positive impact of her visits are enormous, especially to those who are socially isolated.

Erin gives up 520 hours of her personal time volunteering each year. Over 14 years this amounts to a staggering 7,280 hours or 303 days!

Our judges were impressed with Erin's substantial contribution over many years, and highlighted the mutual benefits of her volunteering; where Erin feels confident and valued and the residents feel loved and respected.



[Download full profile.](#)

Research and Resources

Report on the second Australian Child and Adolescent Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing

The report on the second child and adolescent mental health survey was released this month. It presents a contemporary update on the next generation of Australian adults that is both reassuring and troubling.

The report provides compelling reading for everyone interested in the health and wellbeing of Australian children and adolescents. Based on a survey conducted in the homes of over 6,300 families with children and/or adolescents aged 4 to 17 years, the report presents a comprehensive picture of the mental health of young Australians. It documents the prevalence and type of mental health problems, the impact of those problems on families and young people themselves and the role of health and education services in providing assistance.

While the primary sources of information were parents and carers, the survey also engaged directly with young people 11 years and older who completed their own survey. This information provides unique insights about aspects of their emotional lives and behaviour that are generally not visible to parents and carers.

For more information, visit [this page](#) on the Department of Health website.

AIHW: Australia's Welfare Report 2015

This month, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has published its 12th report in the Australia's welfare series, [Australia's Welfare 2015](#).

The report presents reliable information on population factors that underpin the demand for welfare services, welfare spending and the composition of the community services workforce. The report examines the welfare of Australians through the life course, starting at childhood, then moving through youth to working age and the later years of growing older.

For more information visit [AIHW](#).

The New Work Order

The Foundation for Young Australians has released a major piece of research entitled [The New Work Order: Ensuring young Australians have skills and experience for the jobs of the future, not the past](#).

The report looks at the economic drivers set to impact on the economy and the world of work, and for the first time, explores what these changes mean for young people.

The New Work Order highlights the way we work will be increasingly affected by three key economic drivers:

- Automation, with smarter machines performing a growing number of traditionally human tasks
- Globalisation, where technology platforms are making it possible for workers around the world to do jobs from remote locations
- Collaboration, through which we will see an increasing number of people engaged in flexible work with a range of employers to generate an income

While these changes present some positive opportunities for young people – such as lower barriers to entrepreneurship; more flexibility in ways to source income and wider markets to access employment – the report also found significant risks, including rising inequality, unemployment and insecurity which young people are likely to bear the brunt of.

The report highlights comprehensive national investment in young Australians is urgently required to ensure that our future workforce is prepared for these changes and can drive our nation's economy forward.

FYA believes a key part of this investment must be placing enterprising skills at the heart of learning, and as such are calling for a national enterprise education strategy.

Enterprising skills, such as digital and financial literacy, innovation, collaboration, creativity and project management, will be critical for future generations as they navigate an increasingly complex labour market. To ensure that young Australians are developing these essential skills, we need to adapt our school system to best support young people to learn them. This involves teaching enterprising skills earlier on in school, providing young people with more experiential learning, informing them about what the future workforce will look like, and bringing together stakeholders from all sectors to co-design effective opportunities for learning.

A full copy of the report can be found on the [FYA website](#).

Work/Family balance: a government policy retrospective

The Australian Institute of Family Studies has conducted a review of government initiatives that were intended to help families balance their work and family responsibilities. Whilst looking at the range of policy settings that can be attributed to facilitating work/family balance the report concludes that...

“the work and family policies adopted by different countries can only sensibly be understood by considering all of the policies that affect work and family life, as a package. While country-specific work-family policies can be identified, within countries these policies interact with each other in complex ways, and the ways in which they are operationalised vary depending on broader government policies and institutions. “

This is particularly pertinent as we continue down the path of the New Zealand Investment approach to delivering social services.

Other findings include the recognition of areas outside of the primary purpose, ie gender equity, for boosting family/work balance and the challenge of unintended consequences in the development of policy. Appropriate levels of funding were also identified as an ongoing challenge.

