

Aspect

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 **In this issue**

From the Executive Director

EVERYONE DOES ADVOCACY



Roland Manderson
Acting Executive Director

Advocacy. It's about standing beside people, speaking on behalf of them; it often means working for a change in policies or the law.

There are mixed views on the value of public advocacy and whether such advocacy ought to be publicly funded.

I had the pleasure of talking to about 90 leaders of the Mothers' Union (MU) Australia last week - one of our national members - with about 7,000 members itself. I was invited by MU Australia's president, Rev'd Canon Libbie Crossman, to explain to the women there what Anglicare Australia does - both as a network and as the national office.

I found myself talking quite a bit about advocacy and, since then, reflecting on its importance. On what is lost when the voices for the marginalised, the less powerful, the local and global, as well as advocates for the environment, for science and for the arts, are restricted or closed down. Or perhaps it's the reverse. On what Australia as a whole gains through resourcing and welcoming those voices.

I think it's fair to say that almost everyone expects decision-makers to consult with the people their decisions affect. We also probably agree the best decisions happen when those decision-makers are well informed. That is what advocacy ought to be about.

In its recent interim report into access to justice, the Productivity Commission pointed to the value of advocacy. Or more to the point its efficiency, because it is an effective way of addressing systemic issues and, at least in terms of justice, clarifying the law.

Readers may have noticed there have been moves against the public funding of many advocacy organisations in the past year, including all the Environmental Defender's offices, the Refugee Council of Australia, the Alcohol and Other Drugs Council of Australia and the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition. The thought is that advocacy is just another word for political provocation, and those with strong political views certainly draw on the voices of advocacy to strengthen their position. But if there is to be any substance to a government's engagement with wider, civil society then the contribution of advocacy organisations is crucial. Whether they are publicly funded or not.

Affluent interest groups can of course fund the advocacy they want. Young people, asylum seekers, people living with alcohol and other drug problems generally can't. And those are the voices and interests least likely to be heard. And in our mind, most important to be heard. Because it is by valuing the voices and the potential of the most marginalised members of our society we can become the stronger, more diverse, more productive and fairer country we would hope to be.

Anglicare Australia's brief is to advocate for disadvantaged and vulnerable people – such as those who use Anglicare services. And as we are funded mostly by our Anglicare member organisations, we are not affected so directly by government funding decisions (although the people we advocate for and Anglicare services are, of course.)

But advocacy isn't just about getting out in public and putting your case. It's also about working closely with decision-makers and looking for areas where you can agree. And working in coalition with other organisations who bring their own expertise and status to the issues or initiatives you are championing. That's why we commission and conduct research, talk with ministers and their advisors, join reference groups and advisory panels, and write submissions, as well as media releases and opinion pieces. And tweet (so please retweet @anglicare_aust when you get the chance).

And that leads me to my final point. Everyone does advocacy. The campaign for the NDIS was led by the Every Australian Counts campaign, but it was the advocacy by people with disabilities and their families that really drove it on. As Libbie reminded us last Thursday, MU Australia has 7,000 members - 7,000 letters to local members right across Australia would have an effect on political opinion.

Now is a good time to advocate together.

National Office News

ANGLICARE AUSTRALIA IN THE MEDIA

It's been a busy media month for Anglicare Australia, which has meant acting Executive Director, Roland Manderson has been able to translate his media training into media opportunities - with great success.

McClure Interim Report of Welfare Review

Media release :: [Interim report a stalking horse](#)

[ABC World Today](#) interview with Roland Manderson :: Labor accuses government of demonising people with disabilities

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[ABC Sunday Nights with John Cleary](#) – 6 July - Roland Manderson & Lin Hatfield Dodds examine the McClure interim report on welfare reform

[ABC AM](#) interview with Roland Manderson :: First talks for McClure welfare review described as productive

Beyond Supply and Demand

The Sydney Morning Herald :: [Focus on jobless need, Anglicare tells Abbott](#)
The Australian :: [Coalition jobs plan disempowering, says Anglicare Australia](#)
Pro Bono Australia :: [Unemployment on the Welfare Reform Agenda](#)

WIN TV local news – 10 July 2014

[Anglicare NSW South, West & ACT website](#)

Release of the new employment services model

ABC News Radio interview with Roland Manderson
Anglicare Australia media release :: [More jobs, not just job applications](#)

SKY News - [Labor slams new dole measures](#)

ProBono Australia - [Community Sector Slams 'Demoralising' Employment Plan](#)

PUBLISHED

- INTERIM REPORT ON INDIGENOUS RECOGNITION RELEASED
- CHILD CARE DRAFT REPORT RELEASED
- FINANCIAL SYSTEM INQUIRY INTERIM REPORT
- WELFARE SPENDING DATA NOW ONLINE
- NEW RURAL MOBILE SERVICE
- MINISTERIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ESTABLISHED

Anglicare Events

- ANGLICARE EVENTS
- SECTOR EVENTS



Acting Executive Director, Roland Manderson and Anglicare ACT Youth and Family Services Manager, Gen Lai at the launch of Beyond Supply and Demand report.



