

# Aspect

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## In this issue

## From the Deputy Director

### FIRST PRINCIPLES



**Roland Manderson**  
Deputy Director

Trieste, in the far northeast corner of Italy, has the global reputation of successfully moving mental health patients out of asylums and treating them in the local community.

Since the early 1970's, Trieste has significantly reduced the size of its traditional mental hospital and has developed a series of neighborhood clinics that provide services to patients living in small groups in apartments, in their homes or at the clinic.

Our Deputy Director, Roland Manderson is currently in Italy on holiday and had the opportunity to meet with key executives of the Trieste Mental Health Department.

"I've been lucky to get a lot of time from leaders in the now famous Trieste mental health system in Italy over the past few days. I came armed I thought with a few tricky questions about governance and partnerships, and consumer choice. But the explanations and responses all came down to first principles.

Key among these principles is that restraint is not permitted and involuntary treatment is exceptional and rare. No restraint or force of any kind means that when people are greatly disturbed, if necessary you just have someone with them.

If that means 24 hour a day care in the home, or just someone to come past in the morning to help you get off to work, then that is possible. If that means access to community mental health centres any time of the day or night, that is also available. If it means working with family and local community organisations, and providing opportunity for people - users - to participate, to express themselves, to be agents in their own recovery (to use a term current in Australia), then that's the requirement. And if one of the goals is, as it quite often should be, work as well; then the social cooperatives of Trieste - and the laws that support them - do a good job of ensuring that work is available too.

The crisis centre, six beds for the whole province, (population 236,000) is inside the hospital but still a part of the community mental health system. It has the same approach - no restraint. Probably a lot of talking: with the user, with the operators (staff of all sorts), and with family and friends. The aim of course is for minimal stay, but as long as necessary. And it doesn't seem that they ever need to turn anyone away. When I was visiting Trieste, by the way, there was a report on BBC radio in contrast about a young man who suicided in gaol in England after not gaining access to mental health services. And we all know of stories like that in Australia.

I had a conversation at a community mental health centre about dual diagnosis and the different approach of operators if they work in mental health or alcohol and other drugs - namely mental health workers tend to engage more persistently. I wondered if that was the difference in Australia too, or if it reflected the challenge that a philosophy such as Trieste's throws up: if there is no force or restraint, and if the door is always open, well maybe you've got to stay engaged as best you can. All the time.

I also recognised many of the principles from [Beyond Supply and Demand](#), the work the Centre for Community Services Research did for us on Anglicare network understanding of overcoming workforce exclusion. Time and again people will talk about the need to recognise the whole person at the centre of the circumstances, to work with and acknowledge their ambitions, to work collaboratively with the user to agree on goals and put a plan in place. That might be about how to move towards employment or how to deal with the day to day issues of mental ill health. We have to keep learning the same things it seems.

In straightened circumstances, as all government social services are seen to be (in Italy they REALLY are), it makes sense to see what this kind of engaged approach will cost. Well, it is well known that since inception in the 1970s the Trieste system has cost less than the traditional hospital focussed regime, not more; that involuntary treatments are now extremely rare; and suicide rates continue to fall. Better figures than elsewhere. These are metrics. But they are based on the philosophy and vision of Franco Basaglia, the famous Italian psychiatrist; key changes to the law; and a lot of coherent and committed work since then. The metrics are there, but they are the result of that understanding, and vision, parliamentary support, and respect for the people at the heart of the service.

The social services debate we seemingly have to have in Australia is not about a vision based on understanding and respect. And it's not really about the metrics either. Not if you look closely at it. It is simply based on ideology, or philosophy. Some people seem to think you need to create an incentive for people to participate in society and the problem lies in being too weak or indulgent. Others believe you need to understand what people are going through in their lives if you are going to be any use to them.

Until we can start to give the debate some depth and complexity, take the concept of democracy and social change as seriously as those Italians did in the 1970s, it will simply be an exercise in butting heads. With the biggest heads winning. It might seem like a rear-guard action here, trying to protect the social services we have, or had. But I think it needs to be about a movement to build a vision of a responsive, respectful and effective system than we have ever had. And it will cost less. And give us more as well."

