



Anglicare  
Victoria

# imagine

FAMILY • LOVE • HOPE

WINTER | 2022

## Words from the CEO, Paul McDonald

**Geez winter has arrived early and it's cold!**

And the next three months will be especially hard for those who are without shelter, adequate warmth, and additional comforts. As the months turn colder, staff at Anglicare Victoria's 18 emergency relief centres across the state are seeing many new faces.

Winter is particularly hard on people already having a difficult time making ends meet. The need for jumpers and shoes to keep the kids warm and dry, as well as the ongoing heating and electricity bills to manage.

As the cost of living continues to rise, families seeking our assistance at Anglicare Victoria find themselves needing to make hard choices. How to clothe the kids and keep the heating on and buy groceries? In the past two years alone, the number of people seeking our help has tripled. Our special report in this edition looks at just how hard it is for those on low incomes to find an affordable place to stay.

Today I am reaching out to you, our trusty supporters, to seek your support, your contribution to our annual Winter appeal. Your donation will enable us to provide vital emergency relief services to families in crisis this winter.

With your help, we can continue to work every day making a difference to the lives of those who need it most.

Thank you again for your extraordinary generosity and support.

Paul McDonald.



## SPECIAL REPORT: Rental affordability hits new lows

**For anyone trying to support a family while the cost of living skyrockets, the problem of trying to find an affordable place to live could not be more important.**

Anglicare Victoria's recent Rental Affordability Snapshot put the issue back in the media spotlight again but unfortunately none of the news is good. For those scraping by on some form of income support, just two per cent of the rental properties advertised in Victoria on the day of the snapshot would be affordable. The others would catapult them straight into varying degrees of housing stress.

## this month's issues

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This year the lower availability of rental properties is making it even harder for people to find a place to call home.

Two thirds of the council areas in Victoria had no rental listings whatsoever and, in the places where rentals were available, rents are the highest they've ever been.

Anglicare Victoria's Chief Executive Officer Paul McDonald said rental affordability was "a slow-moving car-crash that has been ignored by the Federal Government for many years".

**"Intense competition for properties continues to drive rents higher, both in Melbourne and the regions. While the Victorian Government has recognised the seriousness of the situation and is acting to build social housing, it is beyond time that both parties at the federal level began to back up their words with some genuine action,"** Mr McDonald said.

## Single mums do it tough

Anglicare Victoria is seeing dozens of single mums who have had to flee domestic violence situations – often with just the bare essentials – and are finding it hard to get rentals they can afford.

This year there were just seven properties out of almost 19,000 which were affordable for single parents on income support. For singles on JobSeeker or Youth Allowance with no children, there were no properties in any area – and that includes rooms to let in share houses – which they would be able to rent without going into housing stress.

## Strong support from schools

**AV is proud of the wonderful relationship we have with many schools across Victoria.**

Throughout the year and during times of acute needs, our partnered schools contribute meaningfully to emergency relief programs.

As part of the Community Links program with Yarra Valley Grammar, the school community chose to ask families to fill one bag of non-perishable food to donate to Anglicare Victoria for families in need at Christmas time last year.



Overall, there were 40 per cent fewer rental properties advertised compared to the year before, and those available were more expensive on average.

Mr McDonald said the biggest problem that families are facing is that the cost of everything is going up while both wages and income support have been stubbornly flat.

**"You can't find extra money to cover higher rent by saving on groceries, power or petrol, because all of these have gone up as well. This makes the many services provided by Anglicare Victoria to those in need more important than ever,"** he said.

Anglicare Victoria's Rental Affordability Snapshot report can be downloaded from our website [anglicarevic.org.au](http://anglicarevic.org.au).



We were delighted to receive 200 full bags of donated non-perishable food items containing 4,074 items in total. An amazing contribution for our emergency relief programs which provided support for families in need.





## **‘Clem’s Bus’ gets students on the road again**

**School buses are one of those things most people don’t fully appreciate – until yours gets written off in an accident after you loaned it to another school.**

That was the story for Tootgarook Primary School on the Mornington Peninsula, which suddenly found itself unable to transport its students to excursions and sport competitions.

While the primary school received an insurance payment after the accident, the bus was so old that it wasn’t worth repairing. Camps, science and drama activities were all off the table with the

bus out of action, and the school could no longer do its regular morning pick-ups of students from nearby areas whose parents had difficulty getting them to school.

Enter Anglicare Victoria which provides educational, family and carer support services to Tootgarook and four other nearby schools. In this case AV was able to reach out to one of our generous donors Peter Clemenger, who immediately recognised the importance of a bus to the daily business of a school.

Mr Clemenger’s extraordinary generosity was able to get students back on the road again.

AV Wellbeing Worker Sonia Sutcliffe works on site at Tootgarook Primary School, and said Mr Clemenger’s generosity in helping to purchase the bus would benefit the school and students in many different ways.