Anglicare Australia's Roland Manderson is interviewed by WIN TV's Jana Black at the Beyond Supply and Demand report release.

ANGLICARE AUSTRALIA SUBMISSIONS

In its [submission](#) to the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee inquiry into Social Security Legislation Amendment (Stronger Penalties for Serious Failures) Bill 2014, Anglicare Australia opposed the measures in the Bill.

Anglicare Australia understands the argument that compliance measures exist for a reason and that job seekers on income support ought not feel free to be wilfully and persistently noncompliant, however the compliance measures introduced in this Bill run counter to the goal of increasing workforce participation, not only by ceasing the income of offenders, but also disconnecting them from the workforce participation activities themselves. The aim in our mind ought to be to move people towards work rather than, whatever the consequences, simply punish them for unapproved behaviour.

Anglicare Australia's submission to the Social Security Budget Measures Inquiry of Community Affairs Legislation Committee - Pathways to participation – notes that Australia's social safety net and the associated participation measures can be fair and effective, and that there are community programs and initiatives in the Budget which are both.

However, there are other initiatives that are both unfair to the individuals affected and damaging to us all. Anglicare Australia discusses some of those measures in more detail in its submission.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE UPDATE



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Work continues on the Anglicare Australia National Conference at the Hilton on the Park Melbourne in September (14-17).

Registration

[Conference registration](#) is still open. Once you have registered, be sure to book your accommodation as Melbourne is particularly busy in September with various sporting fixtures and international concerts. For your convenience, we have [secured a number of rooms](#) in some hotels.

As a fully registered delegate, fees include all conference session, and morning and afternoon teas and lunches. The Anglicare Australia National Awards ceremony dinner is additional to the National Conference fee, as is the National Conference dinner.

Concurrent Sessions

The [concurrent sessions](#) have been chosen and we are currently negotiating with presenters on the days and times for these workshops and presentations. We will update the website and email Communiqués to people who have registered when the program is in place.

Network Meetings

A few more [Special Interest Networks](#) have secured a meeting time and place in the program. If you plan to attend any of these meetings, please let the contact person know so they and the conference team can get an idea of likely numbers.

If there are other networks planning to meet at the conference, we would like to hear from you so we can advise of the meeting in coming Communiqués. As well as the network times put aside at the conference, networks can, and do, meet over breakfast or lunch.

Rooms are still available for booking so if you are in a Network and would like to organise a meeting, contact our Office Manager, [Erin Clark](#).

Masterclass - Raymond Lemay

The difference you can make - the 10 things you need to know



The chosen topic for the exclusive Masterclass by Canadian administrator, clinician and author, Raymond Lemay on Wednesday 17 September from 2-3pm is The difference you can make – the 10 things you need to know.

Front line services workers and managers get a lot of direction, have to comply with many government and agency requirements, and must report on how well risk is managed and so on. If they get training, it will be in this or that ritualised approach of service where they must ensure fidelity to a recipe book of service processes.

There seems to be little time left over for spending time with clients, and service is often specialised and split amongst service teams that there is little opportunity to see if any of the effort makes a difference.

This presentation by Raymond will review what increasingly research is making clear about service effectiveness. Frontline employees do make a difference, but they could do even better if the focus was

on the 10 key things that all front line workers and managers need to know:

1. Understanding devaluation
2. Context vs person (resilience and coping – quality of life vs distress)
3. What works: It is not about what you do, It is about who you are
4. The limits of evaluation
5. Direct service: being there
6. The client experience of service
7. Heroic change and our clients
8. Persuasion and influence
9. Managing the requirements of the job, and being of service
10. Where quality and effectiveness happen.

NOTE: To help us with logistics, if you are interested in attending the Masterclass, please email Anglicare Australia.

Brett de Hoedt's Networking Session

As part of the Concurrent Sessions, Brett de Hoedt of Hootville Communications will be presenting Becoming a professional with presence before lunch on Monday 15 September.

Every professional knows that building a career takes more than hard work. This session is for professionals who want to create a stronger profile within their workplace and refine some of their career-related presentation / networking / social skills.

After a brief session to mix and mingle the group, Brett will:

- discuss the ingredients required to be considered 'a person with presence'
- Q&A on the group's networking/career-building roadblocks.

Advice and techniques for the following:

- Introductions
- developing strong responses to frequently asked questions
- meetings
- presenting
- pitching ideas
- dealing with negative perceptions based on age, career stage, gender or profession
- networking and building one's profile and career.

