

Community

Community care honour

ANGLICAN Community Care (ACC) has won the SA Great Community Group Award.

The award was handed to Mount Gambier ACC at the SA Great Regional Awards 2008 function in Naracoorte on Monday in recognition of the not-for-profit organisation's commitment to furthering community pride and confidence in the South East.

ACC chief executive Rob Foggo said winning the award recognised the passionate and committed staff and volunteers who continually improved the ways the organisation delivered services to the local community.

"We started in Mount Gambier 22 years ago with only one social worker and a part-time administrator and now employ over 145 people and deliver over 70 programs throughout the South East, Murraylands and Riverland," Mr Foggo said.

"We are proud of our region and the people who live here and our commitment is to regional and rural South Australia - it is where we started and it is our future."

In February this year, the State Government acknowledged the ACC's excellence in delivery of valuable services to their local community with a "service excellence" award.

The ACC is committed to reducing homelessness, promoting learning, strengthening families, alleviating poverty, building communities, supporting children and sharing cultures.

Accepting the award, Mount Gambier ACC's organisational development director Ute Herrmann-Bullock said there was a lot of homelessness in Mount Gambier, but homeless people were not found on park benches, mainly owing to the climate.

"It is not very obvious - they often are couch surfing - they often bunk down with older people who may have been already engaged with the justice system and who may be struggling themselves," Ms Herrmann-Bullock said.

SA Great chairman Nigel McBride said he believed passionately in recognising the successes of South Australian communities.

"To see the amount of talent on display among the entrants of The 2008 Regional Awards is staggering. These entrants reflect clearly the successes occurring in our regions", Mr McBride said.

"The awards are a fantastic way of recognising and celebrating our regional successes."

