



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and live.

We recognise their continuing connection to Country and community.

We pay respect to the Elders of the past, present and future.

nglicare Victoria's Cultural Advisors: Uncle Ian Goolagong and Auntie Kellie Hunter.

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WORDS FROM THE CEO

Putting people first in a challenging world

Over the past year, we have faced huge challenges. High demand for our services, new requests for additional support, bushfires ravaging communities, and of course the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic – all while continuing to provide care for vulnerable children, young people and families. To say I am extremely proud of the way Anglicare Victoria has presented, responded and led, answering the needs of all our clients and communities, is an understatement. And we could not have delivered this level of care without the ongoing and dedicated support that you, our committed donors, continue to provide.

In this extraordinary year of great humanitarian need and anxiety, Anglicare Victoria has stepped up for vulnerable Victorians across the board. This Impact Statement will I hope give you an insight into the responsiveness, endeavour and character of our staff and organisation, the resilience of our community and the generosity of our supporters. I thank you for your role in enabling this important work.

With your support, we have continued to be there for the people who need us, regardless the challenges of a pandemic. This remained true whether delivering services to struggling individuals facing homelessness, looking after the young people in our care, or being there for anxious parents and families.

We continued to offer vital support for those impacted by family violence, helping both victims and their families and delivering interventions for those who use violence in the home. We were there to help families facing financial distress and offered emergency relief, education and parenting support to those in need.

At the height of the pandemic, we stepped forward, supporting families in the high-rise public housing towers during hard lockdown, setting up an accommodation and health facility for COVID-positive homeless young people, and supplying emergency relief for the many who found themselves without food, work or support.

The immense challenges of 2020 have tested all of us, and I'm proud of the way our staff, clients and community have responded and stepped up to them. We have shown that when we all pull together, we are indeed stronger.

Once again, thank you for your thoughtful, generous and continued support.



CEO Anglicare Victoria

ABOUT US

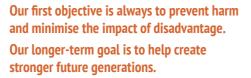
Anglicare Victoria is the state's leading provider of child, youth and family services. As an out-of-home care (OoHC) provider for children and young people, we prevent, protect and empower every day.

Anglicare Victoria currently has more than 1,700 staff working in 93 locations across the state, committed to assisting Victorians in need.

This year, we have worked with families to build on their natural strengths, ensuring healthier homes and stronger futures for our young people whatever their current circumstances.

All families need help from time to time. We listen to their stories. Respect and understanding sit at the heart of our care. Whenever our assistance is required, we step up. We aim for real and lasting change guided by our three pillars: prevent, protect, empower.





PROTECT

We do whatever it takes to create safe and nurturing, family environments where children and young people can build and rebuild their lives.

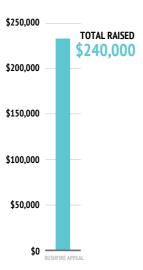
EMPOWER

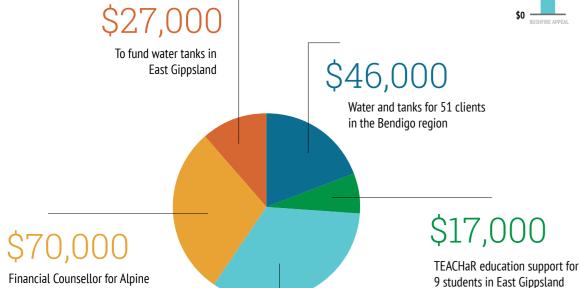
We create programs, services and tools to facilitate independence. We help disadvantaged people to forge a more positive future for themselves and those around them.





THE BUSHFIRES





\$80,000

Community education and social hub for young people at Mallacoota Youth Sanctuary



BUSHFIRES CONTINUE TO BURN IN ONE OF VICTORIA'S WORST SEASONS YET

When Daniel* returned home to his farm after a sixteen-hour firefighting shift, he found the remains of his home ablaze. His parents, who live with him, had been forced to flee under ember attack. The shed where they kept their car had caught alight as they reversed out of it, and they were both extremely traumatised.

With the fires extinguished, Daniel was left to confront the damage left behind. The dairy farm requires 600 litres of clean water a day for adequate production. However, the river they relied on had been contaminated with ash run-off, and their one remaining water tank was fed by rainfall on the dairy roof, which was fire-damaged and contaminated. He was left with no source of water for his livestock, or to clean the dairy lines, and he and his parents entirely reliant on bottled water.