Brett will also look at specific actions that you can use on a daily basis – most small, achievable and effective. People considering this option but concerned that it seems like the domain of extroverts and self-promoters are precisely the people with most to gain from this informal and energetic session. Participants will also receive notes to support the session.

NOTE: Numbers to this Concurrent Session are limited. If you are interested in attending, please email Anglicare Australia.

Experience Melbourne

The National Conference website now has a page on [what to do in Melbourne](#) and what's on during September. Be sure to check it out before you book as you might like to spend a little longer in this exciting city.





Monday 4 August is the last day for Anglicare network members to submit a nomination for the 2014 National Awards for Innovation and Excellence.

As you know, the deadline was extended by almost a month because the DSS tender process was THE priority for most members in July.

Under those circumstances, we are very grateful to be receiving award nominations and expect we might be inundated on Monday, which will be very much appreciated!!

If you are experiencing problems with the Statement of Support forms, a Word document will be accepted.

Our National Award judges - Robert Morsillo (Telstra), Brian Babington (Families Australia) and Frank Quinlan (Mental Health Council of Australia) – are at the ready to read through the nominations and accompanying material.

And the National Awards ceremony at the Hilton on the Park Melbourne on the night of Monday 15 September is in the final stages of completion.

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ROUNDTABLE ON WELFARE REFORM INTERIM REPORT

Anglicare Australia acting Executive Director, Roland Manderson attended a Roundtable discussion on the Interim Report on Welfare Reform at the Department of Social Services in Canberra in July.

The Patrick McClure Reference Group on Welfare Reform's Interim Report, A New System for Better Employment and Social Outcomes was released at the end of June.

The Roundtable provided the opportunity for Anglicare Australia to provide its views on the Interim Report and feedback on future directions for Australia's social support system, so as to inform the Reference Group's Final Report.

The Reference Group has also called for public submissions, which close on 8 August 2014.

Acting Executive Director, Roland Manderson was [interviewed](#) about the discussion on ABC AM.

MOTHERS' UNION AUSTRALIA COUNCIL MEETING

Anglicare Australia acting Executive Director, Roland Manderson attended the Mothers' Union (MU) Australia Council meeting in July to speak about the Anglicare Australia network and the work of the national office.

MU Australia Provincial President, The Rev'd Canon Libbie Crossman wrote to Roland following the trip, thanking him for his infectious enthusiasm for what he does, and encouraging the MU Australia membership in their social issues and actions.



Mothers' Union Australia Provincial President, The Rev'd Canon Libbie Crossman with Anglicare Australia acting Executive Director, Roland Manderson, at the MU Australia Council meeting in Brisbane.

ARCHBISHOP FREIER AUSTRALIA'S NEW PRIMATE



Melbourne archbishop [Dr Philip Freier was elected](#) by a special synod of laymen, clergy and bishops from around the country, to lead the Anglican Church in Australia.

Brisbane archbishop Phillip Aspinall has stepped down after nine years.

Dr Freier said sustaining a national presence and strengthening the church's contribution to rural communities were among the most important challenges facing the Anglican Church. Dr Freier has been Archbishop of the Melbourne diocese since December 2006.

The Anglican Church's general synod, or national parliament, was held over four days in Adelaide from 1 July.

GET PREPARED FOR ANTI-POVERTY WEEK

Anti-Poverty Week is a week where all Australians are encouraged to organise or take part in an activity aiming to highlight or overcome issues of poverty and hardship here in Australia or overseas.

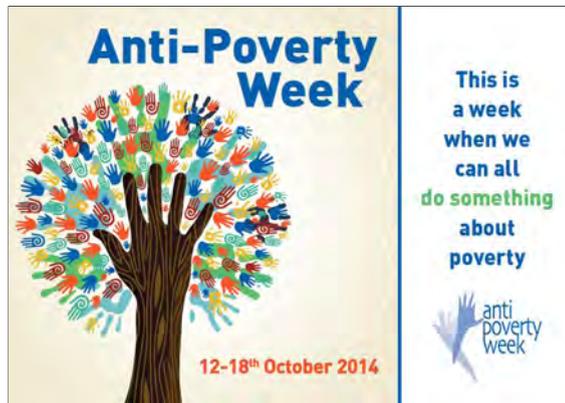
This year [Anti-Poverty Week](#) will be held from 12 to 18 October. Both Anglicare Australia and Anglicare member, Brotherhood of St Laurence, are sponsors of Anti-Poverty Week.

We would like to see as many Anglicare member agencies as possible organising activities during the Week or join in some being organised by other people. Activity ideas include public lectures, workshops, conferences, seminars, debates, concerts, petitions, exhibitions, displays, sports days, performances, surveys, rallies, media briefings, etc.

Official opening activities will be organised on Sunday 13 October. If you are organising an activity, include details of your plans on the [Anti-Poverty Week website](#), so you can encourage participation and stimulate action by other people.