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SECTOR EVENTS



This cafe in Trieste is run by a social cooperative.



Trieste sea view from the hospital.

## National Office News

### NATIONAL OFFICE OUT AND ABOUT

This month, with Executive Director, Kasy Chambers and Deputy Director, Roland Manderson both away at times, Policy and Research Director, Michelle Waterford, had the opportunity to be the eyes and the ears on the ground for Anglicare Australia.

It started with [Michelle's presentation](#) at the Future of Welfare Forum, on the future of housing reform and the impacts of unaffordable housing. The other speakers put forward some challenging ideas and Michelle said it was great to be among some of the most notable thought leaders in our sector, such as Professor Peter Whiteford (ANU Crawford School of Public Policy), Matthew Gray (ANU Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research), Tony Nicholson (Brotherhood of St Laurence), Frank Quinlan (Mental Health Australia), Mikayla Novak (Institute of Public Affairs Australia) just to name a few. Cassandra Goldie (ACOSS) and Ian Goodwin-Smith (Anglicare SA) also presented at the forum.

Continuing on the housing theme, Michelle also appeared in front of the Senate Economic References Committee hearing on affordable housing. Sue King from Anglicare Sydney also attended, alongside other panellists from Mission Australia and ACOSS. Having worked with both organisations before, they were able to present a united position about the pitfalls and possibilities in the housing space.

Another thought provoking and interesting forum was the ACOSS Tax Policy Forum. The take home message being that as a

social sector we can't ignore the fiscal constraints – real or perceived – of operating in a political environment. We have to be at the tax table to have the conversation that is needed so that our sector and most importantly the people who use social services are not left behind.

Michelle also got to move around the network this month with participation in the SA CEO Forum, and the Children, Family and Community Network meeting which coincides each year with the Family Relationship Services Australia Conference. Both meetings were a reminder of the strong connections within the Anglicare network and that so much of the joint work of the big 'N' Network comes from the collaboration and collegiality of these little 'n' networks.

## Families Australia AGM

Anglicare Australia attended the Families Australia Annual General Meeting in November.

The new board comprises:

- Alison Brook – Relationships Australia
- Anne McLeish – Grandparents Australia
- Dr Sue Packer – National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
- Simon Schrapel – UnitingCare National
- David Templeton – Public Health Association of Australia
- Prue Warrilow – Australian Community Children's Services
- Richard Weston – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation

## Telstra Safe Connections for women

On the eve of White Ribbon Day, Kasy attended a THANKS dinner, which Telstra held to thank our members for participating in its Everyone Connected program.

At the dinner, Telstra launched a new program called Telstra [Safe Connections](#), a partnership with the Women's Services Network (WESNET), to help women impacted by domestic violence stay safely connected.

Telstra will provide smartphones, pre-paid credit and information on the safe use of technology to WESNET, Australia's peak body for domestic and family violence services, who will distribute them to partner agencies across the country that work directly with clients impacted by domestic violence.

Almost all women presenting to domestic violence crisis services are experiencing some form of technology abuse in addition to the other forms of control and power that are commonly used by perpetrators.

A woman leaving a violent situation should not have to give up technology in order to avoid being stalked or harassed. Having access to a safe smartphone will keep her in touch with supportive friends and family, as well as connecting to essential services and other information.

The [Safe Connections](#) program will help 5,000 women using domestic violence services or refuges each year remain a bit safer.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence:

- In an emergency call the police on 000
- Call 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732) to speak with a trained counsellor from the National Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence Counselling Service
- Access online counselling at [1800respect.org.au](http://1800respect.org.au)

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## KASY ON HER VISIT TO CHINA

I was lucky enough to travel with the Anglican Board of Mission (ABM) to China earlier this month.

Firstly we visited some programs funded by ABM on the Myanmar border with China in Yunnan Province. The province has 450km of border with Myanmar and it is a relatively porous border with people crossing it unofficially in many places. It is also a key area for the drug and sex trades.

