



# imagine

FAMILY • LOVE • HOPE

AUTUMN | 2022

## Words from the CEO, Paul McDonald

Welcome to our Autumn edition of Imagine.

It's been a long road through the pandemic, with many highs and lows for all of us. Our frontline staff continue to navigate the challenges of community inflections while working to support Victoria's most vulnerable. I wish you safety and good health during this challenging time.

This edition of Imagine features our current fundraising appeal. We need your help to offer better choices to women and children living with family violence. Please support this appeal and give vulnerable families the care and support they need to break free.

We also share a wonderful story about a generous donation to a family in need, a review of our highly successful Doing It for the Kids campaign with Fox FM, and a showcase of the very special day we had at the Australian Open on First Nations Day.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Take care.

Paul McDonald.



## SPECIAL REPORT: FOX FM and Anglicare Victoria's Toy Appeal: 'Doing it for the kids!'

**Pressures from the pandemic created extraordinary hardships for our families over the last few years. Many parents struggled financially and were faced with the reality of a Christmas without presents under the tree.**

In partnership with Anglicare Victoria (AV), the FOX's Fifi, Fev & Nick show created the Doing It For The Kids! campaign. The hosts called on listeners and friends of the show to ensure that every child in care could experience the magic of Christmas by receiving a gift.

## this month's issues

**P2** SPECIAL REPORT Cont. · The Christmas they deserve

**P3** Culture on Court    **P4** Donations that made a difference

Melburnians and people across the country jumped on board to lend their support, with some of Australia's biggest names joining the cause, including Prime Minister The Hon. Scott Morrison MP, Jessica Mauboy, Amy Shark, Karl Stefanovic, Ally Landon, Dannii Minogue, Shane Jacobson, Matt Preston and Eddie McGuire as well as Simon, Lachy and Tsehay from The Wiggles.

AV staff and client families were delighted that during their final show of the year, the team announced that they raised a total of \$215,457.50.

Fifi Box said: "With so many families and parents doing it tough this year, we wanted to make sure no kids got left behind this Christmas, and we are blown away by this result!"

Paul McDonald, CEO of Anglicare Victoria, said: "From our work on the frontline of family services, we have seen more than double the demand for emergency relief support at some of our Melbourne locations and we supported more than 30,000 kids and families in need throughout the pandemic.

"Christmas is a time of caring, a time of celebration, a time of joy. We want to bring joy and happiness as well as emotional relief for a number of our families and children that we have under our care. What a lift for them! After all, every parent wants to spoil their child and give them the best present they can at Christmas, and that's what we are all about.

"As an organisation, we could never have reached as many Melburnians as we have without the backing of Fifi, Fev & Nick, and The Fox. We are absolutely blown away by the support we've received from people across the city – other kids, their parents, local businesses, and loyal Fox listeners have been so incredibly generous to this fantastic cause.

Thank you from everyone at Anglicare Victoria and from the communities we support day in, day out."

But the donations didn't stop there, support from all over the country poured in all the way up to the 23rd December, raising over \$250,000.00 for kids in need.



## The Christmas they deserved

**After a difficult and traumatic separation from her long-term partner, Tina\* was parenting alone for the first time this Christmas.** She shared with her caseworker that despite working three casual jobs that she could only just cover rent and bills and was unable to afford "the Christmas her kids deserved". She reflected on how her kids

had been so understanding and supportive but she didn't know if she had the strength to see her kids wake up to no presents on Christmas morning. After such a challenging year, she just wanted see her kids smile. Needless to say, when Tina found out about AV's support through the Toy Appeal, she was incredibly appreciative.



## Culture On Court

**Thirty-five Indigenous children and their families from across Victoria participated in a world-class experience at the first-ever First Nations Day held at Australian Open 2022.**

Rhys and Lewis from our Indigenous Leadership Academy, Buldau Yioohgen, worked as ball kids, while the rest of the kids and their families were treated to painting, live music, tennis lessons on Rod Laver arena and even a meeting with local champ, Ash Barty!

