

Aspect

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 **In this issue**

From the Executive Director

REFORM THE SYSTEM IN A REAL WAY



Kasy Chambers
Executive Director

The long awaited [McClure report](#) (or to give it its proper title A new System for Better Employment and Social Outcomes, the report of the reference group on welfare reform) was finally released this week to a mixed reception. Some groups welcomed it, some pointed to issues for their particular constituents.

One of the terms of reference for the review was to simplify the system and the report makes a big deal of reducing over 20 payment types to five and removing many supplements. Some commentators have argued that the complexity of the system is not necessarily a bad thing, allowing it to respond to people's lives in a nuanced way.

However, the current system of administering the payments does not match its complexity, and in truth few Centrelink workers understand the full suite of payments; and the system is set up simply to supply or deny when people apply. If we are to have a more complex system of payments, then the system of application has to be more nuanced too – where an applicant has a more complex need a senior worker with strong knowledge needs to help. The New Zealand system is starting to work towards this with lengthy intake interviews to assign people to different responses.

It seems timely to shake out the cupboard of the various supplements, many of which were initiated in response to a particular issue at the time, a noisy group of constituents or a small segment that missed out in other policy changes. And we would be naïve to think that new ones will not be added again over time – election promises, Budget sweeteners, supplements to amend erosion of benefits over time.

Adequacy of payments is addressed in this report. In recommending that the basic payment be enough to offer an acceptable standard of living as well as meeting the costs of applying for and training for work, child care and housing costs, the report confirms our own research which indicates that the Newstart allowance is simply not enough to enable people to look for work. One thing we loudly agree with is the commitment to ensuring that relativities in payments are maintained over time and that the payments keep pace with the cost of living. That the report recognises that an independent panel should review this is akin to the independent body that Anglicare Australia has been calling for, for a number of years. This in itself should, if adopted, undermine the reason for the addition of some supplements and maintain the simplicity and integrity of the main part of the system.

Understandably governments are always nervous about allowing costs out of their control but we have argued taking the levels of benefits out of the political sphere is good for politicians as well as those receiving them.

Of course it is not all roses and we have concerns about the seeming assumptions that everyone under 22 is in education or employment – we know that for many of our young people this is not the case and we hope the government will be open to thinking about what this means. At the very least we must achieve exemptions from this for groups of young people, such as those who have been in care, those leaving prison, those who cannot live at home with their parents, etc.

The report does also talk about the role of government, community and business and makes many of the same points as our research, [Beyond Supply and Demand](#). It is interesting to see the call for government programs to ease the transition for young people into the workforce – especially those that haven't excelled at school.

There is still a lot to be digested in the report and some detail to tease out, as well as information about how the government is responding to it and how it sees the debate progressing further.

We need to remember that this is “only” the report. What is of real importance is the government's response to it. We were relieved to hear Minister Morrison talk of this as long-term reform. This indicates a willingness to undertake real reform; with all the work that that involves, re-building the IT architecture to support it, building bipartisan and community support and input.

An alternative system mooted in the UK recently was to simply pay everyone that didn't work a flat amount and not to worry too much about whether people deserved it or not. Or whether they deserved more. Or less. The one payment with no policing of it would potentially be cheaper than a bureaucracy set up to determine who gets which benefit, and who shouldn't get it and retrieve it when wrongly paid. This is an interesting concept and a useful juxtaposition to those that feel government is meddling too much in this space.

To me however, while this initially makes sense (and makes a nonsense of the amount we spend retrieving welfare payments erroneously paid) it does rather seem to wash society's hands of people. It creates an underclass that the community can forget about. By making a payment and no more, we are saying in effect that they can sit there for the rest of their lives, we won't interfere.

There might be some pitfalls in interfering; we might sometimes get it wrong. But every citizen deserves more than just money when they fall through the gaps. Our challenge, and that of the government, is to reform the system in a real way. To update it to today's needs, to offer real movement into participation and contribution (and not just economic), while not punishing those not yet there and to do so in a way that leaves no-one behind.

That's quite a challenge, and not one that can be done overnight. We're up for it and we hope the government is too. It's a conversation we need to have and the McClure report is not a bad starting point.

From the Executive Director

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NATIONAL OFFICE OUT AND ABOUT

For a short month, it has been an extremely busy one for the team at Anglicare Australia. For example, Anglicare Australia Executive Director, Kasy Chambers attended the NSW CEOs' meeting, a conference on redress and civil litigation as part of the General Synod Working Group on the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, the Anglicare Australia National Council meeting and met with Shadow Minister for Families & Payments and Disability Reform, Jenny Macklin.

Federation Roundtable

In early February, Anglicare Australia Executive Director, Kasy Chambers and Deputy Director, Roland Manderson attended a workshop convened by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet to discuss the [Federation White Paper](#) process. There were general discussions on the roles and responsibilities of the tiers of government, with some attendees questioning whether there is a deep problem that needs to be solved in any event.

There were also specific sessions on housing and homelessness, and on health – including mental health. Once again, while delegates were all aiming to keep the discussion focussed on governments' roles and responsibilities, much of the analysis came down to the problems that needed to be addressed. Not surprisingly, they argued that there are national as well as local factors that have created the crisis in affordable low-cost housing, that national advocacy and evidence is essential, and that all tiers of government had a role to play.

Similarly, there is wide recognition that the domain of mental health is complex, and that governments are looking for funding models that could more efficiently and effectively support people through the health system and in the community. (Mental Health Australia is doing some more work with its membership to gather input on the issues)

These roundtables are being held across in capital cities and regional centres across Australia.

