

the organisation | the beginning

Anglican Community Care Inc was formed in Mount Gambier in 1985, with one social worker, a part-time administration officer and an accommodation support worker.

Placement of children into foster care in Mount Gambier was in hand with the State Government, however, a strong need was emerging for "at risk" local teenagers to be accommodated safely in stable and nurturing environments. Together, caring local individuals and government departments were successful in receiving a state government grant. The Anglican Parish Council of Christ Church Mount Gambier came forward and accepted the responsibility for auspicing the then foster care service for local teenagers aged 12 to 18 years. A separate organisation called 'South East Teenage Care' was created.

Today the organisation employs nearly 200 staff. More than 60,550 (FY07-08) people in the South East, Riverland and Murraylands of South Australia have been supported by Anglican Community Care Incorporated (ac.care), through over 70 different programs and services that fall under one or more of 7 goals:

- alleviating homelessness • building communities
- promoting learning • reducing poverty • sharing cultures
- strengthening families • supporting children

ac.care

opportunities for life ... for rural people

new public identity | ac.care

On April 3rd, 2009 the organisation adopted a new public identity demonstrating a move forward and identifying the organisation as a leading service provider for rural people. Anglican Community Care Incorporated is now referred to as ac.care.

focus

Skill development, early intervention and education to positively impact on people struggling with emotional, financial and relationship issues.

program profile | reconnect - tree of life project

Tree for Life workshops give young people an opportunity to use artistic and creative skills to explore positive aspects of their lives, representing them using the tree of life model.

Mark Bettcher, ac.care Reconnect Youth Worker will facilitate the workshops, together with a health worker from Mallee Health Services in Pinnaroo. It will be held at the Karoonda Youth Drop In Centre on the 14th 15th and 16th of April (Easter) from 12.30pm to 3.00pm daily. Workshops will include games/activities, drawing/colouring, lots of fun, conversation and yummy food.

Participating in Tree for Life is free for young people in year 7, 8 and 9. Free transport can be provided from Lameroo if required and lunch is provided each day. The Tree for Life workshop has been made possible through support from Mallee Health Service, Karoonda East Murray District Council and ac.care.

To get involved in Tree for Life over Easter phone ac.care on 8532 6192



hot issue | today's foster care

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Child Protection Australia 2007-08 report shows that the number of children in out-of-home care in Australia rose by almost 115 percent over the last decade - from around 14,500 children in 1998 to 31,166 children in 2008. Source: http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/tanyaplibersek.nsf/content/child_protection_report_21jan09.htm

These are not just city kids and the national trend is reflected in rural South Australia.

Children are taken into care for a number of reasons including emotional, physical and sexual abuse, neglect, family breakdowns, lack of parenting skills, medical conditions, drug & alcohol abuse and domestic violence.

ac.care works to recruit foster carers in the South East, Riverland and Murraylands of South Australia that are committed to providing a safe, stable and nurturing home for a child or children (siblings for example) in need.

Foster Carers are aged over 25 years of age, single or couples, either working in or outside the home, with or without children of their own. ac.care works with carers at all times providing training, advice and emotional support. To find out more contact ac.care.

some stats | South East, Riverland & Murraylands

Total Foster Carers (households) in 2008 - 113

Total requests to support children in need received by ac.care in 2008 - 1,002

quote | foster carer | "After being a foster carer for 11 years, I wouldn't change my life to anyone's."



case snapshot | alleviating homelessness

Jane was a young woman who had nowhere to live and was 'couch surfing' in a small rural community. ac.care, through their housing association 'ac.housing' provides a number of affordable homes designed to help keep young people in their community. Through stable, affordable accommodation Jane secured permanent employment. The risk to the employer of an employee leaving the area due to lack of suitable accommodation was minimised.

(Names and locations have been changed to protect ac.care clients)

minya porlar creche | staff graduations

Five ac.care child care workers are about to receive qualifications in Children Services, and all work at Minya Porlar Creche in Murray Bridge.

Nicole Rhodes, Leah Elliott and Michelle Knitschke have successfully achieved their Diploma in Children Services, while equally successful Ruth Carter and Rohanna McKeown will receive their Certificate III in Children Services.

With the graduations of all staff, ac.care's Minya Porlar Creche offer a unique Aboriginal child care service. With a higher than usual ratio of qualified staff to Children Minya Porlar are committed to quality educational experiences for children.

Recently Minya Porlar Creche restructured, creating two new areas. One room for toddlers aged 0 to 3 years and another for children 3 years to school age. The new change is proving to be extremely positive allowing children to experience a greater range age appropriate play and education.

Minya Porlar Creche is available to parents and grandparent carers in the local Aboriginal community and is open between 8.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Thursday for children aged 6 months to school age.

To find out more about Minya Porlar Creche phone 08 8531 3969.

your donations | stay in your community

All financial and in-kind donations received by ac.care remain in the local community and directly assist families, children and individuals through life's challenges. All donations are tax deductible. (Anglican Community Care Incorporated is a registered charity | ABN 53 440 436 445) To make a donation phone ac.care on 08 8724 9211 or online www.accare.org.au

Phone Murray Bridge 8532 6303 | Email care@accare.org.au | Website www.accare.org.au