Unfortunately both these trades carry a high exposure to HIV AIDS and the programs funded by ABM looked at both the prevention of new cases and community development programs for those already infected.

We visited villages of Dai minority refugees where the local women used traditional song and dance to get the prevention messages across.

Everywhere we went in China hospitality, often in the form of food, was forthcoming and the meals in these villages after the concerts were a feast.

After Yunnan we travelled to Nanjing and the headquarters of ABM's partner in China, the Amity Foundation. Those of you at the Anglicare Australia National Conference may have attended the presentation by Amity on their work, or managed to have a sample of goodies from their social enterprise bakery.

Amity have been contracted by the central government with incubating and developing 'civil society' in China in the form of the non-government sector. We met with many, many new start up agencies as we delivered training in strategic planning, board governance, management of volunteers, care of the elderly and development of attractive services for people.

The week was topped off with a presentation to Amity's first ever international conference on dementia. We were able to present, using examples from around the Anglicare network, on Australia's response to what is for China a huge and growing issue as its population develops and ages.

It was a truly wonderful opportunity to visit, learn from and contribute to a new and emerging sector in an amazing culture. We will at Anglicare Australia continue to encourage two way sharing between our network and Amity through exchanges and visits.



Kasy with participants of a HIV AIDS dance performance.



Despite the language barrier, a form of conversation is possible.

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## SUBMISSION: IT'S A BROKEN SYSTEM

Anglicare Australia's submission in November in response to Community Affairs References Committee inquiry into Out of Home Care (OHC) called for a nationally cohesive system with legislation, regulations and processes mirrored across state and territory boundaries.

In supporting children and young people in OOH, the Anglicare Australia network has 14 members placed in 46 sites around the country, with over 460 people working to protect and support 2,350 children and young people.

The protection of Australia's most vulnerable citizens is – as the national framework suggests – everybody's business. It is imperative that the system supporting these young people is as robust and integrated as possible to ensure that their journey through it does not traumatise them further.

Once the submission has been published on the [Senate Standing Committee](#) website, we will publish it on our website and promote on Latest News.

