



Former Anglicare Victoria Residential Care client Chloe, dreams big



Guiding young Victorian's in care into adulthood

Let's finish what we started

Research indicates that 50% of young people leaving state care at 18 will end in prison, unemployed, homeless or a new parent within the first year of leaving care. This staggering statistic is what inspired us to establish the Home Stretch campaign. The campaign aims to advocate for young people to have the option to remain in state care until the age of 21; just like what is happening in any other family setting in Australia, and in care settings internationally.

In a study recently commissioned by Anglicare Victoria, findings show that for every dollar spent on extending support to age 21, the community would save between \$1.40 and \$2.69, depending on the state. The biggest savings would be reduced homelessness, (cut by half), reduced hospitalisation, (cut by a third) and reduced arrests, (cut by 35 %).

To find out more about the study and the campaign, visit www.thehomestretch.org.au.

A Bright Future for Chloe

*Chloe has been living in one of our residential care units for more than three years now. She came as a fragile and frightened thirteen-year-old who had been exposed to years of neglect and abuse.

But Chloe now knows, with the support of the Youth Workers in the team she now calls her "family", she can do whatever

she wants. So she's making her dreams a reality. About to finish her VCE, Chloe is undertaking a Beauty apprenticeship with the local salon and formal training in Beauty Therapy.

A happy, confident young woman, Chloe is now an inspiration to everyone she comes into contact with. Her future is bright.

** All names and images have been altered*

**BETTER
TOMORROWS**

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



2016 has proven to be a year of much progression for Anglicare Victoria. Our ground-breaking

Parentzone program has been performing important work in our communities. *Parentzone* worked with thousands of parents and carers over the last year and provided access to the resources and support they need to parent effectively.

The staggering statistic of 35% of young people leaving state care becoming homeless in one year is what sparked us to take action

and initiate 'The Home Stretch' campaign, which you can read more about in this edition of *Imagine*.

September also marks Foster Care Week and the start of our out-of-home care appeal. The core of Anglicare Victoria's work remains our commitment to providing nurturing homes for children and young people who are not able to live with their families for a range of reasons. On behalf of these children, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support that helps make this possible.

Paul McDonald
CEO Anglicare Victoria

TOY & FOOD APPEAL

Our annual Toy & Food Appeal is on again. By donating brand new toys or non-perishable food items you can ensure that every child in our care receives a gift this Christmas and every family we work with enjoys a wonderful meal together. **Please call 1800 809 722 to get involved.**



From Left to Right: Father David Moore, Bishop Genieve Blackwell, Archdeacon Jan Crombie, and Mrs Marg Kelly at the Thanksgiving Service for the former Anglicare Victoria auxiliaries.

Anglicare Victoria Partnership Group: A New Era

The Anglicare Victoria Auxiliaries have been in existence since the coming together of three former agencies that formed Anglicare Victoria in 1997: The Mission to the Streets and Lanes in 1886, The Mission of St James and St John in 1919, and St John's Homes for Boy's and Girl's in 1921.

In their heyday there were 72 auxiliaries associated with local parishes. These auxiliaries provided financial support through fundraising, provision of food,

emergency relief and practical support to children and families in need. However, due to an ageing population within the parishes and the diversification of the population, this number came down to just three.

After a meeting of 17 representatives from four parishes in March this year, organised by The Archdeacon for Parish Partnerships, the Venerable Jan Crombie, the Anglicare Victoria Partnership Group (AVPG) was

born. "It's about continuing the foundational energy and passion for the work of Anglicare in a network framework. Hopefully this will revitalise parishes in their support and attract a new generation of Anglicare advocates in the community," said Jan.

The AVPG was launched on July 21st at St John's Camberwell Anglican Church following a thanksgiving service that was held to pay respects to the former auxiliaries. Mrs Marjorie Taylor belonged to one of the first Anglicare Auxiliaries at St Margaret's Eltham, from the days of the Mission to the Streets and Lanes. "It's all about people in need," the 97 year old said. "That hasn't changed and we all need to contribute to that."

Under the AVPG model, a minimum of three people can register as a local support group to raise funds and advocate for the work of Anglicare Victoria. If you wish to form an AVPG within your local parish or your local area or suburb, please contact us at partnershipgroup@anglicarevic.org.au or phone 9412 6133.

Behind The Scenes: Staff Profile



Introducing Amanda Drake (Photo credited to Leader Newspapers)

Amanda Drake has been working for Anglicare Victoria for almost seven years now and is the Intake Worker for Placement and Support Services in the East. She is responsible for coordinating the match between the children referred to Anglicare and the appropriate foster carer. Amanda also coordinates the Family Respite Solutions Disability Program and

organises respite care for families who have a child with a disability.

Did you have a moment when you suddenly realised how much of a difference you were making?

