

# MEMBERS' UPDATE

## January 2019

Dear AnglicareSA Members,

Around 40,000 children and young people across Australia spent this Christmas in state care, with more than 3,000 of these in South Australia.

The number of children in out of home care in SA has risen by almost 100 percent in the past 10 years. This compares to a rise of 50 percent across Australia. We are failing to stem the flow of children being removed from their families and entering and remaining in care.

Agencies like ours who deal with the impacts of this crisis every day through frontline care and family programs know that we have long needed a circuit breaker to stem the tide of children entering the care system and enable the focus to be placed on prevention and early intervention.

Rather than increasing services to support children after they are removed, the priority should be on information, education and support to enable families to parent properly. But this will require both courage and the ability and commitment to divert funds to where they will have the most impact.

That is why the South Australian Government's recent announcement of a \$2.8 million investment in AnglicareSA's Intensive Family Intervention Service for children at risk is so heartening. It presents an unprecedented opportunity to create an alternative future for how the state enables at risk families to keep their children safe.

It will not be a quick fix. With 150,000 children the subject of notifications each year across Australia, reversing the increasing flow of children into care will not happen overnight. However, the Intensive Family Intervention Service can be the first significant step on a journey to overhaul and refocus a system toward early intervention and preventative support for families.

Our work at AnglicareSA has shown us repeatedly that, when faced with the risk of losing their children, many families will work hard to get back on track and this program will help them to do just that.

Beyond the primary objective of safeguarding children and supporting families, it is hoped the Intensive Family Intervention Service will generate sufficient savings to fund system redesign squarely focussed on early intervention and prevention.

As a state, we must prioritise enabling failing families to function well. This is key to improving the lives of children, the health of our communities, and to preventing future budget blowouts. Investing in programs specifically designed to reduce the removal of children and promote their return home is a clear financial win for the state. Most importantly, it is a huge win for vulnerable South Australian children and their families.

# MEMBERS' UPDATE

## Christmas Donations - Thank you!



A festive thank you to everyone who supported AnglicareSA over Christmas! With the many generous donations of money, gifts and food items, we prepared more than 1,240 hampers for families in need.

Our team at Elizabeth Mission also put on a Christmas Day lunch for 50 people. The lunch has been running for five years in partnership with the Parish priest and members of the congregation of Holy Cross Elizabeth, alongside employees of AnglicareSA.

Our Christmas appeal runs until the end of January and we're hoping to provide for even more families in the New Year! Give someone a reason to smile, via our website:

<https://anglicaresa.com.au/>

## Barkuma clients join AnglicareSA for Accessibility Day



We recently partnered with disability support provider Barkuma, to help give their clients a taste of work life at our residential aged care sites as part of Accessibility Day.

The Barkuma participants were given the chance to experience a day in the life of an aged care facility and chose where they were interested in gaining work experience. They worked alongside our own employees and it was seen as a positive and successful experience for all involved.

Left: AnglicareSA's **Leanna** serves lunch to Grange residents with Barkuma participant **Tonni**.

# MEMBERS' UPDATE

## Out and About With Thread Together

Our Thread Together service had a busy few weeks in the lead up to Christmas, making sure our customers were kitted out with some much needed new clothing.

The service recently visited the AnglicareSA Brompton Exceptional Needs Aged Care facility, where all the residents of the facility were given an opportunity to come aboard and choose outfits for summer.



**Alan**, pictured above, has been living at Brompton since 2009 and is looking sharp in his brand new polo shirt. Alan stated that “most of the time I enjoy keeping to myself, and it's been years since I've gone shopping for new clothes. I didn't know about Thread Together before. I think it's a great service.”

Thread Together also partnered with Cycle of Change, MAS National (making apprenticeships simple) and Lighthouse recently to celebrate the graduations of 130 students who successfully completed the program.



Cycle of Change program aims to deliver support in learning and employment pathways to disadvantaged youth in Adelaide's northern suburbs. The program combines both vocational and non-vocational workshops integrated with BMX riding.

Thread Together was thrilled to be able to dress the graduates for their



# MEMBERS' UPDATE

graduation night, including clothing for interviews and workplace visits.

Pictured on page 3: **Marisa Kemp** (Program Engagement Consultant) and students of the Cycle of Change.