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

To notify your plans or get further information, contact Anti-Poverty Week at 1300 979 290 or apw@antipovertyweek.org.au.



Anglicare Network News

BENETAS DONATES TO SRI LANKAN HOSPITALS

Disadvantaged and remote hospitals in Sri Lanka will receive much needed furniture and goods thanks to the Benetas Hurlingham respite community.

A large number of beds and surplus furniture has been donated to the Mahamevnawa Meditation Centre Melbourne to be administered to hospitals and facilities overseas, many of which are in desperate need of even the most basic items. Items including beds, wheelchairs, mobility walkers and rehabilitation equipment will enable patients to access care that is often limited in rural areas.

Many of these hospitals and centres are in isolated and disadvantaged areas of Sri Lanka; some of which are the only facility in a 200km radius.

Benetas staff assisting with the furniture relocation said it was great to see items continue to be put to good use.

"I think it's a terrific idea and a great way to bridge the geographical distance with such a simple act of kindness," Hurlingham Centre Coordinator, Pauline Alvarez said. "Benetas has always worked closely with the community and prides itself as a leader and advocate for older Victorians and those in need."

SA NGOS OFFER TO TAKE DETENTION FAMILIES

South Australia's leading non-government organisations visited the Immigration Department in July to offer support and housing in the community for families with infants being held in offshore detention. It followed reports of desperate mothers self-harming and attempting suicide on Christmas Island.

Participating organisations - [Anglicare SA](#), Baptist Care, Centacare, CareWorks SA & NT, Lutheran Community Care, The Salvation Army and Uniting Communities – put forward a [proposal](#) to house and support detained families with infants who have been born in Australia, allowing them to live in the SA community while their claims are processed.

Anglicare SA CEO, Rev'd Peter Sandeman said supporting families and children to live in the community while their claims are processed is best.

"The federal government, under the Migration Act, already says detaining children should be a last resort. Anglicare SA and other organisations already support new arrivals in the community and this would be an extension of our existing support," he said.

"It can take up to two years for claims to be processed. We would like to show compassion to asylum seekers and give babies the best start by accommodating them and their families in South Australia while their claims are processed."



Representatives from leading non-government organisations (Anglicare SA CEO, Rev'd Peter Sandeman front right) speak to the media after delivering a letter to the Department of Immigration.

[ABC News report](#)

ART FOR MENTAL HEALTH

In response to the major impact the drought is having on the Mount Isa region, Brisbane-based art therapist Maggie Wilson spent two days with Anglicare's Mount Isa First Respite team, enlightening them on the benefits of creative therapies.

The Anglicare team learn how to help their clients reflect on their situation by picking up a paint brush or putting together a collage. Their choice of painting, collage, sculpting and totem was a good fit with the culture of Anglicare's clients.

Mount Isa First Respite offers support services to families and people caring for someone who is affected by a mental illness or an intellectual impairment.



ART FOR SUPPORT: (From back left) Brisbane-based art therapist Maggie Wilson flew to Mount Isa last week to show Anglicare's Mount Isa staff Saberina Gassio, Renae Gattera, Amanda McDonald, Leanne Harris, Sakiusa Reguhmada, (back row) Judy Marty and Deb Mellor how to inject art into their respite and care programs. - Picture: HAILEY RENAULT/8225 The North West Star

CONCERNS VOICED OVER DEMENTIA SUPPLEMENT

Anglicare member, Benetas added its voice to the expressed concerns of the industry over the handling of the Dementia and Severe Behaviours supplement. The cessation of the supplement will bring further adverse impacts to the aged care sector; and represents another forgone opportunity to ingrain long-term reform for clients living with high-care dementia needs.

Benetas CEO, Sandra Hills, said the supplement was critical to ensuring people with particular needs associated with dementia and severe behaviours receive the best quality care possible.

Sandra said that there was no question Benetas would continue to provide care to clients living with high-care dementia and severe behaviour needs but this issue was one of concern for the broader sector.

"As a result of this process, some organisations may now be exposed to risk through this sudden decline in revenue. It is troubling that even after the Department has identified this as a significant issue, it has been allowed to continue unresolved for so long."

Benetas urges the Government to review its decision and to identify the cost of care for people who require additional supports over and above what ACFI provides.

BSL A FINALIST IN NATIONAL AGED CARE AWARDS

The Brotherhood of St Laurence's Social Inclusion Team is one of five finalists in the Team Innovation category of the [2014 HESTA Aged Care Awards](#).

The awards recognise the innovation and professionalism of those working in the aged care sector in three categories: Team Innovation, Outstanding Organisation and Individual Distinction.

The Team has been recognised for developing the Good Food Matters service, tailored to the individual health needs of clients and going beyond traditional meal delivery services—by providing a qualified personal care attendant or community cook to prepare meals in clients' homes.

