



# imagine

**FAMILY • LOVE • HOPE**

CHRISTMAS | 2022

## Words from the CEO, Paul McDonald

Christmas, among many things, is the time of year that reminds us of who we belong with and where we have come from. We spend time with family and friends, share food with loved ones, and celebrate the end of another year with our peers and colleagues.

However, whilst this is true for many, there are vulnerable Victorians where this time of year can magnify feelings of disconnection, isolation, and separation. Christmas can also place additional pressure on families. From a financial perspective, or from a family perspective where children in care are not able to spend the day with their biological families, or for those who may not have a roof over their heads or company on Christmas day.

At Anglicare Victoria these are our people. At Christmas our work centres on supporting young people, parents and families in providing connections and a sense of belonging.

Last Christmas we provided over 8000 presents to kids in need to assist in their celebration of this time. Recently we held our Annual Children's Day, where over 800 families came and enjoyed fun, rides and food. And of course, in the lead up to Christmas, we will be providing hot breakfasts to those on the street and food packages to those who are finding it hard to cover the essentials.

This festive season, I reflect on how thankful I am for the generosity of you, our loyal donors and supporters and your contribution to helping to cushion the impact of isolation, disconnection and improve the lives of so many families. Whether it's our foster carers and kids, mums experiencing family violence or the emergency relief we provide to people doing it tough, a donation to our Christmas Appeal can make the season a little brighter for those who depend on Anglicare Victoria's help, and I know lift your heart as well.



Go well and best wishes to your family in this time.

**Paul McDonald**  
CEO, Anglicare Victoria



## SPECIAL REPORT: Generations of young people to benefit as Home Stretch goes national

**An idea that started in the office of Anglicare Victoria CEO Paul McDonald has now been embraced by every state and territory after seven years of campaigning. More importantly, it's an idea that will benefit generations of vulnerable young people by substantially reducing youth homelessness, more than doubling the chances of care leavers getting a job and massively reduce hospitalisations and involvement with the justice system.**

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Welcome  
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Welcome to this edition of Imagine, our quarterly publication designed for donors and supporters. Your interest and support of the work we do is valued, and we hope you enjoy reading this publication. It is also available in email format for those who'd like a digital version. Just let us know your preference via email at [giving@anglicarevic.org.au](mailto:giving@anglicarevic.org.au)

The idea was to extend foster care (state care) to the age of 21. Previously support for those in state care was terminated at 18, an age when most young people are still living at home with their parents.

Extended care is a life-changing and life-saving reform, which provides additional support for vulnerable young people to an age where they are more prepared for the challenges that life can throw at them.

Paul said Anglicare Victoria staff saw firsthand the catastrophic outcomes of the young people we cared for when their care was ended by the state at the age of 18. Under the banner of the Home Stretch campaign, efforts began in earnest to reach out to state and territory governments, commission research and make the case for change around the country. The campaign attracted the support of hundreds of organisations and thousands of individuals around Australia, many of them child welfare experts and advocates.

*"We knew the status quo wasn't right and we knew something needed to change,"* Paul said.

*"Through the research reports we commissioned from Deloitte Access Economics, we found that governments would save money in the long term if they extended care to 21. But more importantly, we knew that it was the right thing to do,"* Paul said.

## 25th Anniversary Edition Annual Report

**Anglicare Victoria's 2022 Annual Report | We Work For Better, the theme is families. With client voice at the front and centre of the report, we explore how we navigate families through the services they need to reach the other side.**

There are stories from children, young people, families, and employees who have spoken about their origins, connections, experiences, intervention, support, and experiences with Anglicare Victoria.

We have also looked back at where we have been, whilst focusing on what the future looks like for both us, our clients and the broader community.

The stories captured within this report are illustrative of the compassion and care all at Anglicare Victoria demonstrate as we aim high for our clients and strive



In November the NSW Government provided the final piece of the puzzle, extending care to the age of 21 for all children and young people in state care. It means that all eight states and territories now offer extended care. Seven years ago none of them did.

*"One by one we convinced eight governments to change their thinking about ending care at 18, and bring certainty and support to young people lives by extending the formal relationship to the young person by the state to 21 years. And now across the country, in every state and territory an extended care to 21 years policy exists, for generations to come."*

**Thanks to everyone who supported the Home Stretch campaign. It's something we can all be proud of.**



to develop better approaches, better connections, and better outcomes.