Aged & Community Care Network meets Minister Fifield

Kasy and Roland and five Anglicare aged care providers met with Minister Mitch Fifield in Melbourne, to provide feedback on the roll out of aged care reforms over there past year.

The delegation enjoyed a constructive conversation with the Minister on the reform process to date, identifying key areas such as cost and income assessment (which are proving problematic), possible gaps in support as the new programs come into place, as well as raising unsatisfactory aspects to the Medicare claims process.

They also talked about My Aged Care Gateway and how Anglicare's member organisations could work together with the Department of Social Services to get the care assessments, availability of services and the relevant information to all line up.

Anglicare Australia meets with Minister Morrison

Kasy and Roland met with Minister for Social Services, Scott Morrison and senior advisers in mid-February (following a false start when their planned meeting coincided with the leadership spill and had to be postponed for a couple of days).

The Minister spoke about his priorities in what is a huge portfolio. The addition of child care in the reshuffle has enabled the department and Minister Morrison to work towards a families policy, which is certainly a short-term priority with policy likely to be spotted in the 2015 Budget.

The Minister also talked about his participation agenda. The groups he mentioned were those highlighted in the interview with the Minister in the following [Weekend Australian](#); looking to increase participation particularly in three specific groups. They are young men under 25, women aged 25 to 39 with children, and people over 65, especially women.

Kasy and Roland spoke about the evidence from around the Anglicare Australia network on what works in terms of improving the "stickiness" between people who are unemployed and a job they might access - housing, child care, soft skills, training, job security and encouragement to employers to recruit and retain workers. Minister Morrison eagerly took Anglicare's [Beyond Supply and Demand](#) report detailing these issues.

As always when visiting any politician, Kasy and Roland invited Minister Morrison to visit Anglicare Australia member services.

Mental Health Advocacy Day

Roland was one of 87 NFP representatives who attended the Mental Health Advocacy Day at Parliament House. Around 45 MPs and Senators met with representatives from [Mental Health Australia](#)'s member organisations.

The key messages were: that uncertainty for important and effective programs – such as PHAMS – is counterproductive for service providers and users alike; that last year's Mental Health Commission review must be released for discussion before any key decisions are made; and that there needs to be a non-partisan approach to strengthening the mental health support systems across Australia.

Most of the parliamentarians visited – whatever their allegiance – understood and acknowledged those points.

Mental Health Australia CEO, Frank Quinlan said "I found it genuinely inspiring to see the delegations successfully present such a united sector view and argue the case for meaningful change. I would like to thank all the representatives for their commitment and support in delivering our joint sector message."

National Aged Care Alliance meeting

Anglicare Australia's delegates to the [National Aged Care Alliance](#) (NACA), Roland and Benetas CEO, Sandra Hills, attended the Alliance's first 2015 meeting in Canberra.

NACA continues to play an important role in connecting government to the aged care sector in its broadest sense. Anglicare Australia's Aged & Community Care Network is represented on a number of formal NACA advisory groups and internal working parties, including the Gateway Advisory Group, the Gateway Carer Support Sub-group, the Red Tape Reduction Group, the Affordable Housing Interest group, and the Aged Care Complaints Scheme Forum.

The NACA meeting included sessions with Minister Fifield and, separately, senior officers of the departments of Social Services and Human Services, as well as the aged care complaints Commissioner. One key outcome was the first step in refreshing the NACA Blueprint for Aged Care reform.

- PRIVATE RENTAL SECTOR REPORT RELEASED

Government Policy and Information

- SUPPORT FOR AGED WITH SEVERE DEMENTIA
- NEW VOICE FOR AUSTRALIANS WITH DISABILITY
- CLOSING THE GAP REPORT RELEASED
- MENTAL ILLNESS FUNDING EXTENDED
- PUBLIC CONSULTATION TO INFORM DISABILITY FRAMEWORK
- NDIS QUARTERLY REPORT
- AGED CARE QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL ANNOUNCED
- RTOs TO BE AUDIT TARGETS
- GREEN ARMY ROUND 3 OPEN

Anglicare Events

- ANGLICARE EVENTS

Sector Events

- SECTOR EVENTS

ROYAL COMMISSION TO HOLD OOH HEARING

The Royal Commission for Institutional Responses into Child Sexual Abuse will hold a two week hearing into the provision

of Out Of Home Care (OOHC), including kinship, foster and residential care.

Unlike previous hearings, this one is not hearing from survivors of abuse, but rather is looking at contemporary (2004-2014) responses with the desire to develop "sustainable and implementable" recommendations about how best these services can support young people and children in their care.

The hearing will run for two weeks from 10 March and will have data from non-government organisation providers of these care types and all state and territory governments.

Anglicare Australia members have provided data and will appear at the hearing. Anglicare Australia will be particularly interested in the Commissioner's thoughts, as well as all evidence given at the hearings and will disseminate information and findings.

The work in this area is likely to continue and with OOHC forming a large part of the work of the Anglicare Australia network, we have decided to hold a forum, most likely in March, to share practice and policy responses within the network.

If there is the will and energy we would hope that an OOHC Network would be an outcome arising from this event that will support and guide Anglicare Australia's further advocacy and policy responses in the area of out of home care.

Further information will be provided, but if you would like to express your interest in the event, get in touch with Anglicare Australia Policy & Research Director, [Michelle Waterford](#).

The public hearing will be streamed live to the public via webcast on the [Royal Commission's website](#).