The full report can be found on the [AIFS website](#).

The economic value of informal care in Australia in 2015

Carers Australia has this month released a new report showing that Australians will have provided \$60.3 billion in unpaid care this year alone looking after family members and friends who are aged, chronically ill or have a disability.

The report, [The economic value of informal care in Australia in 2015](#), indicates that the need for carers is at an all-time high with one in eight Australians providing informal care. Demand for carers has also doubled that of supply in some areas.

The reports warns of an ever-widening carer gap and points to modelling that shows that by 2025, only 42% of people with a severe disability who are aged over 65 years and not living in residential care will have access to an unpaid family and friend carer.

For more information, visit [Carers Australia](#).

Government Policy and Information

DSS Funding Opportunities

The Department of Social Services is offering funding through a new grants round for Financial Counselling Hubs, Microenterprise Development, National Disability Conference Initiative, Aged Care Approvals Round (ACAR) and Building Safe Communities for Women.

All information pertaining to these rounds can be found on the [Funding Open for Application](#) page of the DSS website.

Information on the Aged Care Approvals Information can be found [here](#).

Visit those pages for details on application requirements and timeframes.

Financial Counselling, Capability and Resilience Hubs

The Australian Government is inviting applications from eligible organisations interested in delivering Financial Counselling, Capability and Resilience Hubs in targeted locations across Australia.

The Hubs will deliver more integrated and coordinated services including financial counselling and money management education and may offer no interest loans and other microfinance products.

Community Development Financial Institutions – Microenterprise Development

The Australian Government is inviting applications for projects under the Community Development Financial Institutions – Microenterprise Development (CDFI) funding round, which is open to local community groups, not-for-profit organisations and companies. It is a condition of funding that CDFI's have a source of loan capital and comply with the relevant legislative requirements (including National, State and/or Territory requirements) to deliver this initiative.

The grants are designed to support the delivery of microenterprise solutions to low-income individuals and families. Government funding is provided to meet the costs of service delivery and operational expenses and cannot be used for the purposes of providing loan capital.

National Disability Conference Initiative

The Australian Government is inviting conference organisers across Australia to apply for funding under the National Disability Conference Initiative (NDCI) for the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016.

The NDCI 2015-16 is provided under the Disability and Carer Support Activity. The NDCI aims to assist conference organisers to maximise the inclusion and participation of people with disability at nationally focused disability-related conferences in Australia. The funding can be used for a range of assistance types such as accessible materials, live captioning service loops, conference fees etc.

Aged Care Approvals Round (ACAR)

Applications for the next Aged Care Approvals Round (ACAR) opened on Saturday 15 August 2015.

Existing and prospective providers of Australian Government-funded aged care are invited to apply for new residential aged care and home care places.

10,940 residential aged care places and 6,045 home care places are available for allocation through the 2015 ACAR

Building Safe Communities for Women - Closing Soon

The Building Safe Communities for Women component of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022.

The grants are:

- to support communities to develop and implement practical solutions to reduce violence against women and their children in their own community
- to help prevent this violence into the future
- to make a positive difference for women and their children who are victims of domestic violence.

Release of Out of Home Care Senate Inquiry Report

A report was released this month by the Senate Community Affairs References Committee on the inquiry into children in Out of Home Care in Australia. This inquiry addresses the complex issues involved in improving Australia's child protection systems to ensure positive outcomes for children.

The report examines why so many children and young people, particularly from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, are entering and remaining in out-of-home care. The committee examined how children and young people can be better supported to remain with their families, where possible.

The Senat report coincides with a Victorian Government report on residential care in that state and which calls for an "urgent redevelopment of residential care services in Victoria and the development of specialised care options for children". See more of that report [here](#).

The Community Affairs References Committee makes 39 recommendations to Australian governments to address the core issues of concern in Australia's out-of-home care system, leaning heavily on the National Standards as a vehicle for that change.

For more information, visit [this page](#) of the Parliament of Australia website.