The program offers a meal preparation service that monitors people's nutritional intake, tailors meals to suit clients with diabetes or other medical issues and helps create a social environment that encourages healthy eating.

A presentation and short video on the Good Food Matters service is part of the concurrent sessions at this year's [Anglicare Australia National Conference](#) in Melbourne.

ONLINE CALCULATOR MAKES SENSE OF AGED CARE REFORMS

The Daily Cost Calculator, an innovative online tool designed by Anglicare member, Benetas, is making life easier for people trying to make sense of recent changes to aged care.

The tool allows users to enter a once off lump sum contribution amount, before calculating what their Daily Accommodation Price

(DAP) cost will be. It was designed to help support consumers navigate the 'new world' of aged care.

The calculator automatically fills in the relevant room cost for each facility, and allows users to trial a variety of combinations to suit their individual circumstances.

STATE OF LAUNCESTON'S CHILDREN'S REPORT

A new report released in July will be used as a benchmarking tool to measure progress on efforts to ensure that Launceston's children are reaching their full potential.

The first [State of Launceston's Children Report](#) gathered data relating to five key areas children's development, safety, learning, health and participation. The report is a collaborative effort of the Launceston Child Friendly Working Group, made up of Anglicare Tasmania, the Launceston City Council and the Northern Tasmanian Early Years Group.

The report showed that between 70-80% of children in Launceston were doing well according to most indicators. However, there were some areas where improvement was needed. There were also some data gaps.

"As a community we want to ensure that no child is missing out," said Anglicare's Manager of Children, Families and Community Services, Paul Mallett. "This report will help us to work together to provide all children with the opportunity to thrive."

The report will be used to inform the community's decision-making. Further reports will be brought out every 2-3 years so that progress can be monitored.



National Awards Profile

2013 NATIONAL AWARDS - EXCELLENCE

The sixth in our series of profiles on Anglicare Australia National Award winners is the winner of Excellence (small organisation) category, St John's Youth Service for its Elevate Program and youth110.

The judges described this program and service as inspirational and respectfully enabling young people.

youth110 provides accommodation for young people 'at risk' in 30 self-contained apartments in Adelaide. It provides 24 hour care and case management support and is the first with the capacity to accommodate young siblings, couples, families and single fathers with children.

It is part of the Elevate Program, which aims to strengthen the positive attributes all young people have, with the knowledge that in the right environment, with the right support, all young people have a capacity to succeed in achieving what they need.

[DOWNLOAD FULL PROFILE](#)



Research and Resources

NDIS CONFERENCE IN AUGUST



St Laurence Community Services is holding a conference, [The NDIS One Year On](#) in Geelong on 11-12 August 2014.

The program contains presentations and panel discussions focussing on lessons learned, emerging trends and expectations moving forward, and includes:

- The Beginning of Something Life Changing
- Annual Report Card - Consumers, policy makers and providers
- Consumer Choice and Control
- NDIS Readiness - Lessons to prepare for the future rollout
- The Road Ahead - The Government's vision and the NDIA Board's Roadmap.

Hear from a wide range of speakers including:

- NDIA Consumers
- Prime Minister Tony Abbott (recorded)
- Mary Wooldridge - Victorian Minister for Disability Services and Reform
- Dr Bruce Bonyhady, AM - Chair National Disability Insurance Agency
- David Bowen - CEO, National Disability Insurance Agency
- Dr Ken Baker - CEO, National Disability Services
- Professor Jane den Hollander, Vice Chancellor Deakin University
- Janet Dore - CEO, Victorian Transport Accident Commission
- Bryan Woodford OAM, Victorian National Disability Insurance Scheme Taskforce
- providers operating in NDIS trial sites.

WORLD VOLUNTEER CONFERENCE IN AUSTRALIA



Volunteering Australia is hosting the 23rd IAVE (International Association for Volunteer Effort) [World Volunteer Conference](#) at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre from 17 to 20 September 2014.

Keynote speakers include IAVE President and Co-Chair of the Board of the Korea Council of Volunteering, Dr Kang Hyuan Lee, Executive Co-ordinator United Nations Volunteers Richard Dictus, The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG, and Aboriginal Affairs specialist Jody Broun.

The conference theme, Volunteering - Today's Imperative, allows focus on the feel good aspects of volunteering and more importantly, the future of volunteering. In an age where communication technology promotes global community interaction, volunteer effort is at the forefront of bringing about positive change.

Breakout sessions, presented by speakers from Russia, Brazil, Israel and Canada, include:

- Individual vs institution: Volunteering Boosting Human Capacity and Organisational Capability
- Emerging Global Trends
- Volunteering: The Approach of a New Generation
- Legislation on Volunteering: Help or Hindrance?
- Dynamic Volunteer Practices – Strong Communities
- Corporate Volunteering: Approaches to Employee Engagement
- Volunteer Management: Can we do it better?
- Inspiration, Aspiration and Volunteer Leaders who Motivate
- Volunteering and Trendsetting: What does the Future Hold?