## Anglicare Network News

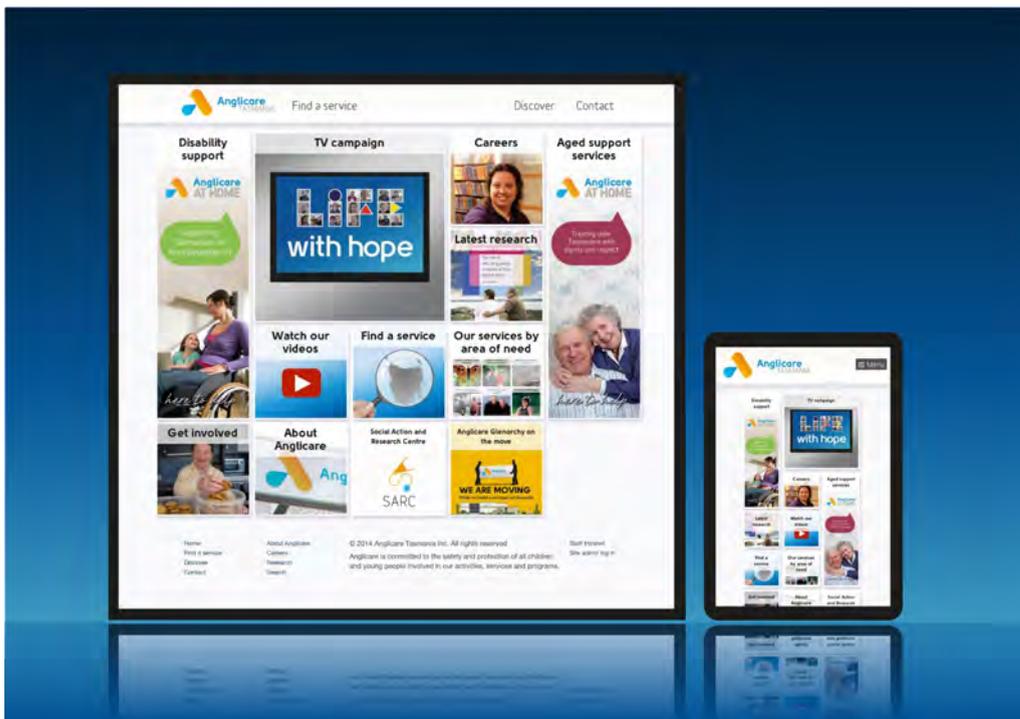
### ANGLICARE TASMANIA NEWS

#### New accessible website

Anglicare Tasmania has a [new look website](#) with improved accessibility for people with disability and those using mobile devices.

"It's important to have a site that works well for all users and on the variety of devices available today," said Mathew Oakes from Anglicare Tasmania's communication team. "For many people who use Anglicare services, their only internet access is via phone, so we need the website to work well on mobile devices."

The website was developed in collaboration with staff and people who use services. User-testing shows the new website is as successful on phones and tablets as desktop computers.



#### Community service announcements

Anglicare Tasmania also has a new series of [community service announcements](#) airing on local television.

The announcements share the theme message of Life With Hope, showing potential users of services the very broad range available. There are six ads in the series, each highlighting different Anglicare Tasmania services.

#### Connecting all Tasmanians

New research has warned community organisations against replacing all customer service personnel with on-line services.

The report by Anglicare Tasmania, [Connecting all Tasmanians](#), said face-to-face services played an important function and their loss would disproportionately disadvantage people on low incomes, people with a disability and older Australians.

The report included results of a survey of 750 Tasmanians on low incomes who were asked about their use of digital technology. It showed a limited uptake of smartphones. And although the internet was being widely used for banking and bill payment, there was still a preference for contacting community service organisations and medical services by phone or in person.

Anglicare Tasmania said there was an urgent need for a low income internet and smartphone plan to increase access to digital technology. The research also recommended that government and community service organisations offer 1800 numbers to stay connected with people on low incomes.



#### Natural supports are a life line

Anglicare Tasmania research, [Building a good life](#), has highlighted the value of 'natural supports' in promoting recovery from mental illness.



Natural supports are the types of everyday interactions that help to foster a sense of wellbeing and belonging. They include relationships with family and friends, social networks such as sporting clubs and churches, and time spent in the natural environment. The research showed the importance of positive interactions at community places like libraries, cafes, gyms, supermarkets and local parks.

While many of us take these kinds of interactions for granted, for people recovering from mental illness they can be a life line. Natural supports help to combat feelings of loneliness and isolation, and improve a person's quality of life.

[Building a good life](#) recommends that community-based mental health services prioritise and formalise their focus on natural supports. The research found that both natural supports and formal services were important and that a holistic approach to a person's recovery was needed.

### Disability Employment Services

Anglicare Tasmania (mental health service) is one of 47 successful tenderers to deliver [Disability Management Services](#) (DMS) across 97 Employment Service Areas, currently delivered by the Government provider, CRS Australia.

The new contracts will take effect from March 2015 and will be offered until March 2018. All other DMS contracts, which were due to expire 30 June 2014, will be extended to March 2018.

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## PARKERVILLE LAUNCHES MOBILE APP

Anglicare Australia member, [Parkerville Children and Youth Care](#) has launched an app that provides instant access to information and support for those affected by abuse.

The Hear Me app for mobile phones and tablets was released at a Charity Lunch event in November.

Hear Me provides users with direct access to trained psychologists working in the child welfare sector with experience in dealing with trauma and abuse related issues.

It also provides educational information on abuse and the disclosure and treatment process for young people and parents; where to get help for children, young people and families affected by abuse or who are experiencing significant stress; and tools and resources designed to improve parenting outcomes and the relationship between young people and parents.

