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Celebrating 25 Years of Anglicare NT

This year, Anglicare NT celebrates 25 years of operation in the NT. Our origins as a contemporary organisation lie in the late 1980s in Darwin, with the name Anglicare first used in 1989.

The Anglican Church's outreach role then focussed on feeding hungry people in the Parish of Sanderson and providing accommodation for Arnhem Land residents who had to come to the city for hospital treatment. It also employed two social workers, Kathy and Brian Massey, who lived and worked on Groote Eylandt as alcohol counsellors.

Under the leadership of Bishop Clyde Wood, the church called on Peter Fisher to manage the church's rapidly expanding role.

In the early 90s Anglicare added family counselling to its repertoire, later expanding into family mediation, youth housing, disability services and aged care.

In Anglicare NT's first decade, it played an important role in helping victims of the Australia Day floods in Katherine, and distributed donated clothing and personal items to hundreds of refugees flooding into Darwin from the conflict in East Timor.

Today the organisation has nearly 320 staff running over 60 programs providing services to children, youth, aged, disabled, refugees and Homeless people. We also offer personal and financial counselling services.





In this issue's opinion piece, CEO Dave Pugh talks about labels in society and the potentially damaging effects they can have on people.

Beyond surface labels

Recently the ABC program Q&A discussed issues of race, racism and the movie *Utopia*. In a response to comments about 'the Aboriginal problem' Arrernte elder Rosalie Kunoth-Monks expressed outrage at being labelled 'a problem'. She argued that such labels belittle, dehumanise and mislead. "I am not a problem, I am a human being, rich in culture, law and family."

It was one of the most powerful speeches I have ever heard. One message from Rosalie Kunoth-Monks is that we must avoid using labels. Labelling people not only dehumanises them, but it can also destroy our relationships.

Anglicare NT staff believe the people we work with have unique personal histories and futures, with capacities and strengths beyond their knowledge and ours. Because we believe that the person is their own best expert, we see them as the best ones to lead their journey away from the 'problem'. The person and the problem are separate. The person is NOT the problem. We avoid labels. If a person accepts the label society or others give them, it can in fact limit the solution-finding capacity of the person. Somebody experiencing homelessness is so much more than just 'homeless'. The person with a drug addiction is so much more than a 'drug addict'. Many people who experience mental illness find it hard to believe they will recover, and labels like 'schizophrenic' send a message that the symptoms are for life – which is just plain wrong. It also ignores all the other aspects of their lives – mother, sister, daughter, worker, gardener, artist, cook.

Following our motto *Respect – Justice – Community*, avoiding labels is one way of showing a deep respect for the full humanity of each person we meet.

It is always a joy in life to meet a person and to go beyond the surface of the initial labels we habitually assign to people. We move to a position where real relationships can develop, and this leads to a much fuller life for all involved.

Q: Who were the first people to invent controlled unmanned flight?

A: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, who invented the boomerang.

Indigenous Employment

Currently, 16% of Anglicare NT staff are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Partnerships

Anglicare NT is in dialogue with Indigenous organisations to ensure we create partnerships with them where possible.

Launch of our Reconciliation Action Plan



On Wednesday 28th May, as part of Reconciliation Week, Anglicare NT officially launched its Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) in Darwin, Nhulunbuy and Katherine. In Nhulunbuy, staff and guests walked and talked together around the centre of town, handing out Anglicare NT RAP highlights, and returned to the office for a picnic. Clients, police, other service providers and local MP Lynn Walker relaxed, sitting on mats under the trees and two gazebos.

In Darwin, staff and guests walked the Cajuputi trail and were guided with a talk on some of the local bush food and uses for native plants by Greg Stehle. Back at the

head office, Larrakia elder Dorothy Fox spoke, and the plan was officially launched by our CEO David Pugh.

The Reconciliation Action Plan was launched in Alice Springs on 3rd July, with Anglicare NT Alice Springs staff visiting Standley Chasm and Simpson's Gap. This visit was facilitated by Rhonda Inkamala (NILS Microfinance Worker Anglicare NT, Alice Springs) and her mother Mrs Trudy Inkamala. The staff heard about some of the Inkamala family traditions of the site and learnt about some of the bush plants as a source of food and medicine.

Anglicare NT has had a long commitment to being a culturally safe, respectful and empowering organisation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients, staff and communities. A good word to describe the deep process needed to sustain this commitment and understanding is 'Reconciliation'.

Anglicare NT aims to help create strong, inclusive and sustainable communities, in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples control their destinies, express their spirituality, have positive life choices and are able to fulfil their potential.

Through the implementation of our Reconciliation Action Plan, Anglicare NT will deepen its commitment to empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



Baby news!

Congratulations to staff Mardi Greyling, Lynette Neade and Nerida Smith on the births of their babies.



My Life Through a Lens

Leading up to Youth Week 2014, Anglicare NT Youth Services ran a photography competition called *My Life Through a Lens*, inviting young people to take pictures on the theme of *What home means to you*. Many entries were received and exhibited at Browns Mart in Darwin as part of Youth Week celebrations from 4th-11th April 2014. A number of the participants are pictured above, including winner Rodriguez Wilson from Gunbalanya (second from right), who received a Nikon camera to help further his interest in photography.