AIHW BULLETIN: DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES

The [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's Bulletin](#) 122, Disability support services - Services provided under the National Disability Agreement - 2012–13, presents data collected in the Disability Services National Minimum Data Set on disability support services provided under the National Disability Agreement (NDA) in 2012–13.

Information on disability services provided under the NDA continues to be important as the disability policy and service delivery environment evolves with the initial implementation steps of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in 2013–14.

This bulletin presents information on the estimated 312,539 people with disability who accessed disability support services in 2012–13, including the services they received across five broad service groups—community support (45% of service users), employment (41%), community access (18%), accommodation support (14%) and respite (12%) services.

AMP FOUNDATION GRANTS

The AMP Foundation is offering Australians who want to make a positive impact in the community a share in up to \$1million in grants.

The Foundation's [Tomorrow Fund](#) will provide grants of between \$10,000 and \$100,000 to individuals to help cover costs such as travel, living expenses and research to kick off their "dream" projects.

Applications are open until 31 August. Successful applicants may be asked to meet the judges in Sydney in October and winners will be announced at an awards dinner on 20 November.

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR CANON GRANTS

Canon is calling for not-for-profit organisations and community groups to get creative as part of the application for its annual [Environmental Grants Program](#).

Your community group may be eligible to receive one of the grants for an innovative idea. Each winning project will receive \$5,000 worth of Canon equipment from digital compact and DSLR cameras, to binoculars and multi-function devices.

This year the grants will be awarded under the following categories:

- Community Grant: An environmental project with significance to a local community
- School Award: An environmental project being run by primary or secondary school community.

Applications are open from now until 12 September, with winners announced on 30 September.

ANTI-POVERTY AWARDS OPEN

Applications are now open for the [2014 Anti-Poverty Awards](#), run by Connections UnitingCare.

Do you know:

- A young person who is working towards tackling inequality?
- A school that is giving its student's a greater understanding of disadvantage?

The Anti-Poverty Awards are open to everyone and recognise that there are many young Australians who are passionately working towards tackling inequality and injustice both in Australia and abroad.

The awards acknowledge and highlight the hard work and dedication of individuals and schools across Australia that demonstrate a deep understanding and compassion of those in need.

Cash and prizes up to the value of \$9000 will be awarded. Applications close on 31 August.

Government Policy and Information

WHAT STARTED ON 1 JULY?

A number of government initiatives started on 1 July, many of which affect the clients of Anglicare Australia members.

Work for the Dole

On 1 July, the new Work for the Dole program began in 18 areas across Australia. Supporting this program is the [Restart](#) employment incentive to encourage businesses to employ older people, the [Job Commitment Bonus](#) payment to encourage the long-term unemployed to find, and the [Relocation Assistance to Take Up a Job](#) financial assistance for long-term unemployed to move to take up a job.

New Enterprise Incentive Scheme Allowance

People who start in the [New Enterprise Incentive Scheme](#) (NEIS) from 1 July will receive the NEIS Allowance for nine months, instead of 12 months.

NEIS provides practical help and support to eligible unemployed Australians to start and run their own small business. Participants receive the NEIS Allowance, which is equivalent to Newstart Allowance, while their new business is being established. NEIS participants will continue to receive 12 months of support and advice from experienced small business mentors on organisational, financial and marketing issues.

Aged Care System

From 1 July there will be more [home care packages](#) to help older people to stay independent and in their own home.

People have greater choice and flexibility for how they pay for accommodation and services, whether it is a refundable accommodation deposit, a daily accommodation payment, or a combination of both, with 28 days to decide how they will pay. All residential aged care providers are required to publish the maximum amount they charge for accommodation and extra services.

A new means test in residential care will help determine a person's fair contribution, if any, to their care and accommodation, based on both their assets and income. New means test arrangements also apply to home care.

New capping arrangements have been introduced. A \$25,000 annual cap to means tested care fees in residential care has been introduced, and caps are in place for home care, set at \$5,000 a year for part pensioners and \$10,000 a year for self-funded retirees. A \$60,000 lifetime cap on means tested care fees across both home and residential care will limit the total cost an individual will spend on their care overall.

Building Stronger Relationships

The [Stronger Relationships](#) trial is now available to committed couples for relationship education and support. A \$200 subsidy is available for up to 100,000 eligible Australian couples seeking relationship enrichment and support appropriate to their needs.

Farm Household Allowance

Farmers in need can apply for the [Farm Household Allowance](#), which will provide income support for farming families doing it tough, whether or not the hardship is the result of drought.

Under the changes, the new Farm Household Allowance contains more flexible eligibility criteria and as a result more than 1460 recipients will be supported.