Hear Me is free and can be downloaded from the iTunes (mobile phones only) and [GooglePlay](#) app stores.



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## SHOWCASING BEST OF THE BUSH IN TOUGH TIMES

To be an outback resident of Western Queensland is synonymous with tenacity, endurance, and a generosity of spirit. Like the seasons, outback residents have weathered and endured many changes.

During November, Anglicare North Queensland, with the support of Drought Assistance Package funding, had the opportunity to facilitate photographic workshops, art activities and storytelling workshops in the North West Region of Queensland, culminating in the production of a community calendar and individual digital storytelling DVDs.

The DVDs showcase the character of these outback communities; how like the roots of a strong tree, the communities dig deep during tough times. Many community members have endured the demands of outback life through numerous droughts and floods, learning how to thrive.

The photographic and art workshops have produced a beautiful calendar and community postcards that illustrate the stunning country and its tenacious spirit, despite the drought. The calendar, Our Country – the Wide Brown Land of North West Queensland, and postcards are available for purchase, with all proceeds going back to each individual community.

Anglicare NQ, with the support of local councils and the Crafty Old School House in McKinlay, have held community events to promote the digital stories and launch the calendars and postcards.

To purchase calendars and postcards, contact the Anglicare office in Mount Isa on 07 4743 8390.



Julia Creek QLD

# *Our Country The wide brown Land of North West Queensland*



**ANGLICARE**  
NORTH QUEENSLAND LTD

**2015**  
Calendar

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## **BENETAS: EMPLOYER OF CHOICE IN GENDER EQUITY**

Anglicare Australia member, Benetas, has been recognised with the inaugural [Workplace Gender Equality Agency Employer of Choice for Gender Equality](#) citation.

Benetas CEO, Sandra Hills said the citation was a welcome recognition of Benetas' ongoing commitment to achieving gender equality in the workplace.

The organisation's 1,400 staff members are offered access to a range of initiatives which promote gender equality, including paid parental leave, job sharing, leadership development and mentoring programs, flexible work hours and aged care nursing scholarships.

Benetas also invests heavily in related research and advocacy activities, and last year commissioned the [Women at Work – Voices of Older Women](#) study which explored the employment experiences of older women, compared to younger generations.

### **Inaugural industry breakfast**

During November, Benetas brought together key industry stakeholders to discuss the future of aged care at an inaugural Industry Breakfast.

The Industry Breakfast featured Victorian Minister for Ageing, David Davis MLC and a keynote address by Australian television and radio personality, Denise Drysdale.

Benetas CEO, Sandra Hills, said the event provided guests with the unique opportunity to come together to reflect on the past 12 months, and discuss the anticipated challenges to come in aged care.



Bishop Philip Huggins (left) with Benetas Chair John McKenzie and Benetas CEO Sandra Hills at the Benetas Industry Breakfast.

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## ANGLICARE WA'S WHITE RIBBON VIDEO

In common with many organisations, Anglicare WA hosted a series of events over White Ribbon Day to help raise awareness and encourage advocacy for the victims of family and domestic violence.

In order to promote White Ribbon's message and inform the community about what they could do, Anglicare WA has produced a [video to its journey with White Ribbon](#).



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## GLOBAL ANGLICANS CALL FOR G20 CLIMATE JUSTICE

Voices from the 85 million strong global Anglican Communion joined the call for climate change to be added as an urgent agenda item to November's G20 summit.

Representatives of the [Pacific Anglican Church](#) gathered in Brisbane to reinforce the message of a global petition signed by Anglicans from more than 40 countries that calls on the Australian Government to make discussion about climate change a high priority.

The [Oceans of Justice petition](#) was sent to the government by the Right Reverend Nicholas Holtman, Bishop of Salisbury and the Church of England's Advisor for the Environment, accompanied by a letter requesting that the Australian Government show leadership on such a crucial issue.

Oceans of Justice is a joint campaign of the global Anglican Alliance in conjunction with Australian agencies the Anglican Board of Mission and Anglican Overseas Aid.