On Friday 14 December, one of the Thread Together vans made its way to Wallaroo to join in the Christmas cheer by handing out clothing along with the Emergency Assistance team's Christmas Hampers.

Each of the 41 customers received a new outfit for Christmas Day with customer **Penelope** (pictured left) stating, "Thread Together gives people hope and uplifts them in the testing time of Christmas and lets people know that they matter".

## Official opening of new Magdalene Centre

On Tuesday 4 December the new Magdalene Centre was officially opened, with 96 year old volunteer **Thelma** and **Premier Steven Marshall** doing the honours (pictured below).

It was a great event that highlighted the broad range of services we offer and the amazing volunteers and employees who are there to support our customers.



This welcoming hub of activity consolidates our city-based services. To access financial counselling, alongside our other support services, all in the one spot, will make a huge difference to the lives of those doing it tough in our city.

# MEMBERS' UPDATE

## Brompton grants a wish

Staff at AnglicareSA Brompton Exceptional Needs Aged Care facility recently granted a life-long wish to one of their residents, whom we'll call **Maree\***.

Maree let staff know that she "dreamed of being a super model" and "to be beautiful for one day so people would love her".

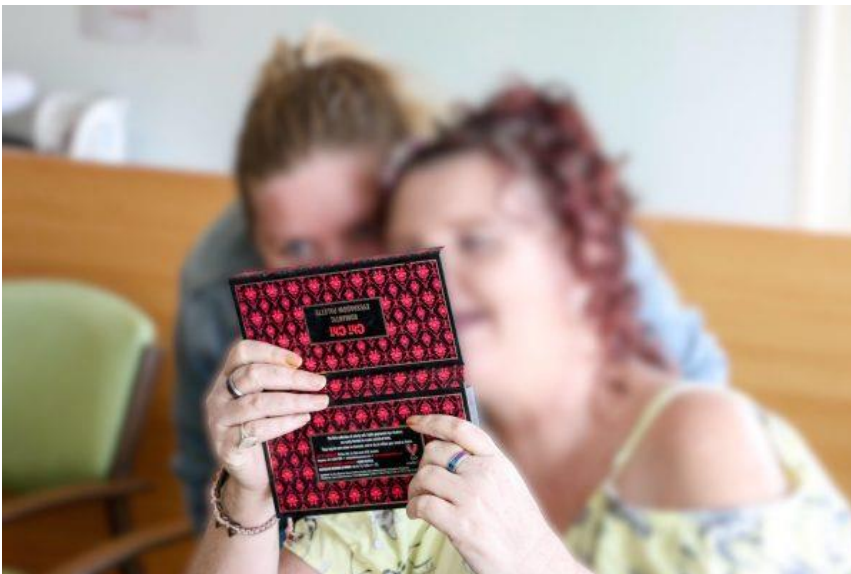
So the staff went about making that happen.

Before arriving at Brompton 12 months ago, 48-year-old Maree had been a victim of life's most tragic circumstances.

Born into a world of chaos, Maree had been a victim of domestic violence, family suicide and child sexual abuse from a young age.

Now, Maree has found safety and stability within her AnglicareSA Brompton home and community.

As part of her make-over staff took Maree shopping to find a new outfit, had her hair styled by a staff member, and got a make-up artist and photographer together for a special day.



While getting her makeup done, Maree announced that 'no one had ever done anything nice for her' – which had staff fighting back tears.

This is a shining example of how our staff go above and beyond to help those in our care. Well done Brompton team.

You can read Maree's full story on the [news section](#) of our website.

\*Name has been changed.

# MEMBERS' UPDATE

## Christmas at St Bede's

St Bede's in Semaphore celebrated Christmas with gifts, music, food, and excellent company. It was also an opportunity to thank our amazing volunteers for all of their efforts throughout the year.

St Bede's drop-in is a social activity operating for seven years as a partnership with the people at St Bede's Anglican Church and AnglicareSA.

The drop-in centre operates two mornings a week providing a healthy breakfast and a safe and inclusive social space for people in the local area of Semaphore and beyond.

Up to 45 -50 people attend each morning supported by a committed volunteer team of 12 people.



Until next month,

The Reverend Peter Sandeman  
 Chief Executive Officer  
 AnglicareSA