The 2022 Annual report can be found on our website [www.anglicarevic.org.au](http://www.anglicarevic.org.au)

To request a hard copy of this report, call us on **1800 809 722.**

# AV at the Awards

## Resi ROCKS | Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare

**Resi ROCKS 'Recognising Our Carers Knowledge and Skills' is the annual peak forum/celebration for residential care workers. The awards ceremony brings together residential care workers from across Victoria and celebrates practice excellence and cultivates a culture of learning, innovation and the sharing of knowledge and ideas.**

Returning to an in-person event this year, AV employees and our favourite pooch, Lacey, attended the Glasshouse on September 30, to acknowledge the efforts of Victorian workers and teams who care for children and young people living in residential care.

The day was a great celebration of outstanding achievement, innovation, teamwork and leadership across Victoria's residential care workforce and two of our teams received honourable mentions.

- Our team in the Northern Metro Region **for the Residential Team Award** for their implementation of the KEYS program and for the successful support of a young man in his transition into a kinship placement.
- Our team in the Western Metro Region for the **Healing Matters Award**.



To find out more about a day in the life of an AV Resi worker, scan the QR code

## Victorian Protecting Children's Awards | Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

**The Victorian Protecting Children Awards recognise and celebrate practitioners, workers, carers and community members from across all areas of Victoria's child and family services system.**

Foster, permanent and kinship carers, academics, policy, program, supervisory and direct service staff from community, government or academic organisations were encouraged to nominate anyone they thought goes 'above and beyond' to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

After a rigorous screening and judging process of all the nominations, two Anglicare Victoria employees

were recognised for their contributions to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

Congratulations to Amanda Stacey, the Operations Manager at COMPASS and the COMPASS team finalists for the Minister's Award for Innovation in Protecting Children, and Amanda (Ama) Hargreaves, AV Foster Carer (Bendigo) a finalist for the Carer Award.

Amanda Stacey from COMPASS says "As a team we want to make sure there's great outcomes and results and we want to ensure young people have the best chance of success and live the life they want to live and so it is a great honour to be recognised for our work".



*levels are greatly reduced and my understanding of the benefits of realistic budgeting activities has improved” – Financial counselling client*

AV also has financial counsellors who specialise in helping survivors of family violence get back on their feet. Many of those who suffer abuse in a relationship also suffer financial abuse, where their partners maintain control of their finances and spending. This makes it much more difficult to leave a relationship and make a new start, particularly when children are involved. AV’s financial counsellors can help survivors by advocating on their behalf when they have outstanding debts and household expenses. They will also make referrals to other organisations and services that can provide additional support during these difficult

AV has recently trialled the integration of Financial Counselling into our Emergency Relief (ER) services, something that worked well during the pandemic. This collaborative approach has seen financial counsellors being co-located at both Mission House and Preston ER sites. As part of this process, a new ER Intake and Assessment Form that screens for financial counselling needs was developed and our ER volunteers and staff at both sites trained to more fully understand the role of a Financial Counsellor and the support they can offer in order to equip them with the knowledge and skills to speak to clients about the availability and potential helpfulness of FC services.

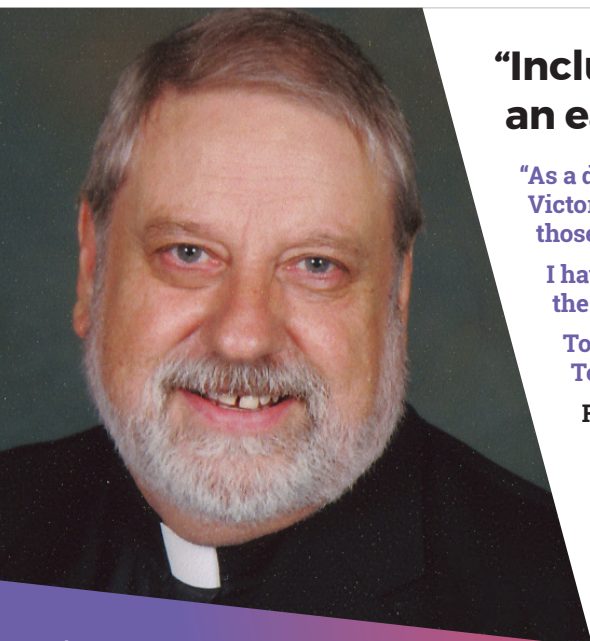
Chris de Paiva, Diocese and Parish Partnerships Program Manager says that the integration of these two services makes a lot of sense, *“Emergency Relief provides support on a temporary, one-off basis in times of hardship and the once off emergency provision is helpful to clients, but ongoing support is necessary, so linking these two services just makes sense.”*