On being one of 360 ball kids selected from more than 2,500+ applications for the Australian Open, Lewis said, "It's really fun when you get out on court, I wasn't as nervous as I thought I'd be!"

David Law, Program Manager of Buldau Yioohgen, said, "the tennis world is not just for elite players; it's a game for all."

The aim for us is for these kids to leave with confidence and know that they can participate in any event, challenge and sport they love.

"We hope everyone involved gained a sense of pride in their own culture and that their culture will go with them everywhere they go, walking in both worlds," he said.

Kellie Hunter, Senior Cultural Operations Lead, said that "everyone was buzzing" on the day.

"I got a call from the mum of three of the little ones who participated on the day. She asked me if I could help get them into tennis because they just loved it that much," Kellie said.

"This couldn't have happened without Tennis Australia and Tennis Victoria – these kids and families wouldn't normally have these sorts of opportunities. Hopefully, in a few years, we'll see some more Ash Bartys running around on the courts!"



## Make tomorrow better for a vulnerable child with a Gift in your Will

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

Find out more at [www.anglicarevic.org.au](http://www.anglicarevic.org.au), email [giftsinwills@anglicarevic.org.au](mailto:giftsinwills@anglicarevic.org.au) or phone (03) 9412 6197.

Already included Anglicare Victoria in your Will?  
Please let us know – **we'd love to thank you!**



## Donations that made a difference

**One of our kind donors recently helped a vulnerable family after escaping family violence.**

Jayne\* and her three children had fled their family home of 27 years after things had become unsafe with her partner. The four had been placed in emergency accommodation as part of our Homes 4 Families program, but this was still an hour and a half away from the children's school.

Jayne was determined to stay on track with the children's education, even though that meant driving three hours each day.

The increased petrol use put pressure on their limited finances.

When AV was contacted by a donor who wanted to help with a significant gift, we knew that Jayne would be a great fit. We provided Jayne and the family with grocery vouchers, fuel vouchers and a Kmart voucher.

The generosity humbled Jayne. "I can't believe it. I am lost for words. From the bottom of my heart, thank you so much for my gift cards. I'm just shocked; I really am!"

**Thank you to all our generous donors for making a real difference.**



Next time you shop at Ritchies IGA consider downloading the app and selecting Anglicare Victoria as your charity.

### BENEFITS:



Supporting clubs, schools and charities made easy



Special offers and savings exclusive to members



Digital Ritchies Card with an easy-to-use app



Free to join - start saving instantly





## ***Briony\* had to choose between losing her life, or losing her children.***

Your support for families like Briony's can go a long way to helping families have a brighter future.

*"When I first met Briony she was too shy to talk; she was incredibly anxious. She thought I was going to be 'just like everyone else'." – Heather, caseworker*

Briony has three young children with her partner. She was always independent and worked her whole adult life, but once she moved in with her partner, things changed for the worse. He became controlling of her activities inside and outside of the home and had taken control of their finances, leaving Briony with little independence. There were also days where he would become angry and physically violent.

Briony knew she had to leave, but in doing so would risk becoming homeless and losing her children. She reached out to AV where she was put in contact with Heather\*, a Senior Caseworker in Family Services.

Heather helped secure an intervention order against Briony's partner and bought her a new phone to ensure that she was contactable and safe. AV helped her into new accommodation and supported her to get it furnished. Briony was also provided with financial counselling, to better understand budgeting and how to create a more stable financial situation.

*"Our role is there to support them. I always say to Briony, your toolbox is full now. You earned those tools, now take them and use them." – Heather, caseworker*

Escaping a dangerous family environment isn't easy. It is an emotional process, one filled with grief and anxiety, and often heightened by being physically harmed, financially vulnerable or becoming homeless.



\*Name has been changed to protect privacy.

**DONATE  
NOW**

# Please donate today and change a family's future.

## Donation Option

Please accept my single gift of:

- \$25                       \$50  
 \$100                       \$200  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 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

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

Expiry - - / - -

Card Holder's Name

Card Holder's Signature

- Please send me information about becoming a regular 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 [anglicarevic.org.au](http://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.