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## Research and Resources

### FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK FOR DISABILITY SERVICES LAUNCHED

A [National Costing and Pricing Framework for Disability Services](#) has been released to help mission driven organisations understand the cost of service delivery and to help them plan effectively for the NDIS.

Developed by National Disability Services (NDS) in conjunction with WA's Curtin University, the framework will provide a much needed foundation for disability service providers and others with a role in funding, purchasing services from, overseeing or auditing the provision of disability services to build capacity in costing and pricing.

NDS is also developing an online learning program aligned to the framework to help disability service providers develop practices appropriate to their needs.

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## NEW FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESEARCH

New research funded under [Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety's](#) (ANROWS) 2014-16 Research Programme will support 20 projects that reduce violence against women and their children.

A number of projects proposed have been developed to specifically consider the experiences and needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, women with disability and those women living in rural Australia.

This research will be utilised by governments and service providers to improve primary prevention campaigns and deliver better responses to violence in our community.

ANROWS, Australia's only independent national research organisation for women's safety, is jointly funded by all governments under the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022.

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## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR AGRICULTURAL DEGREES

School leavers looking to start an agriculture-related university degree are being encouraged to apply for the prestigious [Horizon Scholarship](#).

The Horizon Scholarship, a partnership between Rural Industries R&D Corporation and industry sponsors, provides \$5,000 per year for the duration of a student's university degree.

It also offers annual industry work placements, access to industry leaders, professional development workshops, and opportunities to network and gain knowledge at a range of industry events. Applications close 30 January 2015.

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## EXPERT AGED CARE INFORMATION OVER THE PHONE

Aged care staff and general practitioners around Australia can now access the latest expert information and advice about advance care planning and palliative care over the phone.

The [Decision Assist Advance Care Planning and Specialist Palliative Care Phone Advisory Service](#) (1300 668 908) is available nationally, seven days a week. Specialist palliative care advice is provided 24-hours a day, while advance care planning advice is available from 8am–8pm.

Research has found that advance care planning and a palliative approach improves end of life care, increasing the knowledge of and respect for a person's end of life wishes. A palliative approach typically affords care recipients and their families the highest quality of life for the most time possible.

The phone service is available for the cost of a local call anywhere in Australia; however mobile calls are charged at mobile rates.

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## BABY BOOMER RETIREMENT EQUALS BRAIN DRAIN

Australia is facing a brain drain as a massive wave of skills and experience exit the workforce with retiring baby boomers, while youth unemployment is 4.5 times higher than the rest of the working age population, according to the latest [AMP NATSEM Income and Wealth report](#).

We can work it out – Australia's Changing Workforce looks at how Australia's workforce has changed over time, at unemployment across Australia and compared to other countries, and incomes and gender structure of the workforce.

Since 2002, AMP and NATSEM have produced a series of reports that open windows on Australian society, the way we live and work – and our financial and personal aspirations.

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## INDIGENOUS FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION RESOURCES

SNAICC, in partnership with 1800RESPECT, the national sexual assault, domestic and family violence counselling service, launched two resources on White Ribbon Day to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and frontline family violence workers.

The first is an [online interactive map](#) specifically targeted at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people seeking support to respond to family violence.

It provides contact and service information for over 280 Aboriginal community controlled services across Australia, allowing communities and workers to instantly find culturally-appropriate services to respond to family violence.

The second resource, [Good practice principles: A rights-based framework for engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people](#), supports best practice to reduce the incidence and impact of family violence on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

This online resource is based on the recently published SNAICC guide, [Safe for Our Kids](#), which was developed from consultations with Indigenous community controlled service providers. It is targeted at service providers working to prevent and respond to family violence with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.



## STRATEGIES TO STRENGTHEN ATSI MENTAL HEALTH

Indigenous Australians experience persistently poorer health outcomes for their entire lives than non-Indigenous Australians. They also experience poorer social and emotional wellbeing outcomes than non-Indigenous Australians.

The Australian Institute of Health and the Welfare and the Australian Institute of Family Studies have issued a paper titled [Effective strategies to strengthen the mental health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people](#).

