



HOW YOU HELPED SALLY GET BACK INTO SCHOOL

Sally* was referred to TEACHaR for assistance in returning to school after a twelve-month absence.

She had been struggling with school attendance due to mental health challenges, self-harm, behavioural issues, and difficulty with peer relationships. Sally had also recently relocated to Melbourne from a rural setting and was having trouble adjusting. She was left feeling socially isolated with little confidence.

The complexity of her challenges meant that it was several months before enrolment could be attempted. Throughout this time our TEACHaR program stepped in to provide six hours of one to one teaching each week, with consultation from the care team, who investigated potential schools for Sally. The TEACHaR educator established excellent rapport with Sally by engaging her in a variety of learning tasks and helping her build confidence to enable her to return to school.

Before long a school was identified and the TEACHaR educator took Sally on several tours and a pre-enrolment interview. Sally was drawn to the reengagement program the school offered, which catered for students at all levels and provided a staged return to school.

Her anxiety about returning to school was eased by the ability to slowly re-engage with the option of increasing her time when she was ready and also having the TEACHaR educator available to attend school with her if she wanted extra support. With some support, and Sally's ability in an interview to connect honestly and openly with staff, she was finally able to enrol again in school.

Together with her TEACHaR educator, the Department of Education and the Student Wellbeing and Engagement Officer, she was able to make the necessary changes to stay within the school system.

**Names and images have been changed.*

PEACEFUL WARRIORS CONTINUES TO CHANGE LIVES

The Peaceful Warriors program began in 2001 to address the growing need to support boys and young men (9 to 16 years). The group mentoring program works with volunteer men and role-models healthy masculinity through discussion and adventure activities. The participants may have experienced family violence, poor male role models, family mental health, alcohol and drug use, and some also have a disability. As a result, they have limited capacity to develop self-esteem, regulate emotions, learn respectful social skills, and are often disengaged from school, family and community. The program is a significant step in preventing further violence against women.

In 2018 the program was facing closure after running for 17 years, but was offered a lifeline at the last minute thanks to the support of Tony Smith and the federal government.

The Peaceful Warriors would not have run so successfully without the commitment of participants, their families, the mentors, the Anglicare Treasure Chest op-shop, Whitehorse grants, other community grants, fundraising drives, donors, schools, Yarra Ranges local council, and other stakeholders. An amazing community achievement, made possible by many people.

Thank you all.

**BETTER
TOMORROWS**

LETTER FROM THE CEO



The start of a year heralds the start of school for many children and young people. This edition of Imagine highlights some of the work we are doing, particularly around the transformative power of learning that education can

have for our children and young people under our care, much of it made possible thanks to your support.

Many of you would of seen your own children or grandchildren have the excitement and expectation of starting the school year. It is wonderful when they settle and thrive in the school setting. These are the same expectations and hopes we have for the more than 1300 children we will have in foster or residential care this year.

Our approach is designed to allow vulnerable children and young adults to emphasise the value of learning through close support from our

educational specialists with follow up help back at home with their carers.

We share some updates from the young people participating in our renowned TEACHaR and Buldau Yioohgen programs. These examples show how these and other education programs can change lives and how we're working together with our partners to deliver best-practice initiatives such as Peaceful Warriors.

On behalf of them, I want to thank you for your support, and your role in making a real difference in our community.

Paul McDonald
CEO Anglicare Victoria

EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT ANGLICARE VICTORIA

On January 20th Anglicare Victoria participated in Midsumma Carnival for the first time. The event kicks off Midsumma Festival, Victoria's premier LGBTIQ cultural festival which champions LGBTIQ cultures and is a chance to celebrate diversity.

Anglicare Victoria joined another 140 organisations at the event and it was estimated that over 100,000 people joined in with the celebrations. Anglicare Victoria had a stall where employees, who had volunteered to participate, shared our message of diversity and inclusion. The organisation's theme for the event was "Everyone is welcome at Anglicare Victoria". The volunteers spoke with carnival revellers, telling them about the services and support we can offer to everyone.

Marie-Claire Blin, part of the Anglicare Victoria team working towards Rainbow Tick Accreditation, highlighted

that our presence was a really important step in promoting that our organisation is welcoming of people from LGBTIQ communities.