Anglicare Victoria stepped in to offer Daniel and his parents the urgent assistance they needed. We used some of the funds raised to order a new water tank for the farm. This will help them get back to normal, with a safe, accessible water source to meet their needs.

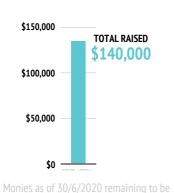


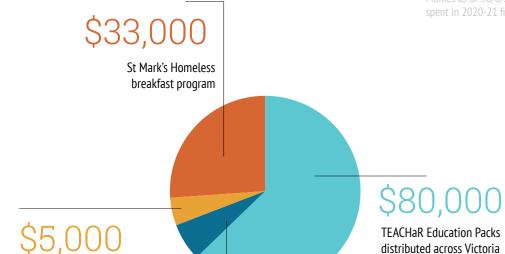
After a request for help from the local Government, Anglicare Victoria has spent \$46,000 of donations in Victoria's North East delivering essential clean water supplies to people like Daniel, who have been impacted by the bushfires.



Shire communities

THE PANDEMIC





\$8,000

Buldau Yioohgen Cultural Packs



OUR DOORS ARE ALWAYS OPEN HELP US KEEP THEM THAT WAY

Thanks to the support of our donors, Anglicare Victoria has provided support to those impacted by the pandemic across Victoria. In Gippsland we helped vulnerable children and young people affected by the bushfires and COVID-19, through our TEACHAR (Transforming Educational Achievement of Children at Risk) program. Our education specialists conducted online tutoring and guidance for children and young people across the region whose learning had been disrupted.

One of our educators reflected on her experience of remote teaching a Year 12 student located 215km away. This student has lived through drought and parental illness, and only a few short months ago, the bushfires burnt down the fences of her home. She was evacuated for ten days, and she and her siblings had to wait until roads opened again before they could be reunited with their parents. Together, they found a way forward and some much-needed stability during an anxious time. This student's teachers reached out to Anglicare Victoria for extra support, and I was connected with her through the TEACHaR program. We worked together on her English Literature studies, and as we discussed characters, key ideas, languages devices and themes, I was able to see her intelligence and maturity. I was able to suggest, guide, question and praise. Amid the fear and uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, and on top of the cumulative impact of bushfires, an English lesson over the internet felt like a moment of calm.



Thanks to your help, TEACHaR has been able to provide a total of \$97,000 worth of support during the Bushfire/COVID-19 crisis and has given children and young people a refuge from trauma, and a chance to build towards a better future, whatever challenges they may be confronting.

Co-funding primary school

book on Family Violence



WE PROVIDED CARE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUT OF HOME CARE

- WE PROVIDED FOSTER CARE FOR 967 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
- WE SUPPORTED 199 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO RECONNECT WITH THEIR FAMILIES THROUGH
- WE SUPPORTED 258 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN 26 RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES ACROSS THE STATE

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

THE NEW NORMAL IN CARE

This year we stepped up to guide our children and young people through the uncertainties and anxieties of bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic. In the face of restrictions and lockdown, we found new ways to keep our young people connected and engaged, such as switching to online learning and creating a new virtual visiting platform.

We adapted quickly to ensure access to our various services, which offer education, specialist counselling and expert understanding to those in our care. Of our children in foster and kinship care, 68% undertook remote learning facilitated by our foster and kinship carers, with the rest attending school onsite. In residential care, 72% of our children and young people who were at school before COVID-19 engaged in remote learning during lockdown, with support from our staff. We made sure our young people still had all the help they needed to feel safe and grow. Children like George*, who was - removed from his mother's care due to her struggle with her mental health and substance abuse - has overcome his initial conflict and uncertainty with the support of his foster carer and a 12-month therapeutic program. He has now been offered a permanent home by his carer and has become part of the family. He feels happy now that he has the stability he has always wanted.

Connection to each other, and culture, has been crucial in helping our young people in a tough year. The Buldau Yioohgen Indigenous Leadership Academy is led by Anglicare Victoria's Cultural Advisors, Uncle Ian Goolagong and Auntie Kellie Hunter. It brings together young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and gives them opportunities to grow in connection with culture. In the last year, 28 young people aged 15-17 years enrolled in the program, which encourages them to build 'big dreams' for their futures. Since the onset of COVID-19, the program has been offering three online events each week where young people can learn Indigenous languages, songlines and cooking. All 28 young people remained engaged with school during COVID and have aspirations for their future.