I have many moments like that as my role works directly with children and families every day. We receive referrals predominantly from DHHS, and some from the community, to place children in Foster Care. This can range from an emergency placement, to long term, and respite care. Knowing that the children are safe and being provided the care they need makes me feel like I'm part of a community that support each other.

What do you wish other people knew about your work?

People are not aware of how much work, support and communication happens behind the scenes, how much effort goes into placing and maintaining children and families in out-of-home care (OOHC). We have a strong network within our teams and we all work together to recruit a carer, match a child to them, maintain and support the placement, and provide the

necessary support when a child leaves care.

What would you tell someone about why they should get involved with Anglicare Victoria?

We are a connected team! We are part of an incredible network who provide so much support to help make a difference for people and families, even if it's small. Anglicare is committed and dedicated to our clients.

Working in the space that you do, what sorts of trends do you see?

I see a lot more complex referrals now. The issues that these families are having that prevent them from supporting their children in home are becoming more complex, and the children entering care have more complex behaviours and issues in their lives.

What do you do when you aren't working?

I attend the gym seven days a week, and I enjoy spending time with my siblings and friends.

The Gift of Family

Wal and Estelle Appleby first became involved with Anglicare Victoria through the Mission of St James and St John almost 60 years ago. After being told that they would not be able to have children, they decided to adopt a baby through the Mission. "Mum found out the day before Good Friday that three day old Bruce was going to arrive in the house on Easter Sunday," says Louise Appleby.

A few years later, they adopted Bruce's brother Roger and were overjoyed with the gift of their family. In time Estelle realised she was pregnant with daughter Louise. "It was a miracle in those days, to have a baby at 40," says Louise. "Mum and dad were so happy and so grateful for all of us, for what they



Wal Appleby on his 97th birthday last year, which was attended by his three children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

considered were gifts from God. Growing up, I never thought of my brothers as any different to me, we were all a family. I can't imagine what our lives would have been like without each other."

"My late parents continued to support the Mission and Anglicare Victoria for many years after that, by donating every Christmas. It would have been very easy for them to have been happy at the time, and then for that gratitude to fade. But they continued to acknowledge Anglicare verbally and financially during their lifetimes. When dad decided to leave a gift in his Will to Anglicare Victoria, we were all happy that his legacy will continue to help those that need it most," says Louise.

A gift in your Will to Anglicare Victoria can make a real difference to vulnerable children and disadvantaged young people's lives. For more information: Anglicare Victoria's Relationship Manager-Bequests, Peter Burt on 9412 6197 or email bequests@anglicarevic.org.au.

Yes, I want to help children like Alice have a better life and a brighter future

Donation Option

Please accept my single gift of:

- \$75 can pay for a counselling session to help a child recover from abuse
- \$150 can cover a day's residential care for a child without a birth or foster family
- My choice of \$ _____

Please accept my monthly gift of:

- \$15 can help a foster child join a community sports club
- \$80 can provide tutoring for a foster child
- My choice of \$ _____

Payment Details

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

Please debit my credit card

- VISA MASTERCARD AMEX DINERS

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

Expiry - - / - -

Card Holder's Name

Card Holder's Signature

My details for receipting are

Name

Address

Phone

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- Please send me information about becoming a regular monthly giver
- Please send me information about leaving a legacy to Anglicare Victoria through a gift in my Will
- 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 www.anglicarevic.org.au
Phone 1800 809 722 to donate

Anglicare values your privacy. Please contact our Database Officer, Julie Witte on 9412 6136, to find out how we manage your personal information.



Alice's Story

***Alice was only 11 years old when she went into care. She shares her story.**

I was placed in out-of-home care for numerous reasons. I was neglected as a child, physically and sexually abused, and I was a victim of drug related domestic violence. When I was 16, I got involved with Anglicare Victoria's Springboard Leaving Care program.

Anglicare Victoria helped me make better choices when it came to my wellbeing, and slowly gain my independence. While I was living in residential care, I managed to obtain part time employment at Subway, where I worked for 5 to 6 days a week. In March, I moved out of residential care and into my own unit, something that I never imagined would have been possible.

Anglicare Victoria has given me so many more opportunities than I would have otherwise had. I really feel like I have a fresh start in my own home and I have everything I could have wanted at my young age.

I am about to start studying my Certificate IV in Community Services. After I finish my course, I hope to work in a residential care unit and give some time back to the kids. Having experienced living in care myself, I feel I could contribute and really make a difference in their lives.

I am both mentally and physically happy and well, and I am so excited to see what my future holds. Anglicare Victoria has given me the support my parents didn't give me, and I hope that you will be able to help them transform the lives of other young people that are currently in care.

**All names and images have been altered*

Please donate today to help children like Alice have a better life & a brighter future