This paper seeks to provide an evidence-based, theoretically coherent discussion of the factors that influence the effective development, implementation and outcomes of initiatives to address Indigenous mental health and wellbeing issues.

It seeks to assess whether the current investment in Indigenous people's mental health is aligned with available evidence on what works. To this end, the paper reviews Australian literature and government health, mental health and social and emotional wellbeing policies and programs.

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## GUIDE ON HIRING INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

[Employ outside the box – A Guide to Employing Indigenous Australians](#) is a practical guide on how to recruit, employ and retain Indigenous Australian workers, released this month by the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The recent Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Report showed there is a wide gap in employment, with only 48% of Indigenous Australians of working age employed, compared to 77% for non-Indigenous.

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## REPORT INTO INDIGENOUS DISADVANTAGE

A Productivity Commission report on Indigenous disadvantage, released in November, provides hard evidence of both the successes and failures of initiatives to overcome Indigenous disadvantage.

The 2014 [Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage](#) (OID) report shows some positive trends, with improvements in health, education and economic outcomes. But the report's results in areas such as justice and mental health continue to cause concern.

The OID report shows that for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people:

- economic outcomes have improved, with higher incomes, lower reliance on income support, increased home ownership, and higher rates of full time and professional employment
- life expectancy has improved and child mortality rates have fallen. However, rates of disability and chronic disease remain high, mental health outcomes have not improved, and hospitalisation rates for self-harm have increased
- justice outcomes continue to decline, with adult imprisonment rates worsening and no change in high rates of juvenile detention and family and community violence.

The OID report is produced by the Review of Government Service Provision. It is overseen by a steering committee of senior officials from the Federal, state and territory governments.

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## AUSTRALIANS GIVING MORE TO CHARITY

According to the National Australia Bank's bi-annual [Charitable Giving Index](#), Australians are giving more to charity than ever before, but still spend more on gambling, alcohol, confectionery, and cakes and biscuits.

Average annual donation size typically increases with age. In the year to August 2014, the average annual donation in the 15-24 age group was \$108, compared with \$398 in the 65+ group. Average donation size fell over the past year for those under 35.

While the average annual donation size has increased to its largest ever amount of \$315, Australian households on average are spending more on other items such as gambling (\$2,263), alcohol (\$1,682), confectionary (\$612) and cakes and biscuits (\$438) than they do on charitable donations each year.

For the first time, the Charitable Giving Index compared giving by different payment types, revealing that donations by EFTPOS or credit cards (90% of all payments) far outweigh BPAY and direct debit (10%).

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## TRANSITION TO SCHOOL EASIER WITH NATIONAL RESOURCE

A national resource to help support children's effective transition to school and school aged care was launched in November.

[Continuity of Learning – A resource to support effective transition to school and school age care](#) is a practical guide for early childhood educators who work with children in areas such as long day care, family day care, preschool, school and outside school hours care.

A booklet and online resource provides a range of creative strategies to help educators in the identification of contextually, culturally and educationally appropriate choices to support the move from child care and early learning to the classroom.

A hard copy of the resource will be sent to all child care and early learning services across Australia. It is also available online through the [Department of Education's website](#).



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## HOUSING AFFORDABILITY DYNAMICS: NEW INSIGHTS

[Housing affordability dynamics: new insights from the last decade](#) is the first report of a project that explores the duration of housing affordability stress (HAS) in Australia.

Expanding on previous AHURI research, this more extensive, up-to-date estimate of HAS will generate fresh insights into the effectiveness of existing housing assistance programs. The project will use new empirical approaches, as well as over a decade of the HILDA Survey (previously six years), to measure the duration of HAS.

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## FARE ANNUAL REPORT

The 2013-2014 Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE) [Annual Report](#) is now available.

The Annual Report highlights FARE's bold new strategic vision and showcases five key areas of work where FARE has made a significant impact during the 2013-2014 financial year:

- addressing alcohol-related violence in NSW
- engaging with the community
- improving our knowledge-base
- focusing on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders
- our voice.