PC draft report on Workplace Relations

The Productivity Commission released its draft report this month on Workplace Relations. Anglicare Australia provided a submission to the report and in it we put forward a number of preliminary issues to help guide the Commission in its deliberation of the Workplace Relations Framework as it relates to issues of social justice and community cohesion.

Primarily the submission focussed on a life-first approach, as identified in our research Beyond Supply and Demand; a more sophisticated understanding of the transition in and out of work for people and the hard edges of benefits that can limit the sustainability of some employment opportunities; acknowledging both the limitations of a one-size fits all approach and the need for business and government to take greater responsibility for changing attitudes toward people who've been long-term unemployed and finally, highlighting the absolute importance of a line of sight to employment prospects from any kind of participation activity such as training.

The report notes the natural but not necessarily dysfunctional, complexity of Australia's Workplace Relations Framework and takes positions that both compliment and counter the Anglicare Australia position.

The full report can be found on the [Productivity Commission website](#) and submissions for the draft report close 18 September.

Anglicare Events

Anglicare Events

Anglicare Australia National Conference

Date: 13-16 September 2015

Location: QT Canberra, 1 London Circuit, Canberra City

Annual General Meeting of Anglicare Australia

Date: 13 September 2015

Time: 3:30pm
Location: Ballroom 3, QT Canberra, 1 London Circuit, Canberra City

Anglicare Australia National Awards for Innovation and Excellence
Date: 13 September 2015
Time: 11am-3pm
Location: Floriade, Commonwealth Park

Research Network Meeting
Date: 13 September 2015
Time: 6:15-8:30pm
Location: Lv4, 221 London Circuit, Offices of Anglicare NSW.W, NSW.S & ACT
Contact: [Coco Ho](#)

Media and Communications
Date: 14 September 2015
Time: 2-3:15pm
Location: Studio 2, QT Canberra
Contact: [Bronwen Hayes](#)

Aged and Community Care
Date: 14 September 2015
Time: 2-3:15pm
Location: Studio 3, QT Canberra
Contact: [Roland Manderson](#)

National Reconciliation
Date: 14 September 2015
Time: 2-3:15pm
Location: Ballroom 3, QT Canberra
Contact: [Sonia Waters](#)

Fundraising
Date: 14 September 2015
Time: 2-3:15pm
Location: Studio 1, QT Canberra
Contact: [Trevor Capps](#)

Chaplaincy, Pastoral Care and Parish Partnerships
Date: 16 September 2015
Time: 2pm
Location: Studio 2, QT Canberra
Contact: [Peter Burke](#)

Sector Events

Sector Events

[13th Australian Palliative Care Conference](#)

Date: 1-4 September 2015
Venue: Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre

[Relationships and Intimacy as We Age](#) (COTA-Alzheimer's Australia)

Date: 8-9 September 2015
Venue: Pullman on the Park, Melbourne

[Anglicare Australia National Conference](#)

Date: 13-16 September 2015
Location: Canberra

[SNAICC \(Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Care\) National Conference](#)

Date: 15-17 September 2015
Venue: Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre

[Australian Social Policy Conference](#)

Date: 28-30 September 2015
Venue: University of NSW, Sydney

[LASA National Congress](#)

Date: 11-14 October 2015
Venue: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

[6TH National Australian Men's Shed Association Conference](#)

Date: 17-20 October 2015
Venue: Civic Precinct Newcastle

[Dementia Strategy Summit](#)

Date: 27-29 October 2015
Venue: Pullman Quay Grand, Sydney Harbour

[National Housing Conference 2015](#)

Date: 28-30 October 2015
Venue: Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre

[Australian Long-Term Unemployment Conference](#)

Date: 9-10 November 2015
Venue: Pullman Melbourne on the Park

[FRSA National Conference](#)

Date: 10-12 November 2015
Venue: Brisbane Convention Centre

[National Complex Needs Conference](#)

Date: 17-18 November 2015
Venue: Canberra Rex Hotel