Foundation, The Lyone Foundation, donors from the Anglican Diocese and Parish Partnerships, as well as all others who have





HELPING FAMILIES NAVIGATE CRISIS PARENTZONE

Every family needs help from time to time, and thanks to your generosity, we can offer it. Our specialist teams and support groups run programs throughout Victoria, empowering families, and achieving lasting change, including our ParentZone program, which offers free training to help parents and professionals overcome the challenges they face when raising a family. Thanks to your support, we were able to adapt the program to changing restrictions by switching to online sessions.

One dad who joined ParentZone online shared that it has taught him valuable communication skills which have dramatically improved his relationship with his ex-partner, and allowed him to reconnect with his son. He is now very excited for the future: 'I'll be seeing my boy for Christmas'. Nine out of ten parents said things changed in their family after attending a ParentZone course.

We delivered 1,136 education packs to our ParentZone teams to help vulnerable children and families deal with the impact of COVID-19.



ParentZone supported over 8,000 people last year, bringing parents together to share their experiences, understand more about their child's development, and learn the skills they need to grow together as families.

Services for families are one of our largest areas of work, and we have seen demand increase over the past year, with 4,600 episodes of support provided in 2019/20. We work alongside families to prevent children from being removed from their parents' care, and provide domestic and emotional support for parents struggling with a wide range of issues, including poor mental health and family violence. Thanks to you, our teams have remained open and operational while swiftly adapting to the impact of COVID-19 and other challenges such as the bushfires. The community and Anglicare Victoria quickly adapted to the online environment, providing families with the comfort of knowing that a helping hand is here when they need it to the most.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

ANGLICARE VICTORIA ON THE FRONTLINE

At Anglicare Victoria, we have always reached out into our local communities to offer support and drive change where it is needed. We were born of the long tradition of Anglican Parishes helping locals in need, and this spirit shines on in our work today. Close links with Parishes have enabled us to continue vital programs like our Anglican Criminal Justice Ministry (ACJM) and the Get Out For Good Program. The ACJM operates in all prisons and youth justice centres in Victoria – sixteen adult prisons and two youth justice centres. Get Out For Good continues this support for prisoners, and their families, post-release, with teams of volunteers helping men and women integrate back into the community.

Parish Partnerships work throughout communities, offering help where it is needed. A generous gift from a local donor's Will allowed our Gippsland Parish Partnership to deliver Christmas hampers to vulnerable families, bringing some greatly appreciated cheer in a dark hour.

By working closely with local groups and communities, we can adapt and respond to their changing needs. Anglicare Victoria's Broadmeadows Women's Community House (BWCH) offers vital support to vulnerable women in the Hume area of Northern Melbourne. Through its innovative groups and projects, Anglicare Victoria supported 621 women and their children at BWCH in 2019/20. Helen Slonek, the Team Leader at BWCH, was grateful for the flexibility and generosity of our donors during the pandemic. 'An anonymous donor allowed us to use their donation to purchase laptops to help our women and their children to go online and switch to remote learning; one mother had been home-schooling eight kids with only a tablet and a phone! The women were completely overwhelmed with gratitude'.

We are enormously grateful for the enduring support offered by donors and volunteers to our Parish Partnerships and Community Support Programs. We couldn't do it without you.



In 2019/20 over 1,400 prison visits were made by 18 chaplains across five Dioceses, as part of Anglicare Victoria's Criminal Justice Ministry programs.



EDUCATION

INNOVATIVE LEARNING FOR BRIGHTER FUTURES

Staying connected to education is critical for young people's long term success. We know that the achievement gap between advantaged and disadvantaged students is two years¹. Of children in OoHC, only 35% complete year 12,² and by Year 7, 29% are not meeting national minimum standards for reading³. Research also shows that trauma and family violence have ongoing impacts on the brain development of children, meaning that without extra support, they guickly fall behind.

At Anglicare Victoria, we work with students, families and educators to make sure children and young people have every chance to fulfil their potential. We create innovative and specialised programs to answer the educational needs of the children in our care, and in the broader community. Our assistance and support reduce the academic impact on children that bushfires, the COVID-19 pandemic, the experience of trauma and family violence, or the disruption of moving into out-of-home care might have.

Just because these kids have been through traumatic experiences doesn't mean they can't go on to thrive. We help them remember what they are passionate about. – Jo Myers, Program Manager for TEACHaR

During the onset of COVID-19 and the introduction of home-schooling, restrictions and lockdown, we supported 217 students, with impacted families seeking support to maintain their academic engagement.







