



Rental Affordability Snapshot

The Anglicare Rental Affordability Snapshot shows that spaces in a corridor of a house are being advertised as rentable sleeping areas. Other areas, such as sharing a bunk bed or sleeping on an inflatable mattress in a lounge room with up to six others, are fetching between \$100 and \$170 per week.

The annual snapshot, which was released by the Anglicare Australia network, shows that in Melbourne, even these types of 'rentals of last resort' are unaffordable for single people, particularly those youth on income support. The snapshot targets households living on Commonwealth benefits and the minimum wage, and highlights the housing stress faced by Australians with the least income, who are highly dependent on the private rental market.



Haircuts for the Homeless

Sometimes a small gesture goes a long way. Qualified hairdresser Nga knows a good haircut is priceless. A regular volunteer at our community centre at St Mark's Fitzroy, Nga's main role is giving free haircuts to the homeless clients at the centre. It is common for her to cut up to 15 people's hair in one shift without a break.

Nga is helped by another volunteer, John. John organises the timetable, the clients and equipment, and makes sure everything runs smoothly and to time. Managed by volunteers, the centre is a partnership between the parish of St Mark's and Anglicare Victoria.

In addition to Nga's free haircuts, the centre provides a hot lunch on weekdays, showers and washing facilities, volunteer tax help, an on-site Centrelink worker, help with prescriptions and food parcels. For many of the people who visit the community centre, it is also the closest thing they have to a sense of belonging.

The St Mark's Community Centre is just one of the many partnership programs that Anglicare Victoria run together with parishes across the state.

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**MELBOURNE
RENTALS
SUITABLE FOR
HOUSEHOLDS ON
INCOME SUPPORT
(EXCEPT AGE PENSIONERS)**

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



As we start to prepare for the colder months by priming our heaters and getting our warm clothes out, it is easy to

forget that for many families, the impact of financial hardship hits hardest at winter. High utility bills and unexpected medical costs can be a struggle for many of the clients that we help here at Anglicare Victoria. This is why the emergency relief and financial counselling services are even more important at this time of the year.

Our recent rental affordability research proves that large numbers of lower-income and welfare-dependent singles and families have been shut out of the rental market. We are also seeing an increasing number of children coming into care, and working closely with families at risk of breakdown through our

counselling services and family violence programs. I believe if we can give birth parents the skills and support they need to care appropriately for their kids at home, everyone will benefit. We will not have to relocate kids to a new home, or recruit the many more foster carers currently needed.

It is our aim to not only help our clients with their immediate problems, but to empower them to regain control of their lives and help them achieve long term sustainable outcomes and independence.

None of this would be possible without the support of many generous donors like you. On behalf of all the vulnerable Victorians that we help, I would like to thank you.

Paul McDonald
CEO Anglicare Victoria

Flying Angels take on Murray to Moyne bike relay

The annual Murray to Moyne bike relay took place in early April, with The Flying Angels team going to great lengths to support Anglicare Victoria. Overall, the bike relay involves 1,500 riders and support crews, with 100 teams from Victoria, southern New South Wales and South Australia all participating to fundraise for their nominated charities.

The Warrnambool team rode between Mildura and Port Fairy over a weekend, covering 520 kms between them. Tracey was part of the team and speaks of her experience:

“The Murray to Moyne is a wonderful event, as it brings a group of individuals together to work as a team, for a common goal. We had a pre-race event which highlighted to us the great work Anglicare Victoria does across the state and made the reason we were taking part in the ride all the more significant.”



Beyond The Violence



Anglicare Victoria on the map as a best practice organisation for our Beyond the Violence program.

The report also identified the program as one of the few in Victoria that works directly with both the mother and child to strengthen the parent-child relationship and rebuild family connections after experiencing violence.

The Beyond the Violence program was developed in response to the stated needs of women who had experienced family violence. The women were clear that they wanted a framework in which they could unpack what had happened and explore the impact on them and their children.

The Royal Commission into Family Violence report recently acknowledged the dismal state of affairs, highlighting the great need for services for families and young people. The report put

Anglicare Victoria Staff Profile



David Law has been working with Anglicare Victoria for seven years and is one of our Community Development Coordinators. David manages the 'Ararat Plus' program, which aims to help young people in rural areas develop a lifelong love of learning and inspire them to pursue higher education.

Tell me how you first got involved in with Anglicare Victoria.

I started in a community development role in Ararat and soon realised that the key to improving outcomes for Ararat youth involved helping the students to want more, and to feel that they deserved more.

Do you have a favourite Anglicare moment?

I actually get genuine satisfaction from the small moments. For example, last year I was involved in a retreat with indigenous kids. During the day we were running leadership programs but at night we would all sit around and eat together. Hearing the kids laugh and talk about things that happened that day, really made me smile. Even though it wasn't part of the official program, it gave me great satisfaction to see the kids enjoying themselves and gaining new experiences.

What has surprised you most about working for Anglicare Victoria?

The amount of genuine care and compassion from people in the local communities. They don't ask for any recognition for their generosity, and they have a very positive outlook about the changes that are possible.

What would you tell someone about why they should get involved with Anglicare Victoria?