Royal Commission releases OOHC report

The Royal Commission has [released a report](#) examining issues related to the effectiveness of practices in out-of-home care in preventing child sexual abuse within institutions.

The report examines practices that help prevent child sexual abuse in out-of-home care, and the evidence around ways to reduce child-on-child sexual abuse, as well as abuse perpetrated by caregivers. However, it concludes that there are very few studies that have tested which practices or types of programs lead to decreased rates of sexual abuse of children.

The findings of the report, prepared by the Parenting Research Centre and the University of Melbourne, will be used to shape the Royal Commission's final recommendations.

Report on effectiveness of pre-employment screening

Royal Commission has also released a report that examines issues related to the [effectiveness of pre-employment screening](#) in preventing child sexual abuse within institutions.

The report, prepared by the Parenting Research Centre and the University of Melbourne, summarises evidence on the effectiveness of pre-employment screening practices.

Researchers found that criminal background checks are an important component of pre-employment screening and are most effective when used with other safeguards, such as thorough reference checks and verification of the applicant's identity, employment history and qualifications.

SENATE INQUIRY INTO DSS GRANTS PROCESS

Anglicare Australia will be producing a submission into the Senate inquiry into the impact on service quality, efficiency and sustainability of the recent Commonwealth community service tendering processes by the Department of Social Services.

The inquiry will be reported to the Senate on 26 March 2015, with submissions due on 20 March.

The terms of reference are:

- a. the extent of consultation with service providers concerning the size, scope and nature of services tendered, determination of outcomes and other elements of service and contract design
- b. the effect of the tendering timeframe and lack of notice on service collaboration, consortia and the opportunity for innovative service design and delivery
- c. the evidence base and analysis underlying program design
- d. the clarity of information provided to prospective tenderers concerning service scope and outcomes
- e. the opportunities created for innovative service design and delivery, including greater service integration or improved service wrap-around, and the extent to which this was reflected in the outcomes of the tender process
- f. the extent to which tenders were restricted to not-for-profit services, the clarity of these terms, and whether they changed during the notification and tender process
- g. analysis of the types, size and structures of organisations which were successful and unsuccessful under this process
- h. the implementation and extent of compliance with Commonwealth Grant Guidelines
- i. the potential and likely impacts on service users concerning service delivery, continuity, quality and reliability
- j. the framework and measures in place (if any) to assess the impacts of these reforms on service user outcomes and service sustainability and effectiveness
- k. the information provided to tenderers about how decisions are made, feedback mechanisms for unsuccessful tender applicants, and the participation of independent experts in tender review processes to ensure fairness and transparency
- l. the impact on advocacy services across the sector
- m. factors relating to the efficient and effective collection and sharing of data on outcomes within and across program streams to allow actuarial analysis of program, cohort and population outcomes to be measured and evaluated
- n. the extent of contracts offered, and the associated conditions, to successful applicants
- o. any other related matters.

RESEARCH & MEDIA-COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS MEET

The Research and Media & Communications Networks met in Perth in February for their biannual network meetings. We thank [Anglicare WA](#) for their generosity in hosting the two meetings and providing the opportunity to visit [Foyer Oxford](#) and other services.

The Research and Media & Communications meetings are held back to back because of the cross-over of national projects that both networks work on, such as the Rental Affordability Snapshot (RAS) and the State of the Family report. This year the networks met over three days with a joint business discussion on the afternoon of the second day.

Research Network

A first for the Research Network meeting was the inclusion of a focus on evaluation. This took the form of a mini-forum where several of the network members gave presentations on their own evaluation journeys. These were a place marker for subsequent discussions on evaluation as it applies to practice, service development and what we can be doing together to support collaborative approaches.

The meetings are purposely held at the beginning of each year to establish the bulk of the subsequent work program for Anglicare Australia.

In addition to those established projects, the Research Network is exploring a new project that focuses on single parents, looking at a second snapshot to be held in November that might complement and bookend the Rental Snapshot. The network members will investigate the collation of evaluation resources, as well as looking to conduct specific workshops on research and evaluation during the Anglicare Australia conference.

Combined Networks meeting

At the start of the combined networks meeting, Anglicare WA Executive General Manager for Corporate Strategy & Marketing, Jennifer Duffecy presented a gift to Anglicare Australia Executive Officer, Kasy Chambers (photo below).

The design depicts the journey of Anglicare WA since it began in 1976. Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people have been working together for many years, particularly since 2002, to change the way Anglicare WA interacts with Aboriginal people, improving its responsiveness and ability to reach out and engage. It was designed by Matthew Pearse, under the direction of Olive Woods and Josey Hansen.

An introductory session focused on how research forms a central part of the activities Anglicare Australia undertakes to inform and influence social and economic policy. We are regarded as a quality producer of evidence, informing national debate with the research carried out by the broader Anglicare network.

Much of the Rental Affordability Snapshot discussion centred on key messages, the sourcing and use of personal stories and an expanded social media campaign. The data collection date is 11 April and the RAS report release will be on either 29 or 30 April.



Kasy Chambers (left) accepts the gift from Jennifer Duffecy.

Media & Communications Network meeting

On the final day at the Media & Communications Network meeting, Jennifer Duffecy gave us an overview of the work of Anglicare WA and her corporate strategy and marketing team.

Social media was discussed in detail. There was a mix of "expert" social media organisations and those just about to enter into the social media environment. The most popular form of social media was Twitter, Facebook, Linked In and YouTube.

Network members then shared information about how they evaluate their products (online and print) and Network Convenor, Bronwen Hayes introduced two possible projects for consideration by the members, which will be considered and discuss in detail at a future meeting.

AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS 2015

A large number of people with links to the Anglicare family were recognised in the Australia Day Honours List this year.

Officer (AO) in the General Division of the Order of Australia.

Joan Clemenger and Peter Clemenger AM of Melbourne were both honoured for distinguished service to the visual and performing arts as a benefactor, patron and supporter, and through philanthropic contributions to a range of charitable organisations, and to the community. One of those charitable organisation was Anglicare, Rosebud West Let's Read project, 2010-2012.

Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia

Andrew Gatenby of Mount Annan, NSW, was recognised for significant service to medicine, particularly as a colorectal surgeon, and to the community of south west Sydney. Mr Gatenby was a past Council Member, Macarthur Anglican School, early 1980s-1997, past parishioner and Church Warden, Narellan Anglican Church and Minto Anglican Church.

David Glasgow of Cairns, QLD, was honoured for significant service to the law as a magistrate, and to the Indigenous communities of northern Queensland. Mr Glasgow was Chancellor, Anglican Diocese of North Queensland and a Member of the Diocesan Council and Synod.

[Download full list which also includes AOM recipients.](#)

LIVING ON NEWSTART EQUIVALENT FOR LENT

With 500,000 Australians face the harsh reality of living on the Newstart Allowance, Anglicare Sydney and Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & ACT are running a new initiative asking people to live on the dole for a week.

Share the Benefit aims to raise awareness about the struggle that job seekers face and allow people to experience the restrictions endured by those who live in poverty.

Participants are asked to help fundraise for Anglicare by donating the difference in what they would spend on groceries during a normal week. The money raised will go towards emergency relief programs to help struggling families and individuals put food on the table.

With the challenge taking place during the season of Lent, around 20 parishes are already signed up to take part. [The Venerable Elizabeth Dyke](#), Rector of Queanbeyan and District Anglican Church, has taken the lead in her parishes to encourage members to participate in Share the Benefit.

SPONSOR AN ABSEILER FOR ANGLICARE SA

On Friday 10 and Saturday 11 April, Anglicare SA is offering the opportunity for 160 courageous people to abseil down the 34 floors (132 metres) of Westpac House, the tallest building in South Australia.

This event is the first of its kind in South Australia and will coincide with International Autism month. All funds raised will go towards Anglicare SA's Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centre - the first centre in Australia - and help children with autism and their families live life to the full.

Friday 10 April is reserved for businesses and their leaders, politicians and celebrities. Registrations for this day are being coordinated through Fundraising Manager, Paul Morton : p.morton@anglicaresa.com.au / 08 8305 9277.

Saturday 11 April will be open to registrations from everyone everywhere!

[Abseil for AnglicareSA](#) is being run in conjunction with Zenith Events, an adventure/ abseil company with a 100% safety record. Qualified abseil professionals will be on-site and will prepare and guide each participant on the day.

Another option is to sponsor an abseiler!!

ACOSS BRIEFING ON DSS FUNDING AGREEMENT

Concerned about the cuts to community services and social infrastructure, including within the Department of Social Services alongside other key portfolios, ACOSS has prepared a [detailed briefing](#) for its members outlining the DSS cuts and their impacts across the sector.

This briefing is intended to members -informed of the issues, and as the basis for ongoing advocacy locally, within states and territories and nationally, about these cuts and their impacts in communities.

This is available to all Anglicare Australia members as part of Anglicare Australia's membership of ACOSS.

FACT SHEET ON DSS FUNDING AGREEMENT

Organisations which have received the new Streamlined Grant Agreement from the federal Department of Social Services are encouraged to seek individual, independent advice on their contract negotiations.

ACOSS and Justice Connect, a not-for-profit specialist legal service for community organisations in Victoria and NSW, have

produced a [Fact Sheet on the DSS contract terms](#). It provides guidance on some of the important terms to be aware of for funded organisations.

It is suggested that you read the the fact sheet with your grant documents at hand.

This is available to all Anglicare Australia members as part of Anglicare Australia's membership of ACOSS.

GENDER FAIRNESS CARDS & WORKSHOP

St Luke's Innovative Resources (a division of Anglicare Victoria) and Women's Health Loddon Mallee are holding a [Gender Fairness workshop](#) in April to provide delegates with tools and techniques for creating conversations about gender equity.

Men and women have fundamentally different lived experiences from the time they are born, and most of us are not practised at talking about how gender influences our relationships at home and at work, and our attitudes and expectations of each other.

Using Gender Fairness cards and other hands-on tools, this workshop will help participants:

gain information and understanding about gender equity and explore why it is important to talk about it at work, in the home and in the community

use creative techniques such as writing, art, visual resources and questioning styles to explore and understand our own gendered attitudes and expectations

take away conversational tools and techniques for opening up and progressing discussions on topics such as power and control in the workplace, at home and in social settings.

Date: 9.30am-4pm; Wednesday 22 April 2015

Venue: Academic Centre, University College, 40 College Crescent, Parkville VIC

Cost: \$198 (includes lunch, morning & afternoon tea, Gender Fairness cards and a booklet.

Registration: [Innovative Resources](#)

SAMBELL ORATIONS TAKING BOOKINGS

Anglicare Australia member, the Brotherhood of St Laurence, presents [The Sambell Oration](#) for 2015, which will be delivered by English social thinker Maurice Glasman.

With the theme, 'What role can community organisations play in developing a new narrative of civic connection?', Lord Glasman will draw from the pragmatism of Machiavelli as well as the theology of Thomas Aquinas, hunting for 'the common good' in an increasingly polarised world.

