

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### HOUSING SUPPORT - THE KEY TO GETTING BACK ON TRACK

Anglicare NT CEO Dave Pugh is in Alice Springs today as part of Homelessness Week 2017. He spoke about the significant role housing support services play in assisting people to move from homelessness to more stable accommodation.

“The Northern Territory has the highest rates of homelessness of any State or Territory in Australia. The impact of homelessness is all-encompassing. It can affect a person’s physical and mental health, increase the likelihood of alcohol and substance abuse and reduce opportunities for employment and education,” said Mr Pugh.

“Housing and homelessness services in Central Australia are committed to working together to address homelessness. Anglicare NT’s Housing Support Services, funded by the Department of Housing and Community Development, supports people in various stages of their journey from homelessness into transitional housing and long-term tenancies. Individuals and families are provided with support to address any underlying personal issues or given assistance to access work opportunities. We provide opportunities for people to learn the money management and tenancy skills for an ongoing tenancy.”

Mr Pugh presented an example of how Anglicare NT’s Transitional Housing Program in Alice Springs has recently assisted one resident to get her life back on track with the right blend of housing support services. The woman, a survivor of family and domestic violence, was in prison at the time of her referral to Anglicare NT’s housing program.

“Prior to her release from prison, a housing support worker from Anglicare NT visited the woman to establish a relationship and develop a support plan. Soon after her release, she was offered a place in Anglicare NT’s Transitional Housing Program. The woman quickly developed new skills and confidence, regained custody of her child and began work producing bush medicines. She recently presented at the National Reintegration Puzzle Conference in Sydney on her experiences of the justice system and her life since her release.”

“Recidivism rates are high for people who are released from prison without a home to go to. Much can be achieved when support, accommodation and hope are available to people in need.”

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ANGLICARE NT’S HOUSING PROGRAMS

Contact Ashley Perez at Anglicare NT on 0447 945 117

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