Anglicare are prepared to invest in a 10-15 year generational difference

and make long lasting change. The program I am working on, we can't always measure all the outcomes immediately but we know they last. The kids that come to the camps, their young siblings, or perhaps even their kids, will be inspired to raise their aspirational level because they have a mentor or are the first in the family to go to university.

Working in the space that you do, what sorts of trends do you see?

Working in regional Victoria, it is very clear that certain pockets are falling behind modern Australia, they are alienating themselves from the modern world and getting further and further behind. I truly believe the way to overcome this is education. People and organisations in Melbourne also need to be prepared to bring ideas and concepts to the outer regions and help them to aspire for more.

What do you do when you aren't working?

I spend a lot of time with my wife and 2 kids. I also love bushwalking, off shore fishing and canoeing.

Dinner with the Angels - Save the Date

Join us for an unforgettable evening of fine food, perfectly matched wine, live entertainment and fundraising in support of Victoria's most vulnerable children at **Anglicare Victoria's Gala Dinner on Wednesday 7 September**.
Book tickets at www.dinnerwiththeangels.org.au or call 9412 6133.

DINNER WITH THE ANGELS



A GASTRONOMIQUE AFFAIR

A Gift in your Will to Anglicare Victoria can make a real difference to vulnerable children and disadvantaged young people's lives



"In the 15 years I've been involved with Anglicare Victoria, I've seen from the inside the hugely important work that

Anglicare does with vulnerable children, young adults and young families in our society. Through my gift in my Will, Anglicare Victoria will be able to continue to help those vulnerable Victorians who are in real need of care and support - well into the future. Having talked it through with my family, and knowing that my children and grandchildren are well-cared for, I've decided to pledge such a gift. This gives me peace of mind and a sense of pride: knowing that my intrinsic values and care for others will continue, becoming an ongoing legacy of my life of service to others."

Jenny Disney – mother of two, grandmother of four.

Naming Anglicare Victoria in your Will is a farsighted and generous gift reflecting the values you hold dear and allowing them to continue for years to come. Friends of Anglicare Victoria is a special group of men and women, like Jenny, who've notified us that they've named Anglicare Victoria as one of the beneficiaries of their Will. Friends are honoured for their thoughtfulness in a variety of ways. But, most importantly, you'll be helping disadvantaged children and young families for generations to come. This is truly God's love in action.

For further information: Anglicare Victoria's Relationship Manager – Bequests, Peter Burt on 9412 6197.

Yes, I want to make a difference to families this winter

Donation Option

Please accept my single gift of:

- \$20 can pay a pharmacy voucher to treat a child's illness
- \$60 can buy a hamper of groceries to feed a family for a week
- My choice of \$ _____

Please accept my monthly gift of:

- \$20 can enable a foster child to join a community sports club
- \$65 can enable a couple to join a parenting course
- My choice of \$ _____

Payment Details

- Cheque/Money Order enclosed**
(made payable to: ANGLICARE VICTORIA)

Please debit my credit card

VISA MASTERCARD
AMEX DINERS

Card Number / / / /

Expiry / /

Card Holder's Name

Card Holders Signature

My details for receipting are

Name

Address

Phone

Email

- Please send me information about becoming a regular monthly giver
- Please send me information about leaving a legacy to Anglicare Victoria through a gift in my Will
- I have already left a gift in my Will to Anglicare Victoria

Please post to:

Paul McDonald, CEO of Anglicare Victoria
PO Box 45 Abbotsford VIC 3067

Alternatively you can:

Donate online at www.anglicarevic.org.au
Phone 1800 809 722 to donate

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Empowering Families

Jane first became involved with Anglicare Victoria after the breakdown of her relationship. When her partner moved out of the house, Jane was left alone to care for her two young sons. Facing a difficult situation, things worsened for Jane when she realised all of the utility bills were in her name and overdue for payment. With the pressure mounting, the breaking point came when an eviction notice arrived in the mail. The letter stated that Jane's rent had not been paid and she needed to move out immediately. Her ex-partner had originally committed to paying half of the rent but had not been doing so.

Jane was extremely distressed when she came to Anglicare Victoria to speak with a financial counsellor.

"I didn't even have enough to pay the bills after buying groceries, so I often had to choose between the boys going hungry and paying our utility bills. Then I found out I had rent owing and we were going to be homeless," she said.

The Anglicare Victoria financial counsellor, Dave, called the real estate agent to confirm all the details of the rent owed and worked on a plan to prevent Jane from losing her home. He helped Jane secure additional funding, pay half of the outstanding amount, and get her ex-partner to agree to pay the rest.

Dave also called the utility companies to load Jane's concession rates and had her bills recalculated. He then negotiated payment dates and looked at Utility Relief Grants, so that Jane could better manage her bills.

Jane and her sons were able to keep living in the house and she felt more confident about improving her financial security.

She made a follow up appointment to see Dave, and made her own way to the meeting, which she had not done in the past.

"I can see that Jane has really started to regain control of her life. She wants to look at her budgeting and priority planning in more detail. She has grown in confidence, she's becoming more independent, and she feels more empowered to manage her finances," said Dave.