Farm Management Deposits Scheme

More Australian farmers will be able to use the [Farm Management Deposits Scheme](#) to prepare for the tough times following improvements made by the government. Farm Management Deposits allow farmers to put income aside in good years and manage tax obligations over a number of years, reducing unpredictable variations that can cause unnecessary disruption to farming enterprises.

Also, having money set aside in a Farm Management Deposit to draw on in lean years can help farmers bring their businesses back to profitability when conditions improve.

TWELVE NEW SENATORS

On 1 July 2014, those Senators elected at the 2013 Federal Election commenced their terms. The new Senate is composed of:

- Coalition – 33
- Australian Labour Party – 25
- Australian Greens – 10
- Palmer United Party – 3
- Independent – 1
- Democratic Labour Party – 1
- Liberal Democratic Party – 1
- Family First – 1
- Australian Motoring Enthusiast Party – 1

The new Senators are:

- Joe Bullock (ALP, WA)
- Matthew Canavan (LNP, QLD)
- Bob Day (Family First, SA)
- Chris Ketter (ALP, QLD)
- Jacqui Lambie (Palmer United, TAS)
- Glenn Lazarus (Palmer United, QLD)
- David Leyonhjelm (LDP, NSW)
- Dio Wang (Palmer United, WA)
- James McGrath (LNP, QLD)
- Ricky Muir (AMEP, VIC)
- Linda Reynolds (LIB, WA)
- Janet Rice (Greens, VIC).

CHANGES TO LABOR FRONTBENCH

Following the expiry of the Senate terms of six Labor Senators last month, Opposition Leader Bill Shorten reshuffled the Opposition's frontbench.

David Feeney adds Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Shadow Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC to his current responsibilities as Shadow Minister for Justice and Shadow Assistant Minister for Defence and Shadow Minister for Agriculture. Joel Fitzgibbon is now also Shadow Minister for Rural Affairs.

Amanda Rishworth is Shadow Assistant Minister for Education and Shadow Assistant Minister for Higher Education, Senator Lisa Singh is Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Water, Graham Perrett is Shadow Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney-General and Nick Champion MP is Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Health.

ROYAL COMMISSION UPDATE

Interim report

The [Interim Report](#) by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has been released in two volumes.

Volume 1 outlines why the Royal Commission is here, what it has done, what it is learning and what it needs to do next.

Volume 2 includes the personal stories of 150 people who shared their experience of abuse by coming to a private session or providing a written account. They have been chosen as a representative group and all names and other identifying features have been changed. This volume also includes a selection of de-identified poetry given to the Commission by survivors.

Short films released

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has released [five short films](#) showcasing the work of the Royal Commission and encouraging survivors of child sexual abuse in an institution to share their story.

The short films provide in depth information on the work of the Royal Commission, private sessions and witness support services. The films were created for people who have experienced child sexual abuse in an institution, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The purpose of the project is to raise awareness of the Royal Commission within the community and encourage survivors of child sexual abuse to share their story.

The five short films are:

- A safer future for children – outlining the role of the Royal Commission
- Share your story – providing information on private sessions
- Giving evidence at a public hearing – a guide for witnesses
- A safer future for children: for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Share your story: for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

ACTING DISABILITY COMMISSIONER APPOINTED

Susan Ryan AO commenced as acting Disability Discrimination Commissioner on 12 July, to ensure the rights of people with disability are protected and address disability discrimination. Ms Ryan will retain her role as Age Discrimination Commissioner, a position she has held since 2011.

Upon her appointment, Commissioner Ryan announced that she will convene a National Disability Forum in September to meet with people with disabilities and their representative bodies.

In preparation for the forum the Australian Human Rights Commission will shortly release a survey asking people with disabilities to identify the key issues that they face, especially in relation to access to jobs. This will be used to inform discussion at the National Disability Forum and to guide the development of the Commission's future work priorities in advancing the rights of people with disabilities.

NATIONAL SUPPORT FOR HOMELESSNESS AGREEMENT

All Australian states and territories have signed the new National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH), ensuring homelessness programs across Australia will continue for another year.

The NPAH provides up to \$115 million in federal funding for homelessness initiatives delivered by the states and territories.

NCE DRAFT MODELS PUBLISHED

The Centre for Social Impact has published its mid-project report, with proposed [draft models](#) of the Civil Society National Centre for Excellence. It will use these draft models in [Phase 2 consultations](#) with key stakeholders.

Phase 1 involved focus groups, interviews and an online survey. The Centre reported that feedback and views expressed had been passionate and thoughtful, challenging and constructive. The aim of the report is to reflect the views gained and to be transparent about the thinking it has done in arriving at the proposed models for consultation.

INTERIM REPORT ON INDIGENOUS RECOGNITION RELEASED

The Senate Joint Selection Committee's [interim report](#) on the Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples was released in July.