Of 71 students who were already disengaged, 49% began attending school again. Thanks to your support, we were able to respond quickly, and we now employ nearly 40 education specialists, who are helping young people across Victoria get back into schooling.



TEACHaR is the only program of its kind in Australia⁴. Since starting in 2013, the program has grown to support over 200 students each year across most regions of Victoria.

IN THE PAST YEAR, OUR TEACHERS HAVE:



NECESSARY IT



2340 TEACHING SESSIONS - (AN AVERAGE OF 11 PER STUDENT)







280 PARENTS & CARERS HANDS-ON THROUGH OUR LEARNING **CARER CONNECT** PACKS **STRATEGY**



FROM 56 SCHOOLS WITH TRAUMA-**INFORMED ADVICE** & TRAINING

For Further Information, please request our TEACHaR Impact Statement

Thanks to community support, our Teach Inspiring Minds program can offer one-to-one tutoring and provide Homework Clubs to engage younger children, laying the foundations for educational achievement. We run six Homework Clubs across Victoria, which support 153 students with the help of 109 volunteers. They are run during school terms and help students from rural, migrant and refugee backgrounds, and those who have experienced trauma. We have seen some terrific results, such as with Sarah*, who across a 20-week course of tutoring and support was able to catch up with a year's worth of reading and spelling development. The resilience and persistence she showed in the face of difficulty earned Sarah the respect of her peers, and we're delighted with her progress.



By supporting educational success, you help build the long-term health of our communities and to create a happier, more equal Victoria. Thank you so much for playing a part in this significant work.

Anglicare Victoria would like to thank the philanthropic funders of the TEACHAR Program: The Flora and Frank Leith Foundation,

The TEACHAR program has been delivered in partnership with the Victorian Department of Education and Training (DET), The

FAMILY VIOLENCE

WORKING TO KEEP FAMILIES SAFE -AND TOGETHER

Our staff bring a wealth of expertise to the issue of family violence. We aim to support survivors with empathy, respect and understanding, always putting the safety of the family first. Anglicare Victoria provides a range of programs for men who use violence in the home. We have services that are tailored specifically for fathers, who are encouraged to change their behaviour for the sake of their children, and for adolescents who are displaying violent behaviours within the family.

We worked with 374 women and their children experiencing family violence, supporting them through play therapy, therapeutic group work including our Safe & Together program, parentchild counselling and specialist casework to deal with the impacts of trauma, help them recover from violence and build empowerment, safety and connection.

We help those who use violence in the home to take responsibility and change their behaviour by running individual and group sessions through our Men's Behaviour Change Programs, such as Caring Dads and A Better Way, this year helping 890 men to understand their actions, and transform their relationships with their families and partners.

A Better Way is a trial of a new way of working with men who use violence, which has led to a 76% reduction in violence among those who attended, and twice as many women reporting that they and their children feel 'very safe'.

Carly, whose partner David* enrolled in A Better Way, reports that 'he has stopped his violent behaviour, verbal abuse, and name-calling. He no longer makes excuses about his behaviour and takes consideration of my opinions. He now finds happiness in our children'.



Younger people can also display violent behaviours within the family. Our Breaking the Cycle programs help those caring for young people to understand their behaviour. Through group sessions, parents and families come together to learn how to build healthy and happy relationships with the children in their care.



Our staff and facilitators work to help families overcome the trauma of family violence and to feel empowered to bring about fundamental change. With incidents of family violence expected to grow, we thank you for helping them to continue this vital work.



In 2019/20, we provided 1,321 funding packages to support the safety and recovery of survivors of family violence

- funding items such as CCTV cameras, alarms, security doors, assistance with establishing new accommodation, dealing with past debt, school costs, or re-engaging with education and training.

EMERGENCY RELIEF

PRACTICAL HELP IN HIGH DEMAND

When things in life go wrong, we're here and ready to help. We welcome families and young people seeking refuge, emergency relief, or emotional support in times of hardship, whatever they are going through.

Lisa, one of our staff in the Eastern Region, shared her experience delivering parcels: 'I dropped off an ER (Emergency Relief) package to a husband and wife from Syria. The wife was unwell, and they needed money for rent, bills and medicines. To stay safe, they had not been out for months and felt very much alone. When I gave those parcels and food vouchers, there were tears of gratitude, a thank-you and smiles. It was a small gesture that made a real difference'.