Lord Maurice Glasman, Baron Glasman of Stoke Newington and Stamford Hill, himself a 'radical traditionalist' and argues that the public space – where key decisions are made – has been hollowed out as a place of relationship and encounter for ordinary people.

The Sambell Oration is named after former Brotherhood of St Laurence Executive Director Archbishop Geoffrey Sambell. It is a forum for ideas that advance a fairer Australia.

Date: 6.30-10pm; Wednesday 25 March 2015

Venue: Sofitel Melbourne on Collins (25 Collins Street)

Cost: Individual \$140; table of 10 \$1200; individual (not-for-profits) \$110; concession \$25. Price includes GST.

DR ANDREW SCOTT PRESENTS AT BSL SEMINAR

Anglicare Australia member, the Brotherhood of St Laurence's first Research & Policy Centre Lunchtime Seminar for 2015 will be held on Thursday 5 March and will feature Dr Andrew Scott, speaking on Lessons for Australia from the early childhood policy achievements of the Nordic European nations.

Dr Andrew Scott is author of Northern Lights: The Positive Policy Example of Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Norway, which has just been published by Monash University Publishing.

He is Associate Professor in Politics and Policy at Deakin University, Melbourne, and the author of four previous books and numerous book chapters and articles on aspects of politics, policy and history, frequently involving international comparisons. For several years Andrew has been researching English-speaking nations' past interest in – and lessons they can learn from – the policy achievements of the Nordic European nations.

The Seminar will be held from 12noon to 1pm at the Brotherhood, 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy in Father Tucker's Room. To RSVP, email jdouglas@bsl.org.au

HOW BENETAS SUPPORTS A MOBILE WORKFORCE

Supporting a remote and mobile workforce has always been a challenge for community care organisations, but recently Benetas dramatically changed how it responds to that challenge.

[Australian Ageing Agenda](#) featured a piece written by General Manager of Benetas Home Care, Jeremy McAuliffe.

THE COST OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN AUSTRALIA

A new report and the first national study of its kind, [The Cost of Youth Homelessness in Australia](#), has revealed the extreme difficulties faced by homeless young people.

A collaboration between a number of universities and organisations including Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & ACT and Swinburne University of Technology, the study was conducted to better understand the experience, impact and support needs of homeless young people.

Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & ACT CEO, Jeremy Halcrow said that more needed to be done to stop the cycle of homelessness and poverty in the younger generation.

“Young people require support and boundaries to help develop their own living skills. Anglicare runs a range of programs that aim to give young people the skills needed to break the cycle.”

“When we were interviewing the homeless youth for this study, many reported a lack of confidence to maintain and secure jobs, and deal with the psychological impact of homelessness.”

Close to 400 young Australians were tracked over three consecutive years to obtain the findings. The second report on the economic costs of youth homelessness is due for release in late 2015.



NEW GENERAL SECRETARY OF GENERAL SYNOD

Anne Hywood is the newly appointed General Secretary of the General Synod. Commencing her role on 9 February 2015, Anne succeeds Martin Drevikovsky, who served as General Secretary for almost seven years.

In his announcement to the General Synod Standing Committee, Archbishop Philip Freier, the Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia, said:

“Many of you will know her. Anne comes with a background of experience in both Anglican and corporate environments. Her time as Registrar of Adelaide, Registrar of Grafton and member of General synod, together with other career experiences, will stand her in good stead in preparing to take up this role. In announcing this, I pay tribute to Martin Drevikovsky for his distinguished service in the role. We have been fortunate to have had Martin’s leadership and management of General Synod and all its associated affairs and we wish him well for the future.”



SEALS & CATS ASSIST CLIENTS LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

Anglicare Southern Queensland is part of a world-first university study of people who are living with dementia.

The largest project to examine the use of social robots to enhance the quality of life of residents living in aged care facilities, the three-year study is a collaboration between Griffith University, QUT, University of NSW and Kuwait University.

Nine residents of Neilson residential care were among 205 participants from various aged care homes who were randomly selected to interact with a robotic baby seal named Paro. Paro responds to touch and voice through movement and sounds.

Staff had noticed how much the residents enjoyed interacting with Paro. There were changes in the resident’s mood and behaviours after the interactions with the robotic seal. And the mood and interactions of the home’s female clients have been further improved following the purchase of an interactive cat.

The project titled [Effect of an interactive therapeutic robotic animal on engagement, mood states, agitation and psychotropic drug use in people with dementia: A cluster randomised controlled trial](#).

BSL RESEARCH ON MONEY MATTERS

Since Saver Plus was first delivered more than 10 years ago, the matched savings program has helped almost 15,000 people save over \$13.5 million.

A [research report](#) recently released by Anglicare Australia member, the Brotherhood of St Laurence, together with ANZ and RMIT University, highlights the success of Saver Plus in building money management and savings capabilities in lower-income Australians.

The report also found that Saver Plus has wider social and economic benefits, such as increased social networks, reduced reliance on government benefits and encouraging children and family members to save.

Brotherhood of St Laurence Executive Director, Tony Nicholson said Saver Plus helped put participants in control of household finances and improved long-term wellbeing. "The Brotherhood of St Laurence has long recognised that if disadvantaged Australians are to build a good life for themselves in the modern economy, like all of us, they need to have financial literacy and access to affordable financial services," he said.

Economics Editor at the Sydney Morning Herald, [Ross Gittins reported](#) that the program is a "remarkable success. So much so that this, the first matched-saving program in Australia, is now the largest and longest-running program of its kind in the world."



