



imagine

FAMILY • LOVE • HOPE

SPRING | 2019

Words from the CEO, Paul McDonald

Welcome to the Spring edition of Imagine. This season focuses on the growing crisis of homelessness. Poverty, cost of living, housing affordability and domestic violence are contributing to a growing emergency situation, affecting too many Victorian communities.

During Homelessness Week (4-10 Aug), Anglicare Victoria was an important voice in this national conversation; advocating for unified action across our national and state governments.

Olivia* recently shared her story with us as part of our Spring Appeal, and Max shared his story from homelessness to hopeful, via one of our refuges for young people, further reinforcing the importance of these programs.

In this edition, we also celebrate our front line support services. Everyday, Anglicare Victoria offers immediate assistance to young, homeless people through our Emergency Relief and Homeless Support services, helping them to get back on their feet and move forward independently.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Imagine, and I thank you for your continued support. Together, we are making a world of difference on important and urgent issues facing Victorian communities.



special report



A problem that can no longer be ignored

Anglicare Victoria has kick-started the conversation on Australia's homelessness crisis: calling for bold problem solving and unified leadership across federal, state and local governments.

Following the murder of Courtney Herron - a young woman who had been attacked while sleeping rough in Melbourne earlier this year - CEO Paul McDonald was interviewed on ABC News Breakfast in relation to homelessness. In the interview, Paul called for national, state and local governments to take the issue of homelessness seriously, and recognise

this month's issues

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When his world was crumbling, it felt like home.

Despite going through his fair share of hardship, Max is determined to make the most of his life. When we spoke to Max a few months after the 16-year old's time at one of Anglicare Victoria's refuges for young people, he was on his way to a job interview.

Growing up in a difficult family setting, Max was exposed to domestic violence, still too painful to describe. Around age 15, he started staying at friends' houses; he said it was just easier. He remained courageous and confident in the face of his challenges, but was eventually referred to Anglicare Victoria, and was successfully placed in one of our refuges for young people.

"They made me feel like it was my home. If there was anything I needed, they would help me with it. They helped me with pretty much everything when it was all going wrong" – Max.

During the difficult times, Max appreciated having some peers around him at the refuge. *"I made some friends there. Most nights we'd all sit at the table and play some board games and enjoy each other's company. I knew I could ask for help if I needed to. It was pretty much that support around me that got me through. They kept pushing me to keep going, to never give up. It was really helpful."*

Max was working in construction during his placement at Anglicare Victoria's refuge, which was a welcome respite while things were really hard. After a month, he was ready to move on.

Moving into his own place through Community Housing was an adjustment, but he held his head up high. Since then, he has moved in with his grandparents, which he says feels like a step forward.

it for what it is: a growing crisis directly affecting well over one hundred thousand Australians.

After decades of ambivalence from all levels of governments, the problem of providing affordable housing to Australia's growing population has become out of hand, and risks undermining strategies around the state into domestic violence and mental health issues. With over-crowded emergency housing wait rooms, compromised and unsafe living arrangements, street sleeping and no access to affordable rental opportunities for thousands of lower income earners, it's a problem that can no longer be ignored.

Paul's interview on ABC successfully ignited a nationwide conversation and has helped trigger the announcement of a homelessness summit, led by the country's Lord Mayors. Anglicare Victoria welcomes this as an opportunity to address these factors with an appropriate strategy.

The complexity of the issue requires a coordinated approach for it to be solved. It will require bold and fresh thinking, drawing from effective solutions from around the world. Anglicare Victoria sees the summit as an important event for the nation, bringing all tiers of government and the community together, with a sense of urgency in what is Australia's most critical social problem.



His relationship with his family is improving, and hopes that he can eventually return home, one day.

Anglicare Victoria's refuge gave Max the support he needed at a critical time in his journey.

His story reminds us that the young people we help every day are often willing to take control of their lives' they just need to be given a second chance.

Thank you, CWA Victoria!