"Many visitors to our marquee were keen to find out more about the services that we provide and enquired about becoming foster carers. People wrote lovely messages of hope to our young people in care and it was also really positive to field many questions from gender diverse young people about employment opportunities at AV."

Other volunteers spoke of their sense of pride that Anglicare Victoria was participating in the event. One commented "I felt proud that Anglicare Victoria was taking part in such a wonderful event. 'Everyone is welcome' was the feeling on the day." Another said, "I met such a diverse range of people and I was proud to spread the word of Anglicare Victoria welcoming all."



Planning for next year's event has already commenced- come along and join in the celebrations.

Please contact for AVPRIDE@anglicarevic.org.au should you have any questions about this event or Rainbow Tick accreditation.

HOW YOU CHANGE LIVES THROUGH LEARNING

Thanks to your support we're able to run holistic education and learning focused initiatives that transform lives, supporting young people to grow, learn and to succeed.

This Imagine we wanted to share with you some of our most high impact learning-focused programs.

TEACHaR program is designed to help vulnerable children in care to maintain school attendance, educational engagement and age-appropriate literacy and numeracy skills – given that children in care are at much higher risk of educational disengagement than children in the general population. TEACHaR works intensively with students on a one-to-one basis within the carers' home, residential home or school. The direct teaching ranges from 2 to 10 hours per week, depending on the individual circumstances. TEACHaR also works closely with individual schools to transition the student into full attendance and deploy strategies that maintain that attendance.

The Buldau Yioohgen Youth Leadership Academy is the only academy of its kind in Australia, is facilitated by Anglicare Victoria and The Long Walk including Goolum Goolum Aboriginal

Co-operative and Bendigo and District Aboriginal Co-operative. Together these organisations support young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to strive towards their educational, employment and leadership goals and connect young people with Elders. The program includes a week-long "Southern Experience" which is focused on visits to the community, cultural and sporting organisations in Melbourne and a "Northern Experience" where the young people learn about the importance of connecting with culture, leadership workshops and networking.

Navigator works with 12 to 17 year-olds who do not attend, or who are at risk of disengaging from school. Most have a long history of disengagement and have attended school for less than 30 percent of the term – with many facing complex issues such as mental health challenges

that make it hard to sustain full-time education. We work with the young person to identify their challenges and future aspirations, while connecting with organisations that may already be working with the young person and supporting the parents who may feel burnt out trying to get their kids to attend school. Last year Navigator returned 104 kids to school.



ESTATE PLANNING & WILLS INFORMATION SESSION

With guest presenter, lawyer Russell Robertson of O'Farrell Robertson McMahon Lawyers; this information session will cover estate and inheritance planning, wills, probate and gifting. Russell will answer your questions to help prepare you for future transitions.

Wednesday 8 May, registration from 10.00am, start at 10.30am

Find out more/register now:

Phone Peter Burt on 9412 6197 or Elaine Boyle on 9412 6198
or email: eps@anglicarevic.org.au

Morning tea provided. Registrations close 1 May, 2019



FREE at Capital Theatre,
Bendigo.



Russell Robertson

Yes, I will give young people like Emily the chance to learn and thrive.

Donation Option

Please accept my single gift of:

- \$25** covers the cost of high nutrition school lunches for a week
- \$50** pays for textbooks for a student who is returning to school
- \$80** provides replacement school uniforms for kids who've been out of formal education
- \$125** covers the cost of a TEACHaR learning session for a struggling young person
- \$500** allows children to purchase an Ipad to assist learning at home and at School
- \$ _____ as a donation of my choice

Payment Details

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

My details are

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- Please send me information about becoming a regular monthly giver
- Please send me information about leaving a Gift in my Will to Anglicare Victoria
- 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

**THANK
YOU**

We value your privacy.
Please contact us on 03 9412 6136
to find out how we manage your
personal information.

Emily's Story



Emily* was an 11-year-old in foster care who was really struggling with school.

Her past trauma had led to her refusing to attend school on some days or turning up several hours later on others, so serious that her foster placement was put into jeopardy.

Emily had lived in a number of foster homes and had been to several different schools. Like many other children in out-of-home care, she was facing gaps in her education and struggling to maintain friendships.