SAVER PLUS:
A DECADE OF IMPACT
February 2015



PRO BONO: SPOTLIGHT ON SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

A political refugee from Colombia is diving headfirst into the social enterprise scene as she seeks to help refugee and asylum seeker women move past language barriers and isolation in their new lives in Australia, writes Nadia Boyce in [Pro Bono's Spotlight on Social Enterprise](#).

Luz Restrepo, a determined woman with a thick accent and an sunny disposition, speaks from the heart as she recounts how she has been able to help her peers through SisterWorks, the social enterprise she has worked towards since her arrival in Australia four and a half years ago.

As SisterWorks quietly gathers high-profile partners and supporters, including the Brotherhood of St Lawrence and NAB, Pro Bono Australia spoke to Luz Restrepo about her ongoing hunt for permanent premises, the impact she is seeing on the lives of her peers, and her plans for the organisation's future.



Anglicare Australia was fortunate to have some of the SisterWorks team selling hand-made products at the 2014 National Conference. Luz is 3rd from left.

TRAINING PACKAGE FOR MULTICULTURAL YOUTH PROVIDERS

A new training package to assist people who help young refugees and migrants, [Engaging Respectfully with Young People \(from Refugee Backgrounds\)](#), has been released.

The national Certificate IV training package is for people who provide services to young people of refugee backgrounds, including settlement, health and employment service providers, youth workers, recreational service providers and teachers.

It was developed and produced by the Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network, Navitas English, AMES, the Multicultural Development Association and Margaret Piper and Associates.





Welcome to the second in our series of profiles on the winners and highly commended of the Anglicare Australia 2014 National Awards for Innovation and Excellence.

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

The winner of Excellence, for a particular service or project or for the overall service provided by an agency, was Anglicare SA for its Ian George Court Model of Care.

Ian George Court provides dignified, high quality care and accommodation to elderly men and women who are financially disadvantaged, homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Many of the residents have come from a background of alcohol and/or drug dependency.

Flexible and individually-planned support services are provided to clients who are often younger than those in traditional aged care, providing self-worth, a home and a sense of security many have not experienced before.

Dedicated and compassionate staff are trained and educated in complex care management, and work closely with several government bodies to deliver a positive difference to the quality of life of each individual.

Our judges described this service as inspirational and respectful. They thought it was an excellent model that properly cares for those people who would normally fall between the cracks.

Anglicare Australia received eight nominations for Excellence in 2014.



Ian George Court men's workshop.

[Download full profile](#)

Research and Resources

McCLURE REPORT ON WELFARE REFORM

Minister for Social Services, Scott Morrison released the McClure report on welfare reform, [A New System for Better Employment and Social Outcomes](#), on 25 February.

The report, which was led by Patrick McClure AO, provides a comprehensive analysis and set of recommendations on simplification of Australia's welfare system.

There are currently around 20 different income support payments and 55 supplementary payments, which the report recommends reducing to five: Tiered Working Age Payment, Supported Living Pension, Child and Youth Payment, Carer Payment and the Age Pension.

The report also examines how the system could better support people to find work, including initiatives that increase workforce participation for disadvantaged people to ensure all Australians gain the benefits of employment growth.

The government will consider the report's recommendations and will make further decisions on these commencing with the 2015-16 Budget, and as part of a longer term vision of Australia's welfare system.

GRANTS UP FOR GRABS



During February a number of community grants processes were opened for application.

[Rural and Regional grants](#)

The Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) has announced six grant programs for rural, regional and remote communities.

The McEwen Foundation Grants for the Goulburn Valley (maximum grant \$10,000) closes 4 March 2015.

Tackling Tough Time Together for drought affected communities in Queensland and northern NSW (maximum \$10,000) closes 5 March.

Repair-Restore-Renew 2013 for communities impacted in 2013 by the bushfires, cyclones and floods in Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland (maximum \$15,000) closes 10 March.

Grants for Resilience and Wellness for Victorian areas affected by the 2009 bushfires (maximum \$20,000) closes 12 March.

Gardiner Foundation Working in Dairy Communities Small Grants for Victorian dairy communities (maximum \$5,000) closes 13 March.

Small Grants for Rural Communities for community groups nationwide (maximum \$5,000) closes 27 March.

Westpac Community Grants

[Westpac Foundation](#) will provide \$800,000 to local Not for Profit organisations in its biggest community grants program to date.

NFP organisations can each apply now for up to \$10,000, to address social disadvantage by creating better futures for youth at risk, people living with disability, Indigenous Australians and people from refugee backgrounds building a new life in Australia.

Grant applications close on Tuesday 24 March. Recipients will be announced in June 2015.

Australia Post Community Grants

Australia Post is accepting applications for its 2015 [Our Neighbourhood Community Grants](#) program.

Funding of up to \$10,000 per project is available for organisations and smaller charities that are helping to build healthier, more vibrant and more inclusive Australian communities.

Applications close on Thursday, 2 April 2015, 5pm AWST.

Myer Offers NFPs \$1 Million

Australian retail giant Myer has launched a new Community Investment Program to build on the philanthropic work of founder Sidney Myer.

The [Myer Community Investment](#) program will support organisations and initiatives which empower and support women and families to create safe environments, including those which seek to prevent violence against women and children, secure economic independence and improved self-esteem for women, promote gender equity and respect and create a culture of non-violence.

Charities can apply for different amounts of funding including:

- Up to \$50,000 per year for three consecutive years.
- Up to \$100,000 per year for three consecutive years.
- Up to \$200,000 per year for three consecutive years.