## Critical help for those on the edge

AV supported Victorians with their finances during lockdowns over the last couple of years, but the post COVID period and the increasing cost of living crisis are proving to continue to put the squeeze on vulnerable Victorian families.

Large utility debts continue to burden vulnerable Victorians, who also need support to pay bills and rent. AV’s financial counselling teams provide support for an increasing number of people having a hard time paying their mortgages and also continue to help many people who lost their homes in the bushfires or other natural disasters.

They not only provide advice on available relief payments but advocate on behalf of their clients with insurance companies or utilities who are slow to act when need cannot be more urgent. *“As a result of the financial wellness worker’s negotiations, my stress*



## “Including Anglicare Victoria in my Will was an easy decision.”

*“As a devout Christian and an important member of the Anglican Family in Victoria, I am always looking for ways to help out and make a difference to those disadvantaged and less fortunate than me.*

*I have been supporting Anglicare Victoria for many years, in fact I supported the Mission to the Streets and Lanes in Melbourne, as many Anglicans did.*

*To me, to include a Gift in my Will to Anglicare Victoria was an easy decision. To me this truly reflected God’s love in action.”*

**Father Richard Murray – Vicar, St George’s Travancore, AV donor and bequestor and Friend of Anglicare Victoria.**

Find out more about including a Gift in your Will to Anglicare Victoria at [www.anglicarevic.org.au](http://www.anglicarevic.org.au)

Or email [giftsinwills@anglicarevic.org.au](mailto:giftsinwills@anglicarevic.org.au) or phone **Mary Croxford on (03) 9412 6006** if you would like to discuss your personal wishes in more detail.



## **Leaving violence is just the first step, Anglicare Victoria provides support every step of the way.**

For Tamara, the violence began almost immediately after she married her husband Aaron almost 10 years ago.

From the beginning Aaron isolated Tamara from her family and sabotaged her relationships with friends. As time passed, he became increasingly violent. "There was emotional, verbal, physical and sexual abuse," says Claire Courtney, an Anglicare Victoria Family Violence practitioner who worked closely with Tamara. *"Tamara's husband was hitting and choking her, but since childhood she'd been told 'if the marriage falls apart it's your fault. You have to fix it.'"*

Trying to live up to her perceived expectations of marriage, Tamara did her best to appease her husband, but his continuous attacks on her parenting and unpredictable outbursts of violence eroded her self-esteem and stole her confidence. *"Tamara tried to leave her husband before when he'd threatened to kill her and her children, but she just couldn't do it without support,"* notes Claire.

### **Everything changed for Tamara when she left her violent husband.**

With Claire by her side, she was able to get an intervention order preventing Aaron from having any contact with her or her children. Finally able to breathe easy, Tamara has begun the healing process.

"She is thriving," says Claire. "She feels safe. She feels like a weight is lifted off her shoulders. And she feels very, very grateful for our support."

***"Now, I can be the mum I want to be to my children," Tamara says simply.***

This year, Anglicare Victoria expects a greater demand for our Family Violence support services than ever before. This year, families are under more pressure than ever, struggling to cope with the relentless rise in the cost of living, with no hope of relief in sight. We're deeply grateful to you for your generous support.

Without your kind gifts we simply wouldn't be able to provide immediate help and life-changing support so women, like Tamara, can break free from violence, heal and create better tomorrows for themselves and their children. If you can, please show your generosity once again today – you can be assured your donation will make an immediate and important impact.



**DONATE  
NOW**

# Yes, I will help victims and survivors of family violence

## Donation Option

Please accept my single gift of:

\$35

\$65

\$115

\$250

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

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

## Payment Details

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

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Card Holder's 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

**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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