Anglicare Victoria's educators began working with Emily by visiting her at home for three mornings each week, assisting with her routine, giving her strategies along with additional support in order to get her to school.

Emily was encouraged to challenge herself and try to beat the arrival time from the previous day. A couple of months later, Emily had an 80% success rate of arriving at school on time. Emily worked with her educators to develop a learning assistance plan and to establish goals. Now she's back at school fulltime, is increasingly involved with social activities and is attending more days than ever before.

Emily's next challenge lies in catching up academically. With assistance from the TEACHaR program and two supported 60-minute study sessions each week, she is receiving the help she needs to succeed.

Although Emily was given a second chance to succeed at school, there are many others who need your help. Please make a tax-deductible donations and ensure that struggling young people like Emily are able to learn and thrive.

**Names and images have been changed to protect client privacy.*

STORIES OF OPPORTUNITY FROM THE BULDAU YIOOHGEN ACADEMY

On the eighth floor, the very top of HQ, Jake is about to start his weekly work placement day. At 18, Jake, a Yorta Yorta and Wurundjeri man, is the first Indigenous intern at Tennis Australia. A sporty young man, who trained with the Essendon Football Club's James Hird Academy and competed in the AFL under-18s championships, he said his interest in Tennis Australia was sparked during the Buldau Yioohgen Northern Experience.

In Darwin, the program's participants joined Tennis Australia's inaugural National Indigenous Tennis Carnival.

"It was great to see the smiles on the kids' faces and see more Indigenous youth getting to play out there," said.

In Darwin, Jake had a chance to meet tennis legends Evonne Goolagong Cawley and Ian Goolagong, as well as Nova Peris, the first Aboriginal Australian to win an Olympic gold medal, as part of the women's hockey team in Atlanta in 1996.

"Just hearing her story, and how she had that strong resilience and passion and never gave up makes

me believe it's possible for people to pursue their dreams," Jake said.

Confidence Based on a Foundation of Culture

Upon returning to year 12, Jake needed to fulfil his work-placement requirement for his Victoria Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL), and he said his experience in Buldau Yioohgen gave him the confidence to ask about interning at Tennis Australia.

While work-placement internships are not a required part of Buldau Yioohgen partnerships, Anglicare Victoria's David Law thought it would be a good opportunity for both Jake and Tennis Australia, so he worked with Tennis Australia's national inclusion coordinator, Jay Schuback, to create a place for Jake.

Today, Jake is based in Tennis Australia's human resources department, but he also spends time with different teams, including public relations and media.

Jake said he was nervous when he first started, but as someone who was raised with a strong spiritual connection to his culture, history,

and country, he used that cultural identity as a source of strength to give him confidence in a new environment.

"It's something that's always with me and something that nurtured me through my childhood, so I just rely back on it to feel confident and strong," he said.

Leanne Brooke, General Manager of The Long Walk, which partnered with Anglicare Victoria to create Buldau Yioohgen, said representation at places like Tennis Australia is critical to encourage more Aboriginal youth to see themselves in these roles.

"You can't be what you can't see," she said.

Buldau Yioohgen partners with leading Australian institutions, including the Australian National Academy of Music, Federation University Australia, Opera Australia, and Tennis Australia. As part of the program, participants meet with different leaders and employees to learn about the varied roles at our partner institutions. These connections give our partners a chance to learn about the interests and aspirations of young people—opening doors on both sides. For more information about partnering with Buldau Yioohgen, please contact david.law@anglicarevic.org.au



PRAYER POINTS

On Justice Sunday, May 19 churches across Victoria will be praying for the 8000 men, women and young people currently residing in the 17 prisons across Victoria.

God who brings hope to all, bring hope this day to those in prison.

We pray for all prisoners, especially those who return to their small rooms of incarceration each day feeling no hope.

May each person find hope and light in their times of darkness.

We pray that the Anglican Criminal Justice Chaplains may bring Christ's hope and light to all they work with, especially remembering the difficulty of being separated from husbands, wives, children, parents and the support of family and friends.

We also pray for the volunteers in the Get Out for Good programs and those they work with, giving thanks for the work of the volunteers that inspires men and women who have been released, to begin anew with hope.

Amen.