Or organisations may choose to specify a proposed investment and timeframe in their application.

Applications are currently open and interested parties have until 5pm, 20 March, 2015 to submit their applications. All applicants will be notified as to the outcome of their application in May 2015.

AWARDS RECOGNISE COMMUNITY SECTOR EXCELLENCE

Nominations are open for the 2015 [HESTA Community Sector Awards](#), which recognise those making exceptional contributions to social justice in Australia.

Presented by superannuation firm HESTA in partnership with the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS), the national Awards acknowledge excellence in service provision, advocacy and leadership in the community sector.



Awards supporter ME Bank provides a prize pool of \$30,000, which is divided among the winners across three award categories — Unsung Hero, Organisation and Social Impact.

Finalists receive complimentary registration for the 2015 ACOSS National Conference, with interstate finalists flown to Sydney to attend the Awards dinner in June.

Nominations close on Tuesday 31 March 2015.

CONNECTIONS MATTER FOR OLDER AUSTRALIANS

beyondblue has launched a new booklet to help show older Australians how to connect with their community, ward off loneliness and increase their protection against depression and anxiety.

With research showing up to six in 10 older people feeling lonely, [Connections matter](#) offers advice about how the internet and online programs such as Skype can improve social connections, along with providing information about local social groups and their contact details.

The free booklet features information about why strong ties with family, friends and the community are important for good mental health. There is also advice on where to find singing, gardening or walking groups, along with details about how older people can find places to volunteer in their local community.

The booklet is available in online or printed versions from the [beyondblue website](#) and will be sent to community aged care providers, health providers and other relevant organisations across the country.



PC REPORT INTO CHILD CARE RELEASED

The final report of the Productivity Commission's Inquiry into Child Care and Early Childhood Learning was released in February.

Minister for Social Services, Scott Morrison, said the report would provide a key input to the government's new families package, which will begin with a new set of support arrangements for child care and early childhood education.

The [final report](#) looks at where Australia is now with Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC), what we want in the future and how we might go about achieving that in a way that better supports children's learning and development needs and the workforce participation of parents.

PRIVATE RENTAL SECTOR REPORT RELEASED

The Australian Housing & Urban Research Institute (AHURI) has released its Issue Paper 185, [How has the private rental sector changed in recent decades, particularly for long-term private renters?](#)

The paper looks at how much the Australian private rental sector has grown in size and significance over the last 30 years and how it provides long-term tenancy for a growing and diverse number of Australian households.

Government Policy and Information

SUPPORT FOR AGED WITH SEVERE DEMENTIA

The government has announced the establishment of [Severe Behaviour Response Teams](#) (SBRTs), using funding from the former Dementia Supplement.

SBRTs will be a mobile workforce of clinical experts who will provide expert advice to residential aged care providers that request assistance with addressing the needs of people with the most severe behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia.

The first phase of the SBRTs is expected to commence nationally later this year, following a competitive tender process. The SBRTs will work closely with the existing Dementia Behaviour Management Advisory Services in each state and territory. A second phase will see these two programs integrated from 2016-17.

The government will also conduct an analysis of existing dementia programs during the first half of 2015.

NEW VOICE FOR AUSTRALIANS WITH DISABILITY

The government has announced the establishment of the [National Cross-Disability Alliance](#).

The new Alliance is to provide the government with practical advice to help improve policies and legislation impacting people with disability across Australia. It will be the government's primary source of grass roots policy advice on issues of national importance to people with disability.

The groups funded (up to \$300,000 per annum to June 2017) to form the National Cross Disability Alliance are:

- People with Disability Australia

- Children with Disability Australia
- First Peoples Disability Network Australia
- National Ethnic Disability Alliance
- Women with Disabilities Australia.

CLOSING THE GAP REPORT RELEASED

The 7th [Closing the Gap Report](#) produced since targets were set by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) in 2008, was released at Parliament House in February.

The report shows that although there has been some improvement in education and health outcomes for Indigenous Australians, most Closing the Gap targets are not on track to be met.

The government is continuing to focus on reform of Indigenous affairs and Closing the Gap targets. There is a strong emphasis on practical actions to get kids to school, adults into work, make communities safer and advancing constitutional recognition.



MENTAL ILLNESS FUNDING EXTENDED

The government has announced the extended funding for two programs that provides support for people with a mental illness and their carers.

Organisations currently receive funding for the Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMs) program will have their contracts extended to 30 June 2016, and providers delivering services under the Mental Health Respite: Carer Support program will also have their funding extended.

The PHaMs program offers one-to-one support to people aged 16 and over who are severely impacted by mental illness.

The Mental Health Respite: Carer Support program helps carers of people with mental illness to improve their wellbeing and enable them to maintain their important caring role.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION TO INFORM DISABILITY FRAMEWORK

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Disability Reform Council has launched a [public consultation process](#) to ensure the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) delivers the best possible support for people with disability.

The consultations, which will close on 30 April 2015, are about finding the best ways to ensure all NDIS registered providers offer services that are safe and effective, while ensuring participants have choice and control when choosing a provider.

The consultation paper outlines a range of options for registering providers, handling complaints and screening of staff to ensure they are safe to work with people who may be vulnerable.

[COAG Disability Reform Council Communiqué](#)

NDIS QUARTERLY REPORT

The [latest quarterly report](#) for the National Disability Insurance Scheme was released in February.

The report presents analysis on the scheme experience to 31 December 2014 for the seven NDIS trial sites.