The report recommends constitutional changes including:

- recognising that the continent and its islands now known as Australia were first occupied by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- acknowledging the continuing relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with their traditional lands and waters
- respecting the continuing cultures, languages and heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- acknowledging the need to secure the advancement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

CHILD CARE DRAFT REPORT RELEASED

The Productivity Commission has released its [draft inquiry report](#) on Childcare and Early Childhood Learning.

The report proposes three key areas of funding for Childcare and Early Childhood Learning (Childcare): Mainstream childcare services; Children with disabilities and additional needs; and Preschool.

The Commission is inviting submissions on the draft report, its recommendations and information requests by 5 September 2014. The Commission will hold public hearings in various locations during August.

FINANCIAL SYSTEM INQUIRY INTERIM REPORT

The Financial System Inquiry's [interim report](#) was released in July, setting out the committee's views on the objectives of the financial system and the principles that should guide its development.

It discusses the financial system from nine perspectives and makes 28 observations on how the system is currently working. For each of these observations, it sets out a range of options for change, including the option of no change.

The Inquiry is seeking feedback on these observations and options to inform the recommendations in its final report in November. The closing date for second round submissions is 26 August 2014.

WELFARE SPENDING DATA NOW ONLINE

[Data.gov.au](#) was launched in July, making income support data more readily accessible to those seeking an understanding of patterns of income support across Australia.

The data will be updated quarterly and includes the number and location of Australians on the Age Pension, Disability Support Pension, Newstart, Youth Allowance and Family Tax Benefits.

NEW RURAL MOBILE SERVICE

More regional and rural communities will have access to government services thanks to a third addition to the Department of Human Services Mobile Service Centres which hit the road in July.

The new Mobile Service Centre has joined the existing fleet, travelling to rural and regional communities around Australia to provide access to Centrelink and Medicare payments and services, Child Support information and free hearing health checks.

MINISTERIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ESTABLISHED

A Ministerial Advisory Council for the child care and early learning sector has been established to provide advice on issues and policies affecting the sector.

Assistant Minister Ley will co-chair the Council with former Departmental Secretary, Dr Jeff Harmer AO. The Ministerial Advisory Council members are:

- Ms Kylie Brannelly – Queensland Children's Activities Network

- Ms Gwynn Bridge – Australian Childcare Alliance
- Ms Brianna Casey - Childcare NSW
- Ms Ros Cornish – Early Childhood Australia
- Ms Anita Jovanovski – NSW Family Day Care Association
- Ms Christine Legg – KU Children’s Services
- Ms Judith McKay-Tempest – Macquarie University
- Ms Carla Northam – Family Day Care Australia
- Ms Robyn Paterson – National Association of Mobile Services for Rural and Remote Families and Children
- Ms Prue Warrilow – Australian Community Children’s Services
- Ms Naomi Wilson – Former QLD Minister for Families Youth and Community Care

The first meeting of the Council was held in Brisbane at the end of July.

Anglicare Events

ANGLICARE EVENTS

[Refugee and migrant entrepreneurs - How to make small business work in Victoria](#)
 (Brotherhood of St Laurence, the Multicultural Business Ministerial Council and Moreland City Council)
 Date: 12 August 2014, 6-8pm
 Venue: Coburg Concert Hall, Moreland Civic Centre, 90 Bell Street, Coburg

[Anglicare Australia National Conference](#)

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

SECTOR EVENTS

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

10 November – Canberra
 4 December – Perth

[Childhood Trauma: Understanding the basis of change and recovery](#)

Date: 4-8 August 2014
 Venue: Melbourne Convention Centre

[The NDIS One Year On: National Conference](#)

Date: 11-12 August 2014
 Venue: Costa Hall, Deakin University, Waterfront, Geelong, VIC

[Association of Children’s Welfare Agencies \(ACWA\) Conference 2014](#)

Date: 18-20 August 2014
 Venue: SMC Conference & Function Centre, Sydney

[15th International Mental Health Conference](#)

Date: 25-27 August 2014
 Venue: QT Hotel, Gold Coast

[Third National Elder Abuse Conference](#)

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

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

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

[Australian Community Workers Conference](#)

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

[8th National Homelessness Conference 2014](#)

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

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

Date: 15-17 September 2014
 Venue: Gold Coast

[IAVE World Volunteer Conference](#)

Date: 17-20 September 2014

Venue: Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, Qld

[Anti-Poverty Week](#)

Date: 12-18 October 2014

National and International

[LASA National Congress 2014](#)

Date: 20-22 October 2014

Venue: Adelaide Convention Centre

[Australian National Carer Conference](#)

Date: 16-18 November 2014

Venue: QT Hotel, Gold Coast

[International Day of People with Disability](#)

Date: 3 December 2014

National and International