“The students will now be able to go on excursions and explore the local areas of Mornington Peninsula; furthermore, they can head off for fun-filled city adventures!” Sonia said.

“We have many excited staff, teachers and – most of all – students waiting patiently on the arrival of their new vehicle, which will be proudly named ‘Clem’s Bus’. Anglicare Victoria and the Tootgarook Primary School community cannot thank Mr Clemenger enough,” she said.

## **Eva gets a new start**

**When Eva\* first came into our Emergency Relief (ER) centre, she was squatting with her one-year-old daughter in an unoccupied apartment.**

She had been living in an apartment in the same building but after a neighbour physically assaulted her she became fearful of seeing him whenever leaving or returning home. She told the ER team, “I’d preferred to live on a different floor in an apartment without power and utilities than see him again”.

Initially the team supported Eva with food parcels, material aid (specifically nappies and baby wipes) as well as a Christmas present for her daughter, thanks to the Toy Appeal.



Through a series of conversations with our team over three months it became clear that Eva’s living situation was quite unstable. AV staff supported her to understand that help was available that could improve her situation. The team supported Eva with referral pathways and she made use of all the services that were available. Eva has made significant progress in short time and has moved into permanent housing.



## Backpacks for kids in need

**More than 200 children in Anglicare Victoria's foster care, residential care and education programs will receive a backpack filled with resources and equipment to encourage them to feel confident in a new home, as well as in the classroom.**

Corporate partners Blue Connections IT and Dell Technologies held their very first Backpack Giving Day in April, encouraging staff and customers to give their time and put together backpacks full of useful items for young people in care that might have very little of their own.

The backpacks were made up with items such as a soft toy, some basic clothing and toiletries, as well as a journal and equipment they would need for school. More than 150 customers and staff members were on hand to pack the backpacks and get them ready for delivery.

Paul McDonald, CEO of Anglicare Victoria said that it's the agency's job to help kids in care fall in love with education.

"Unfortunately in out-of-home care, only about 30 per cent of children progress past year 10. We want education to be their best friends, and every pack helps," Paul said.

"It was fantastic to have Blue Connections, Dell Technologies, Arid Zone and their clients and customers coming in to lend a hand. It really means a lot to us."

Erica Smith, Head of Marketing at Blue Connections IT said people walked away from the Backpack Giving Day feeling good that they were able to play a small part in helping disadvantaged children looked after by Anglicare Victoria

"We've had a good relationship with Anglicare Victoria for a long time, and wanted to assist the organisation more with the work they do. When we spoke to our customers about the Backpack Giving Day, they were all keen to get involved," she said.

"The turn out for this year's event was just fantastic. Especially after COVID-19, people are wanting to give back to those less fortunate than themselves. We're already looking forward to doing this again – it's going to be bigger and better next year!"







***After escaping family violence, Jade\* worked hard to make ends meet and care for her two daughters.***

***But when COVID shut down her work, she ran out of food, money and options.***

Every day more families are being pushed to their limits, forced to choose between absolute necessities – groceries to feed the kids or rent? A new parka for the little one or the overdue gas bill?

**Thanks to people like you, we were able to provide immediate, tangible support to help her through the crisis.**

Jade was just 18 when she married her high school sweetheart. *"It was good at the start,"* she recalls. But as the years passed, her husband became manipulative, controlling and eventually physically abusive.

When the marriage broke down Jade bravely managed to stay in the family home, so her two teenage daughters could continue going to the same school. With no child support from her husband and no savings, her casual wages didn't go far and bills started to pile up.

Then another blow. COVID shut down her workplace. Jade's shifts were cancelled and as a close contact she was forced to isolate with her daughters for two weeks.

**With no income the family started running out of food.**

*"I never thought anything like this would ever happen to us. Everything just added up."* - Jade

Then Jade turned to our Emergency Relief Services, and with you by our side, we were able to provide immediate support.

We provided Jade with fresh food and toiletries, vouchers for petrol and more food, along with financial support to pay an outstanding energy bill. We also connected her with additional counselling and support services.

The number of people seeking Anglicare Victoria's Emergency Relief Services has tripled in the last 18 months.

Please, donate today to provide life-changing support so families in desperate need make it through their toughest times.



**DONATE  
NOW**

\*Name has been changed to protect privacy.

# Yes, I want to help provide vital Emergency Relief Services to families in crisis this winter.

## Donation Option

**Please accept my single gift of:**

☐

\$25

☐

\$50

☐

\$75

☐

\$100

☐

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ as a donation of my choice

*Donations greater than \$2 are tax deductible.*

## Payment Details

☐

**Cheque/Money Order enclosed**

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**My details are**

Title:

Name:

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☐

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

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