



imagine

FAMILY • LOVE • HOPE

CHRISTMAS | 2021

Words from the CEO, Paul McDonald

Welcome to our Christmas edition of Imagine.

This season we hear about the impact of giving, especially during such a troubling time. And we also take a look at the reality many of our vulnerable people face in the coming year.

Recently we prepared a report examining the impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable Victorians. Sadly, the report indicates that the aftershocks of the pandemic will not only be more severe for the vulnerable but are likely to last years.

Anglicare Victoria is an organisation that leans forward in a time of crisis, and so we have created a Pandemic Recovery Fund for those most impacted. This Christmas, I encourage those of you in a more fortunate position to donate to our fund and ensure no Victorian is left behind.

Thank you for the support and generosity this season.

Go well.

Paul McDonald.



SPECIAL REPORT: Post-pandemic recovery fund ensures no one is left behind on the long road back to normality.

The ongoing COVID-19 lockdowns have been like a pressure cooker. While the movement restrictions have stopped many thousands of people from getting the virus, they worsened difficult situations for many vulnerable people.

If we've learned anything from the last two years, it is to expect the unexpected. Even if the vaccination race of 2021 means many of Victoria's shuttered businesses will reopen again next year, the road to recovery will be lengthy.

this month's issues

P2 SPECIAL REPORT Cont. · Supporting parents through the pandemic

P3 Students warm the hearts of those in need

P4 Overcoming an epidemic of isolation



Our research indicates that it will be a long road back for all those families who have been forced to access government support for the first time, from women fleeing family violence to children recovering from traumatic childhoods. But we know that the care provided by Anglicare Victoria staff at the point of crisis is effective in shortening the length and severity of the challenges families and young people face.

With the help of our donors and supporters, Anglicare Victoria has created a Pandemic Recovery Fund. It will help vulnerable people affected more severely by the impacts of the pandemic by paying for some of the things that fall outside the scope of the funding we already receive. The funds will be directed wherever there is the greatest need and ensure that we can all come back from COVID-19 stronger and more resilient than when it started.

Read the full report here.



Supporting parents through the pandemic

ParentZone provides parents and carers with a broad range of parenting strategies to help them feel more confident and in control. The topics covered include general parenting, early interventions for vulnerable families, support for the reunification of children, and specific topics for families impacted by violence.

“Thank you. This was a great opportunity to support me through COVID-19 and see the differences in each child with autism and how it appears with girls. I really would love to keep communication with this group.” – Jennifer*, ParentZone’s Living with Autism program



“I would like to thank this course. It has been such a therapeutic journey for me to recognise all my childhood experiences. It has brought them all to the table for me to acknowledge and address them. I can now give my son the childhood that I wanted. Also, it has strengthened the co-parenting bond between his mother and me. We can now both speak freely of our shortcomings and discuss how we can parent in a better way.” – James*, ParentZone program

*Names have been changed to protect privacy



Students warm the hearts of those in need

Anglicare Victoria would like to thank the determined efforts from Camberwell Girls Grammar to support families doing it tough.

Despite the challenges of remote communication and restrictions, the school and students successfully coordinated their annual Winter Warmth Campaign which provides non-perishable goods to vulnerable Victorians. The campaign successfully collected over \$2,000 worth of tinned food that was generously donated to Anglicare Victoria.

The food was directed to where it was needed the most; this time, it was our emergency relief centre at Mission House. Community Development Worker Sam Horsburgh said, "We are seeing more people than ever here, international students, and people unable to access welfare. During a time where we have high demand due to the impacts of the pandemic, this has been incredibly helpful and well received."



You can help change lives with a Gift in your Will

Help secure better tomorrows for vulnerable children, young people and families across Victoria by including a Gift in your Will to Anglicare Victoria.

Find out how at www.anglicarevic.org.au, email giftsinwills@anglicarevic.org.au or phone (03) 9412 6197



Overcoming an epidemic of isolation

"A young woman drove up to an ER centre. It was a newish car. She had a baby in the back. I could see she was new to asking for help. She was living with her parents (who were on a pension) after escaping domestic violence. She had no money. We filled up the car with nappies, groceries and baby formula. She was overwhelmed. Seeing her leave so grateful is something I'll never forget. We are used to helping homeless people, but seeing someone pushed into hardship for the first time really hit home." – Chris de Paiva, Program Manager, Diocesan and Parish Partnerships

When the needs of our community rapidly changed and expanded this year, the

coordination of Emergency Relief (ER) became a complex operation. Generous contributions from donors, schools and bulk purchases from food wholesalers solved the first issue of sourcing sufficient supplies. Storage of large quantities of frozen, tinned and fresh produce was the next hurdle. Anglicare Victoria ER teams purchased large freezers with program funds, and food deliveries were carefully timed to avoid overstocking. While the Victorian Parliament remained in lockdown, its kitchen donated 200-300 frozen meals to Anglicare Victoria each week on the morning of our client delivery service. Volunteers then delivered 100 food parcels each week to vulnerable people and families.



You can help every child have a Merry Christmas this year.

To give to this valuable cause, you can either donate **online** or call us directly on 1800 809 722.

Visit www.anglicarevic.org.au/toy-appeal for more information