Bushfires and COVID-19 led to increased demand for our **Financial Counselling Services, and we helped more than 4,330 clients** who were having a hard time with money, be that debt, job loss, insurance claims, or just feeling out of control. Our expert financial counsellors help get people back on their feet by offering free, confidential financial information, advice and advocacy. This year, we swiftly adapted to pandemic restrictions, ensuring those in need could still access our services, with 1,577 of our clients having appointments by telephone, video or email during COVID-19.

Emergency relief and financial counselling can be truly transformative to the wellbeing of our clients, helping them gain a sense of control and independence, and preventing them from falling into crisis. We are deeply grateful to all those who make this life-changing assistance possible.

With the help of nearly 390 volunteers, we provided urgent assistance to 5,459 Victorians in 2019/20, at 15 different Emergency Relief Centres across the state.

Between March and June 2020, we worked quickly to meet the impact of COVID:





 $\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ Helping 2,271 Victorians

019-20 Impact Statement Rodolfo Montes, Program Manager Youth & Community Services Pictured partaking in Anglicare Victoria's response to supporting

ADVOCACY



POSITIVE FUTURES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Over the past three years, Home Stretch has made significant progress in extending care from 18 to 21 years of age across Australia. The Victorian government has now pledged to offer extended care arrangements to every young person in the state - the single most important reform to child welfare in a generation.

Five of the eight state and territory governments have now changed their extended care arrangements, by either implementing trials or through policy change. This is all progress towards the final step of the journey, the ultimate goal: legislative change. The campaign has ramped-up its lobbying of state and federal government ministers in the past 12 months: sharing evidence that extending care beyond 18 years reduces offending rates by a third, halves homelessness, and doubles employment participation for young people exiting care.

In response to the COVID-19 environment, The Home Stretch campaign wrote to every state and territory government requesting that they hold off terminating any care of a young person between March and December 2020, as a matter of urgency.

In a separate effort to prepare for the COVID-19 pandemic, the Victorian Government asked Anglicare Victoria whether we could provide a safe place for homeless young people to self-isolate and recover if they were infected with the virus.

Anglicare Victoria was quick to offer help to these Victorians, who were expected to be hit the hardest. One of our properties, Atrium Place, was made available to be used as an isolation and recovery facility.

Atrium Place has provided safe accommodation and around-the-clock care for fourteen children, young people and family members who were required to isolate as COVID positive or close contacts during the pandemic, who had nowhere else safe to do so.



In partnership with Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Anglicare Victoria produced and filmed three online learning courses for the residential care sector, and over 6,000 staff across the sector have completed these pieces of training in infection control and personal protective equipment.

Atrium Place is again continues to provide a haven for those in our community who need additional support and assistance. Anglicare Victoria has stepped up to improve the lives of Victoria's most vulnerable in the current and unprecedented crisis.

Anglicare Victoria would like to thank the philanthropic funders of the Home Stretch Campaign: B B & A Miller Foundation, The Beverley Jackson Foundation, Sidney Myer Fund, donors from the Anglican Community and Parish Partnerships, as well as all others who have generously supported the program since its inception.

EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS

FAST ACTION KEEPS FAMILIES TOGETHER

Our Evidence Based Programs have gone from strength to strength, in spite of the pandemic. New COVID-safe practices and adaptations have meant that our support has continued, and we've been prepared for the challenges the year has thrown at us. We want to make sure that we're ready for whatever comes next. We carry out continuous research into the effectiveness of our programs and use a mix of academic expertise and on the ground knowledge to create programs that answer local needs. We use an evidence-based approach, meaning that our programs are rigorously tested to ensure they achieve great results. This last year 659 families engaged in Anglicare Victoria's evidence-based programs, which are internationally recognised for their success in keeping families together.

Our Rapid Response program grew out of our observation that early intervention could prevent many children from being removed from their parents' care. The program recognises that many families simply need extra support when they are struggling, and recent research by Monash University backs this up. The innovative program was able to play to the strengths of the parents, as they showed that they are open to learning new skills, and keen to put them into practice.

The best service we have received. The team showed great tenacity even during a crisis. – Parent supported by Rapid Response during the pandemic.



 97% of children remained in the family home at the completion of a Rapid Response intervention.



In 2019/20 Anglicare Victoria had a strong year in continuing to deliver Australia's first trial of the globally recognised Functional Family Therapy – Youth Justice FFT ® Program, which has helped nearly 57 families with children involved in the youth justice system. The program reduced re-offending rates through engagement with the family, on their terms, and increases motivation whilst encouraging and sustaining positive change.