Couch Surfing

Also as part of Youth Week 2014, Anglicare NT, in conjunction with a number of other local organisations, ran a couch surfing event to raise awareness of youth homelessness. Many young homeless people are unseen by the general public, as they move from house to house, sleeping on couches. This event aimed to increase awareness of their situation. A range of youth services entered teams, as well as Darwin High School. The winning team was a group of young men from Gunbalanya (Oenpelli), who are part of Anglicare NT's youth diversion program at Gunbalanya. Lots of fun was had by all and there were plenty of thrills and spills.



Homeless Stats

15,000 young people in Australia are homeless. 3946 (15%) of this number are in the Northern Territory. (2011 Census Data)

Anglicare NT Volunteers

Anglicare NT took time out during Volunteers Week this year to celebrate the great work of our volunteers across the organisation. During the week, we also nominated Lorraine Koch for a Chief Minister NT Volunteer of the Year award. Lorraine has been volunteering as a community visitor for 10 years. She has an amazing ability to

connect to the elderly “as if they’re my own parents”. What a contribution people like Lorraine make! Thanks to Lorraine and all our volunteers in Restore, HACC, community visitors and advisory committees. Below are some of the faces that make up our volunteer workforce.



Volunteers Snapshot

Anglicare NT has more than 200 volunteers helping across the organisation in areas such as aged care, gardening and recycled goods and clothing.

NT Volunteering

The Northern Territory has more volunteers per head of population than any other state in Australia.

Corporate Volunteers

Anglicare NT has benefitted from the assistance of corporate partners who occasionally contribute the time of their employees in volunteering with Anglicare NT. Pictured at right are volunteers from AURECON global engineering group helping with some gardening.



Volunteer your company

If your company is interested in assisting Anglicare NT with its volunteer program, contact Anglicare NT on 8985 0000.

Difficulties for Carers

Almost half the carers recently surveyed in the East Arnhem region reported that they had a disability or chronic disease themselves, and 77% lived in overcrowded housing.

Source : MJD Foundation Disability Audit NE Arnhem Land NT Gulf, June 2013



East Arnhem Carer Respite Claymations

Anglicare NT has produced a series of animations promoting the East Arnhem Carer Respite Service, in collaboration with Al Oldfield of Greenfield Productions. These animations show situations commonly experienced by carers looking after the elderly or the mentally ill, or by young carers looking after parents. These videos powerfully illustrate this service to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and can be watched in English or Yolŋu Matha language on the Anglicare NT YouTube channel. The channel can be found by searching for Anglicare NT on YouTube, or going directly to our channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDcunvKr5F4k1OJPvkI2juQ>



We Grow Them Up Festival

The biennial We Grow Them Up Festival was held from 22nd to 23rd May 2014 at the Hilton Doubletree in Darwin. This event brings together workers from across the NT and interstate to discuss and celebrate the work being undertaken in the early childhood sector. This year, more than 100 delegates attended from the East Arnhem Land region, West Arnhem Land and Central Australia.

Topics of keynote speakers included statistics showing some positive trends in child health in the NT, the East Arnhem Regional Council iStories initiative in Angurugu, Child Friendly Communities, the Children's Ground initiative in West Arnhem Land, and app development and other initiatives being undertaken by NT Libraries.

One of the key features of the festival was the Yarning Mats, where small groups were encouraged to talk, discuss and share ideas about work in the area of early childhood development. A range of exciting new resources was presented in these sessions, as well as presentations on a range of different services benefitting children across the NT. There were also specific men- and

women-only sessions to discuss sensitive topics relating to child-rearing and childbirth. Families And Schools Together NT (FAST NT) delivered a session focussed on mentoring Aboriginal workers. New resources were also displayed by Families As First Teachers (FAFT) and the Ingkenteme & Akeyulerre Healing Centre.

Some of the feedback received included comments by members of an Alice Springs contingent, who said they had "never been to something like this that really gives Aboriginal people from remote areas a voice in the work they are doing in such a positive way."

All in all, the festival was a resounding success, demonstrating Anglicare NT's great work in the Commonwealth-funded Communities for Children initiative and other areas. The festival also offered a strong platform for Indigenous workers working in this field to have their voices heard on how to 'Grow Up' little children. Pictured below are some of the people who attended the festival.

AEDI Research shows some improvement in East Arnhem

Research conducted for the Australian Early Development Index shows that the percentage of children in the East Arnhem region who are developmentally vulnerable in the area of physical health and wellbeing has decreased from 34.6% in 2009 to 19.9% in 2012.



The quarterly
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Anglicare NT is a respected provider of quality human services in urban, regional and remote areas. Our motto, Respect, Fairness and Community, articulates our values of cultural respect, social justice and partnership. As an organisation, we are committed to child-safe, strength-based and community development-oriented practices. Help us make a lasting difference in the lives of Territorians by making a donation.

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Donations:

Donations to Anglicare NT over \$2 are tax deductible and may be made in person at reception at any of our offices above, or by posting a cheque or money order to: Anglicare NT, PO Box 36506 Winnellie NT 0821

Alternatively, contact us on (08) 8985 0000 to request a donation form for credit card or EFT transfer payment.

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