Many parishes and independent organisations around Victoria generously support AV. Their dedicated fundraising and in-kind donations, enable us to do what we do best: provide better tomorrows for vulnerable children, young people and their families.

In this edition of Imagine, AV would like to thank the Country Women's Association of Victoria (CWA) who have offered their support to our Better Tomorrows Program. Thank you, CWA; the young people we work with deeply appreciate it.

Donating to Anglicare Victoria's Better Tomorrows Program makes a big difference. To find out how you, your parish or your organisation can take part, please call (03) 9412 6133, or email BTP@anglicarevic.org.au.



Yes, I will help homeless youth turn their lives around

Donation Option

Please accept my single gift of:

- \$20 could pay for a young person's Myki top up
- \$50 could pay for a young person's driving lesson
- \$100 could pay for a specialist counselling session
- \$ _____ as a donation of my choice

Donations greater than \$2 are tax deductible.

Payment Details

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

My details are

Title:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

DOB:

Email:

My Parish:

Please debit my credit card

- VISA MASTERCARD AMEX DINERS

Card Number - - - - / - - - - / - - - - / - - - -

Expiry - - / - -

Card Holder's Name

Card Holder's Signature

- 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.



She had run out of choices

After surviving a broken family, severe mental health challenges, assaults, and multiple hospitalisations due to homelessness, Olivia* found herself with no other options.

Olivia said: "I had nowhere to go. As a woman, it's terrifying being alone in a park at night. The feeling was a mixture of hopelessness, helplessness, and constant fear."

Olivia was alone in her world, but she was not alone in her situation: right now, there are more than 24,000 homeless people in Victoria, almost half of them are women - a number that is increasing. But thanks to Anglicare Victoria's generous donors like you, Olivia was given another choice at a refuge.

Olivia's story highlights the urgency of this issue, but also shows the impact of generous donors like you.

"When they showed me my room, for the first time, it was very emotional. I could see another way to move past all of the bad things. I decided to make the most out of the opportunity I could. I've since found a perfect house, and I'm getting back on my feet. I'm going back to school next semester to study."

Many more young people are risking their lives every night. Please donate today, to ensure that young people like Olivia can turn their lives around.

Ready to serve, 365 days a year.

It's 7.43am in the Melbourne CBD, on a frosty July morning. After sleeping the night in a rowdy backpackers, a woman is hungry, but with no money for breakfast. Barefoot, she makes her way to St Peter's Eastern Hill Parish where she will find breakfast, run by the Lazarus Centre breakfast program, which is supported by St Mark's Community Centre.

Up to 80 homeless men and women visit the Parish for a nutritional breakfast every day of the week - they also provide lunch every Friday. Over 24,000 people in Victoria are currently homeless; over a third are young people under the age of 25 years. The service is meeting a growing need.

During breakfast sessions, immediate practical support is also on offer, including clothing, bedding and swags. External professionals also attend these sessions and offer their services, as well as relevant referrals. This program heavily relies on volunteer support, and the food and clothing is mostly donated by generous Parishes and schools.

More than just tangible support, those coming in the door will receive kindness and a human connection. Anglicare Victoria staff pride themselves on welcoming everyone with humility, a cup of tea and a friendly chat, which can be worth its weight in gold.

St Marks Community Centre in Fitzroy is also up the road if needed.

This centre is open five days a week from 10:30am until 2.30pm, and provides a hot healthy lunch, food parcels, essential hygiene products, toiletries, blankets, clothing, a shower, clothes washing facilities and recreational activities.

St Mark's Community Centre staff and volunteers also check on visitors, and can refer them to other support services facilitated by Anglicare Victoria when required. For those needing more complex support, primary care, emergency relief, community support, including advocacy, referrals are also available.



A wonderful way to give this Christmas.

Christmas is just around the corner. Let's ensure this holiday season is a time of giving - especially to those less fortunate. Our beautifully designed Christmas cards can share festive joy with loved ones and support our important work. Available now for order.

Please find the catalogue at www.anglicarevic.org.au/christmas-cards, or phone (03) 9412 6133 to place an order.