They worked with us to understand what was happening in our world. We had to work hard – it wasn't easy, but we are getting there. We don't fight as much, and when we do, we can get things back on track. — Parent FFT-YJ (Functional Family Therapy Youth Justice)

Whatever form they take, we are committed to moving forward with programs that adapt to a changing world, and best serve the needs of our clients now, and years into the future.









PARTNERSHIPS FOR IMPACT

Anglicare Victoria draws upon the help of a wide variety of supporters from across the public and private realms. From individuals, to state government, Anglican Parishes, local businesses and corporations, our work is made possible by their commitment to improving their communities.

Despite the challenges that have been thrown at us all during this pandemic, the level of care and compassion and the 'can-do attitude' exhibited by our people has been wonderful to see. We have realigned to respond to new circumstances, and this has allowed us to continue to support our communities. As an organisation, we have witnessed the strength of the collective in supporting the individual – and we will continue to do this until we get to the other side because this is what Anglicare Victoria does!

Sue Sealey, Deputy CEO Anglicare Victoria

During the pandemic, a number of the families we assist tested positive for COVID-19, making support incredibly difficult. Despite the additional challenges of COVID-19, our new programs have shown great promise, and our established services have continued to deliver.



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

We thank you for the part you play in delivering dedicated care to our most vulnerable Victorians. On behalf of all our clients, staff and volunteers, please accept our warm and heartfelt thanks for choosing to make a difference. We count ourselves lucky to have you on our team, and by our side.

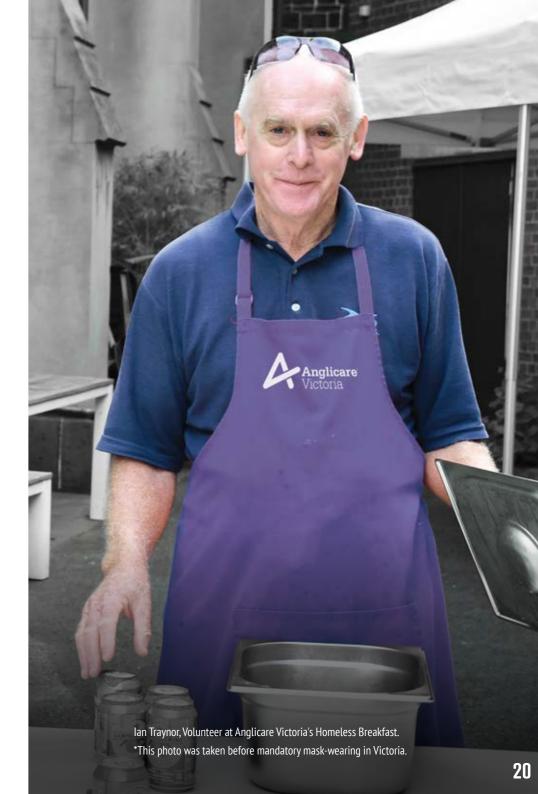
You have been exceptionally generous at a time when many more people have needed our help, and we would not have been able to achieve all that we have without you. From giving financially in our appeals to donating food and clothes to our emergency relief sites, and remembering us in your thoughts, every contribution has made a difference to the lives of the people we help.

The kindness and generosity Norm and Audrey Geschke have shown to Anglicare Victoria over many years was continued after their passing with a generous gift in Norm's Will. This allowed us to set up a special birthday present fund for the children and young people in our care. These things many of us take for granted make an enormous difference to the happiness and self-esteem of our young people, and it is typical of Norm's thoughtful spirit that he would make such a provision for those at risk of missing out.



To date, 649 Birthday Gift Cards of \$150 value were distributed to children in need within our Out of Home Care programs.

To the many of you who have worked in your parishes, and in our Anglicare Victoria Partnership Groups collecting goods and resources for vulnerable families, thank you so much for giving your time and effort to uplift others in your community. And to those of you whose financial contributions allowed us to offer the knowledge, support and understanding that so many Victorians have needed, thank you.







Anglicare Victoria gratefully acknowledges the generosity, support and continued collaboration of all philanthropic and Government partners.

*Please note: Names in stories have been changed in the interest of protection and privacy. Models appear in our photographs to protect the identity of our clients. The photographs used within this report are a combination of purchased imagery and rightfully owned images of Anglicare Victoria.

Contact us if you need this information in an accessible format such as large print: please telephone **1800 809 722** or email **info@anglicarevic.org.au**.

Anglicare Victoria's Annual report is available on our website: www.anglicarevic.org.au.