AGED CARE QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL ANNOUNCED

Membership of the [Aged Care Quality Advisory Council](#) has been announced. The Advisory Council will provide advice to the Australian Government and the Aged Care Quality Agency on its functions and operations.

As well as a focus on safety and compliance, the Advisory Council will also provide advice on how to broaden the quality agenda to incorporate consumer expectations in aged care services.

Assistant Minister for Social Services, Mitch Fifield said the members of the Advisory Council reflect the changing nature of the aged care sector and bring innovation in a range of areas. They are:

- Ms Andrea Coote (Chair)
- Ms Carol Bennett
- Dr Matthew Cullen
- Associate Professor Rosanna Capolingua
- Dr Stephen Judd
- Mr Paul Sadler
- Mr Ian Yates
- Ms Rae Lamb (ex officio)

RTOS TO BE AUDIT TARGETS

[Targeted audits](#) of Registered Training Organisations (RTOS) will address allegations of unscrupulous marketing and other practices intended to exploit the government's VET FEE-HELP program.

The national regulator, the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA), will undertake 23 audits of RTOs, including of providers who had been identified through complaints made to the authority.

ASQA Chief Commissioner Christopher Robinson said the overwhelming majority of RTOs provided quality training and assessment services that enable students to learn the skills they needed for work.

GREEN ARMY ROUND 3 OPEN

Community organisations, environment groups and local councils around Australia are invited to nominate new [Green Army](#) projects to support practical environment and conservation activities in their region – with Round 3 of the program now open for applications.

The Green Army gives Australians aged 17-24 years the opportunity for training and experience in environmental and conservation fields. These can include activities on land and in waterways, from restoring and protecting native habitat, weeding, revegetation and cleaning up waterways, creeks and rivers to fencing, gully remediation and preventing erosion.

Projects must run for 20-26 weeks and can take place across urban, regional and remote Australia on public land, Indigenous-held lands, or private land. Applications for projects under Round 3 close on 17 March 2015.

Anglicare Events

ANGLICARE EVENTS

Brotherhood of St Laurence (BSL) Research & Policy Centre Lunchtime Seminar

Date: 12noon-1pm; 5 March 2015

Venue: Father Tucker's Room, BSL, 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy

RSVP to

jdouglas@bsl.org.au

Anglican Care Network NZ

Date: 18 March 2015

Location: Wellington, NZ

Peer-to-Peer Learning Forum

Anglicare Australia Aged and Community Care Network

Date: 24 March 2015 (dinner PM 23 March)

Venue: The Larwill, 48 Flemington Road, Parkville, Victoria

[The Sambell Oration](#) (Brotherhood of St Laurence)

Date: 6.30-10pm; Wednesday 25 March 2015

Venue: Sofitel Melbourne on Collins (25 Collins Street)

Cost: Individual \$140; table of 10 \$1200; individual (not-for-profits) \$110; concession \$25. Price includes GST.

Anglicare Australia HR Network meeting

Date: 27 March 2015

Location: Sydney

[Gender Fairness Workshop](#) (St Luke's Innovative Resources & Women's Health Loddon Mallee)

Date: 22 April 2015

Location: University College, Parkville, VIC

Registration: Innovative Resources

Anglicare Australia National Conference

Date: 13-16 September 2015

Location: Canberra

Sector Events

SECTOR EVENTS

[2nd Australasia Ageing Investment Forum 2015](#)

Date: 4-5 March 2015

Venue: Intercontinental Melbourne The Rialto

[Pathways for Vulnerable Children Conference](#): Reforming systems to improve service delivery and quality of care

Date: 17-18 March 2015

Venue: CQ Functions, 113 Queen Street, Melbourne

[7th Australasian Drug & Alcohol Strategy Conference](#)

Date: 17-20 March 2015
Venue: Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

[Harmony Day](#)

Date: 21 March 2015
National

[The Sambell Oration \(Brotherhood of St Laurence\)](#)

Date: 6.30-10pm; Wednesday 25 March 2015
Venue: Sofitel Melbourne on Collins (25 Collins Street)
Cost: Individual \$140; table of 10 \$1200; individual (not-for-profits) \$110; concession \$25. Price includes GST.

[FRSA Senior Executive Forum](#)

Date: 26-26 March 2015
Venue: Hyatt Hotel Canberra

[Australasian Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect Conference](#)

Date: 29 March - 1 April 2015
Venue: Rendezvous Grand Hotel, Auckland, New Zealand

[Gender Fairness Workshop](#) (St Luke's Innovative Resources & Women's Health Loddon Mallee)

Date: 22 April 2015
Location: University College, Parkville, VIC
Registration: Innovative Resources

[Child Aware Approaches Conference](#)

Date: 18-19 May 2015
Venue: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

[The Australian and New Zealand Addiction Conference](#)

Date: 20-22 May 2015
Venue: Outrigger Surfers Paradise, Queensland

[13th National Rural Health Conference](#)

Date: 24-27 May 2015
Venue: Darwin Convention Centre

[2015 National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation \(NACCHO\) Health Summit](#)

Date: 16-18 June 2015
Venue: Gold Coast Convention Centre

[No2Bullying Conference](#)

Date: 29-30 June 2015
Venue: Outrigger Surfers Paradise, Gold Coast

[16th International Mental Health Conference](#)

Date: 12-14 August 2015
Venue: QT Hotel, Gold Coast

[9th National LGBTI National Conference](#)

Date: 13-15 August 2015
Venue: National Convention Centre, Canberra

[National Op Shop Week](#)

Date: 23-30 August 2015
National

[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

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

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