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## NATIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT DATA SET

A report, [Developing the National Early Childhood Development Researchable Data Set](#), released in November by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) describes the processes undertaken from 2011–13 towards the development of an ongoing data set.

This data set is intended to foster research across the sectors of early childhood development, education and care, health, and human services.

A data set such as this has the potential to strengthen the evidence base for child development outcomes, allowing the development of sound policies and programs. It would also enhance the current efforts in extending data linkage networks at both jurisdiction and national levels, and ensure that Australia is at the forefront of research developments in this area.

## Government Policy and Information

### SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY FUNDING TO BE AVAILABLE

Government, Catholic and independent schools around the country are being invited to apply for funding under the [National School Chaplaincy Programme](#) after final agreement was reached between all state and territory governments and the Commonwealth.

State and territory governments will have access to funding under the National School Chaplaincy Programme in time for the 2015 school year.

Participation by schools and students in the National School Chaplaincy Programme is voluntary, chaplains may be from any faith, chaplains are not permitted to proselytise and they must respect, accept and be sensitive to other people's views, values and beliefs.

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### CHARITY FINANCIAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE

Financial information from Australia's registered charities will, for the first time, be made available to the public free of charge by the national charity regulator, the [Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission](#) (ACNC).

Financial statements, which are required for medium and large charities, and financial information that charities provide as part of

their 2014 Annual Information Statement will be published on the ACNC Charity Register.

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## GREEN ARMY ROUND TWO

Applications are now open for community-led [Green Army](#) projects that support practical, grassroots environment and heritage conservation activities across Australia.

Projects must run for 20-26 weeks and may be carried out across urban, regional and remote Australia on public land, Indigenous-held lands, or private land where there is a clear community and environmental and heritage benefit.

The government is looking for environment and conservation projects that will make a real difference to the environment and local communities, while providing meaningful training and skills to young people.

Applications for projects will close on Tuesday 9 December 2014 at 2:00pm AEDT. To be eligible, projects must be ready to commence between 1 January 2015 and 30 June 2015.

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## RESTART TO START ON 7 DECEMBER

Job seekers with disability and their prospective employers will be able to sign up to the [Restart wage subsidy](#) for mature-age workers on 7 December.

The program provides employers with up to \$10,000 (GST inclusive) if they hire an eligible 50-plus job seeker and retain that person for two years.

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## INFORMATION FOR AGED CARE PROVIDERS

The Department of Social Services has released the [fifth](#) and [sixth](#) issue of its Information for Aged Care Providers newsletter.

The intention of this newsletter is to provide a snapshot of advice on key issues for aged care providers; and to assist stakeholders to understand the changes to aged care following the 1 July 2014 changes, as well as information on the 1 July 2015 changes.

## Anglicare Events

### ANGLICARE EVENTS

#### [Celebrate Disability in Muswellbrook](#)

Date: 3 December 2014: 9am-2pm

Venue: Muswellbrook Indoor Sports Centre, Rutherford Rd

The Anglicare Australia Review release

Date: February 2015

National

Anglicare Australia National Conference

Date: 13-16 September 2015

Venue: Canberra

## Sector Events

### SECTOR EVENTS

#### [16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence Campaign](#)

Date: 25 November-10 December

Global

#### [International Day of People with Disability](#)

Date: 3 December 2014

National and International

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

Families Australia will run consultations throughout 2014 about the National Framework:

4 December – Perth

2015

[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

[Board Builder Conference 2015](#)

Date: 23 February 2015

Venue: Moonie Ponds, Melbourne

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

Date: 29 March - 1 April 2015

Venue: Rendezvous Grand Hotel, Auckland, New Zealand

[Child Aware Approaches Conference](#)

Date: 18-19 May 2015

Venue: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

[2015 National Op Shop Week](#)

Date: 23-30 August 2015

National

[National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Care's National Conference](#)

Date: 15-17 September 2015

Venue: Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre