

Anglicare Prayer Diary 2023



Devote yourselves
to *prayer,*
being watchful
and thankful.

Colossians 4:2

What a great blessing it is to be able to devote ourselves to prayer. It is a true privilege to bring our joys, anxieties, fears and thankfulness to our loving Heavenly Father. Thank you for praying with us.

Our Mission

Serving people in need, enriching lives,
sharing the love of Jesus.



Anglicare's continued journey to reconciliation

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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people face ongoing trauma from displacement, loss of land and language, separation from families and discrimination. Anglicare is committed to working alongside these strong and resilient people as we continue to move towards reconciliation together.

Give thanks

- For God's eternal love for all people groups.
- For those within our organisation working on policies and procedures that support reconciliation.
- For our staff working alongside Aboriginal people.

Please pray

- That all Australians will show love, care and respect to their Aboriginal neighbours.
- That we will be able to recruit more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff members so we can effectively serve their communities.
- That Anglicare will continue to serve vulnerable Aboriginal families with love and empathy.

Bridget, one of our Anglicare Mental Health Chaplains, was setting up for her usual group meeting at the hospital. Usually, around ten patients showed up, but this time there was just one. She decided to focus on Psalm 13.

She read, "How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me? Look on me and answer, Lord my God. Give light to my eyes."

The patient abruptly stopped her and said, "This is my life! How do you know this? Are you sure this is the Bible?"

Bridget reassured him that it was the Bible and that the author of the Psalm was much like us. She finished the reading and gave the man a Bible and some tracts, followed by a simple explanation of the gospel. She told him how he could receive Jesus and gave him contacts for local churches when he was discharged.



People in hospital

Hospitals are places of healing and rest as well as pain and loss. Anglicare chaplains support not only the thousands of patients and families navigating difficult times but also hospital staff who are frequently under immense pressure themselves.

Give thanks

- For our 24 Anglicare hospital chaplains, and the many volunteer chaplains caring for patients and staff in public and private hospitals.
- That our chaplains have developed good relationships with hospital staff.
- For the sure and steadfast hope in Jesus that they can share with others.

Please pray

- For opportunities to make an impact even with patients and staff who are there for only a short time.
- For continued freedom to openly share Jesus and the gospel with others.
- That they will have sufficient resources to serve people in their time of need.

Sophie* had been attending Christian activities organised by Anglicare Chaplain Alli for several months. Yet whenever Sophie was asked what she thought of the Bible and Jesus, all she would say was “It’s interesting.”

It wasn’t until one week, when Sophie and Alli had time alone, that Sophie started to open up. After reading a Bible passage together, Sophie shared her questions about God. They were personal and painful questions about suffering, the future and Heaven.

Alli realised that God had been at work all this time, slowly softening Sophie’s heart and opening her eyes. And in God’s perfect timing, he created a moment for Sophie to voice her deepest questions in a safe place.

**Resident’s name has been changed to protect their privacy.*

People in residential aged care homes

Moving into residential aged care can be daunting - navigating a new building, meeting new people and learning a new routine. That’s why we seek to create safe and welcoming residential aged care homes where faith can flourish and each resident can continue to follow their passions.

Give Thanks

- For the opening of three new residential aged care homes – Porter Lodge, Piper House and Roden Cutler Lodge.
- For the almost 60 chaplains and pastoral carers who support residents, their families and staff.
- For the countless opportunities that our team has had to share the love and comfort of Jesus.
- For the way God has continued to show his incredible power through prayer, providing healing and salvation.

Please Pray

- That God will raise up new volunteers to assist the chaplains in this important work.
- For the continued protection of residents and staff from sickness, especially COVID-19.
- That the pastoral care team will continue to meet the spiritual and emotional needs of residents and staff.



Mobile Community Pantry volunteer Susan started her day with an ordinary task: renewing her Working with Children Check at Service NSW. After a long wait in the queue, she approached the counter only to be told that one of her digital identity documents did not meet the requirements and she would need to do it again.

Frustrated, she thought she would sort it out another day, but on her way home she changed her mind and decided to take the original documents straight back instead.

While waiting in another long queue, she overheard a gentleman asking about support for food supplies with Service NSW. As the representative was explaining that most of the support had ceased due to COVID-19, Susan saw her God-given opportunity. “We actually have a Mobile Community Pantry,” she explained, jumping up and introducing herself. The Service NSW Support Specialist asked for more details so she could promote the service to their clients.

What a reminder of how God is at work in our lives, even in ordinary, everyday events.



The Mobile Community Pantry

God calls for us to care for the vulnerable, and the Mobile Community Pantry (MCP) does so in a practical way, providing low-cost groceries to local communities. By partnering with local churches, the team helps to build bridges that create natural pathways for shoppers into the life of the church.

Give Thanks

- For the willingness of 54 partner churches to serve alongside the MCP.
- For shoppers who have come to know Christ through the MCP.
- That the MCP can meet spiritual and social needs as well as physical ones.

Please Pray

- That food shortages will not prevent the MCP being able to serve communities.
- For protection against COVID-19 as the team members travel and interact with others.
- That more shoppers will come to know the love of Jesus through the MCP.

Hope amid disaster



Bushfires. Floods. Storms. The last few years have seen disaster after disaster striking Australians across the country. Our Disaster Recovery volunteers provide material, emotional and general support in the aftermath of these emergencies, sharing the love of Christ in an authentic and practical way.

Give Thanks

- For our amazing teams of committed, experienced and compassionate volunteers who continue to serve even in the midst of multiple natural disasters and COVID-19.
- For opportunities to partner with churches in providing a disaster relief platform that can bless and support our local communities.

Please Pray

- That those who have been impacted by natural disasters will be filled with hope alongside receiving practical support.
- For the emotional wellbeing of our volunteers who often go from disaster to disaster with little time to rest and recharge.
- For the success of new disaster recovery teams, church partnerships and technology that will allow for improved communications, rostering and reporting.

Vital research



When you're trapped in poverty, every day is a struggle to survive. Underlying this can be systems that make it difficult to escape. That's why Anglicare produces strong, evidence-based research to advocate for disadvantaged Australians.

Give Thanks

- That our research informs strategic and operational decision-making across the organisation.
- For the support of Diocesan leadership in our work.
- For outstanding teamwork that allows our research to achieve great results for broader Anglicare services.

Please Pray

- That our research will enable us to continually improve and to work more effectively.
- For wisdom and strategic thinking under sometimes stressful and tight tender-writing deadlines.
- That government bodies will better understand the challenges of disadvantaged Australians and act accordingly.

Maureen* had always described herself as fiercely independent, but life changed for her in retirement after she suffered as stroke.

Initially, she found it difficult to accept the help she now required. Over time, an Anglicare mental health practitioner was able to establish a good relationship with Maureen through genuine caring, active listening, rapport, validation and empathy. She was able to slowly open up and begin accepting assistance that could help her.

Now, Maureen is more open about her needs and is actively engaging in activities and her community again. Her son agrees, saying that he has noticed how much progress she had made.

**Name changed to protect privacy.*

Emotional wellbeing for older people

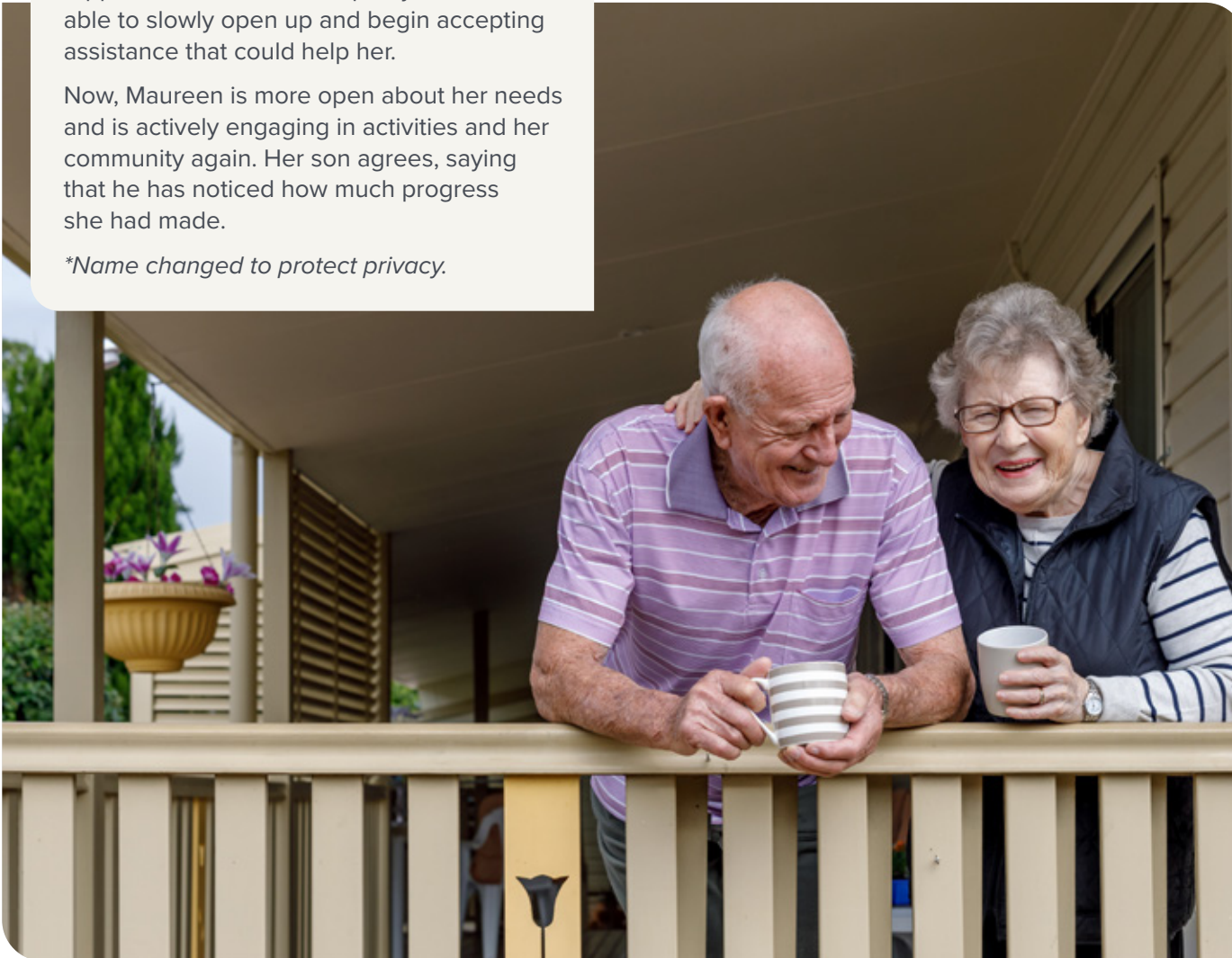
Mental and emotional wellbeing are critically important to everyone, which is why Anglicare provides dedicated support for older people. This gives them the opportunity to talk through the challenges of life without stigma, fear or shame and receive the help they need.

Give Thanks

- For the opportunity to restore a sense of dignity and purpose to older Australians.
- That our service has made a positive impact on around 800 clients who have seen improvement in their emotional wellbeing.
- For a skilled team of dedicated professionals who provide psychological services to those who are vulnerable in aged care homes.

Please Pray

- That those feeling isolated or lonely in aged care homes will discover new hope.
- That the busyness of working in aged care won't prevent staff being able to have the time to engage residents in meaningful ways.
- That our team will be able to carefully examine the internal and external factors in each person's life to better help them in their challenges.



At just 16, Ben* was couch surfing between friends' houses due to significant family relationship breakdown. One of the families he stayed with attended a local church who were able to help Ben get in contact with an Anglicare Reconnect worker, Mary.

Ben was nervous and wary of support because he had felt let down by police and a hospital social worker. He had only the clothes he was wearing and no identification, phone, money or food. Reconnect provided Ben with a phone, vouchers for food and essential items, and referred him to Anglicare's Food and Financial Assistance service for further material support.

When an attempt at restoring his family relationships did not work out, Mary supported Ben to

move into a youth crisis refuge. He is now moving into longer-term, stable, transitional housing. With Mary's support, he now has his birth certificate and can access Centrelink benefits. Ben is an intelligent and motivated young person, he hopes to finish year 12, study at TAFE and get a casual job.

During his time with the service, Ben reported he felt safe and surrounded by people who cared. He said he now had a "good support network that he never knew existed."

**Name and some details changed to protect privacy.*

Disadvantaged young people

For some young people, conflict with family members can lead to serious consequences, including homelessness. Supporting young people at these incredibly difficult junctures of their lives is vital in ensuring they can be restored to having hope for a bright future.

Give Thanks

- For new opportunities to support young people in South-West Sydney.
- For the client-centred and self-sacrificial approach of our team members.
- That young people are able to find hope for their future through Anglicare's services and Jesus.

Please Pray

- For young people who are homeless, suffering or under-supported by their families.
- That young people will be heard, understood and respected by the adults in their lives.

Anglicare partners



By working in partnership with churches and schools, Anglicare can make a positive difference in the lives of a greater number of people. And, in turn, by partnering with Anglicare churches and schools can better holistically care for their communities.

Give Thanks

- That through partnering with churches, Anglicare can better proclaim the love of Jesus.
- That in partnership with Anglicare, churches and schools are better equipped to be Christ's hands and feet.
- For volunteers and those who generously provide funding, food and clothing.

Please Pray

- That we will find creative ways to engage with and support churches.
- That our community care projects will be the foundation for other initiatives as churches care for their communities.
- That through partnership, Anglicare and our partners will identify and bring action to areas of deep need.

English classes and cross-cultural services



Shared language and culture are at the heart of what it means to belong. That's why supporting the language classes offered by churches, along with providing cross-cultural awareness training and volunteer teacher training, is so important for multicultural communities to flourish.

Give Thanks

- For the servant-hearted volunteers serving in this ministry across churches.
- That God's sovereign hand is at work in communities.
- That churches are looking to engage their local communities and meet them where they are.

Please Pray

- That students will grow in their English knowledge and make new friendships.
- That new cross-cultural awareness training will bear fruit in growing sensitive, humble connections between churches and their communities.
- That English class students will hear and understand the good news Jesus brings.

Paul, a resident at Minto Gardens Retirement Village, was brought up in a Catholic household and attended a Catholic school. As a young man, he stopped attending church and would instead spend Sundays driving around and enjoying nature as an expression of his faith.

After deciding to live at Minto Gardens, he began to investigate his faith more seriously. He started attending chapel and Bible study every week, from the first chapel service in November 2021. At the same time, he became friends with Steve and Sheryl who lived on the same floor and who are regulars at Minto Anglican Church. Paul accepted their invitation to come to church. Anglicare Chaplain Sashi was leading the church service that particular day and ensured Paul was introduced to other church members. He is now a regular member of Minto Anglican Church and has joined a Bible study group there as well as continuing to attend chapel and Bible study at Minto Gardens.

God used Paul's move to Minto Gardens to reinvigorate his faith and draw him closer and back to a Christian community. Please pray for the residents of retirement villages that God will use chapel services, Bible study groups and other Christian residents to show them the gospel.

Retirement living residents

Retirement is a major milestone in life as people transition from years of working into years of rest—or, for some, years of being busier than ever before! Anglicare retirement living villages provide a unique opportunity for people to come together to build community and relationships.

Give Thanks

- For the opportunities the team has to love and serve people every day.
- That God is loving, kind and always in control.
- For Christian residents who encourage and look out for their neighbours with a desire to point them to Jesus.

Please Pray

- For wisdom in helping repair broken relationships among residents.
- That the team will ably identify individuals who are feeling isolated and help them find joy in their community.
- For ongoing opportunities to share Jesus' love, grace and mercy with those who don't yet know him.



A message from one of our counselling clients:

"This doesn't really do justice to the practical grief counselling I received from my counsellor when I was at my most vulnerable. She listened empathetically, picking up cues from what I shared with her and was able to give me wisdom and insight in my journey. As a Christian, I obviously needed godly input in counselling, and to share with someone of like faith was a blessing.

"I have enjoyed my sessions with her as she lovingly and prayerfully steered me through this difficult time. The outcome is that I am so much stronger, as I move on in the strength and goodness of the Lord and with my network of loving family and friends. And I know I can return for a 'top-up' if needed."

Healing through counselling and mediation

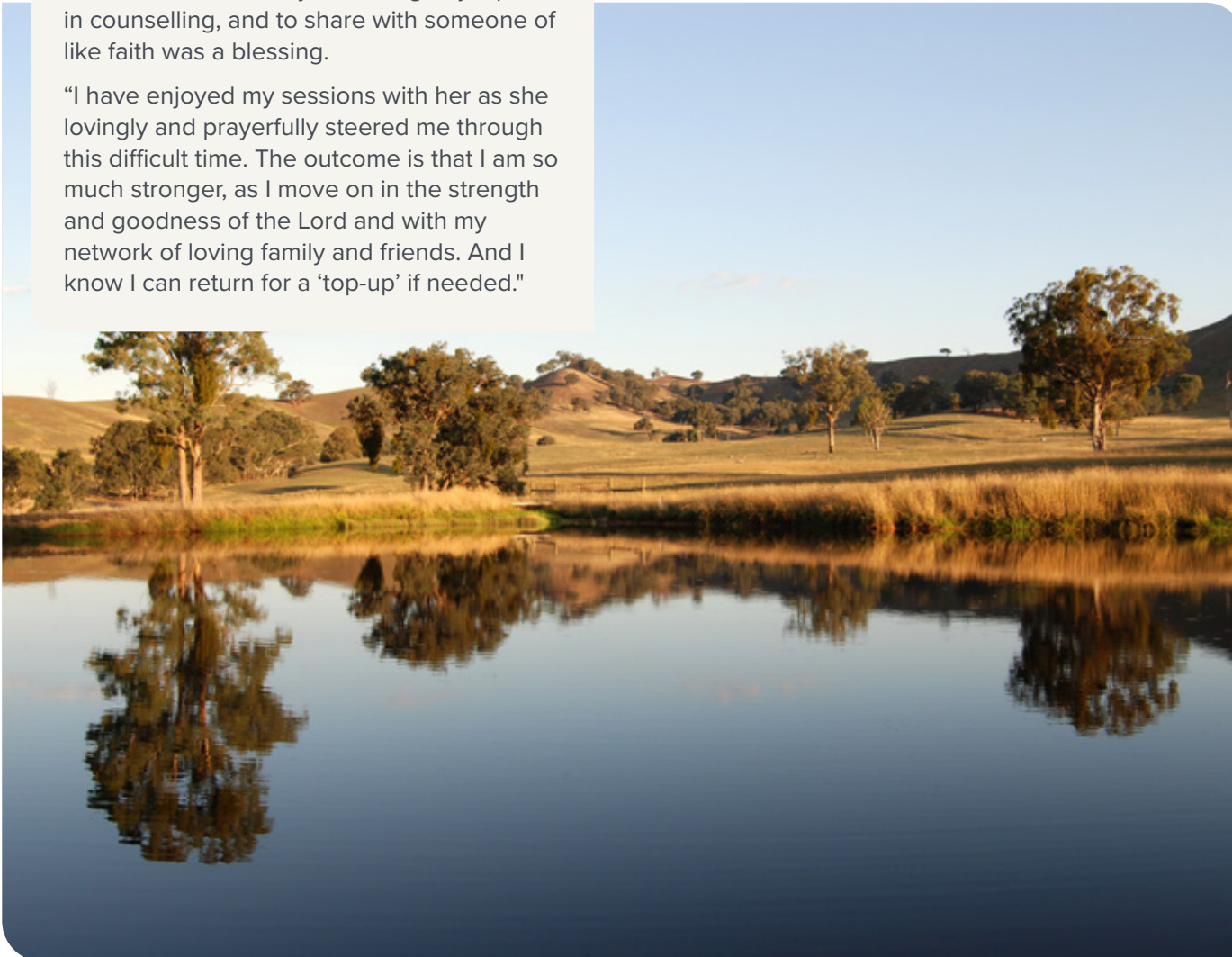
There are times when the challenges of life can weigh us down and we realise we can't keep going on alone. Anglicare's counselling and mediation services staff seek to use their knowledge and understanding to support others. A little bit of help can make a big difference.

Give Thanks

- That over 4,000 people this year could be assisted through counselling and mediation.
- For the opportunity for Anglicare staff to show the love and compassion of Jesus at every interaction.
- That our staff can be the hands of feet and Jesus in the community.

Please Pray

- That those who need help will have the courage to reach out earlier.
- For wisdom and care in supporting those who have suffered serious harm or conflict in their lives.
- That God will raise up vision and mission-aligned professionals to join the team.



Recently, a group from Abbotsleigh School for Girls and residents from Goodwin Village participated in the Take Love Virtual Visiting program. They met online via video chat for four weeks before enjoying a face-to-face morning tea together. The residents got to share their stories and the Abbotsleigh girls had the opportunity to learn from older members of their community.

After hearing one resident, Joan, talk fondly about the way her Dutch mother-in-law used to make traditional Bitterballen meatballs, the students had a go at making the meal themselves. Joan was thrilled to try some and delighted to enjoy eating them again for the first time in many, many years.



The *Take Love* youth initiative

Take Love is about taking the love of Jesus to communities and inspiring others to do the same. We equip individuals, schools and youth groups with practical ways to action what God has put on their hearts and get involved in Anglicare's life-changing work.

Give Thanks

- For faithful partner schools and churches who continue to engage with Take Love.
- For the opportunities students have to get involved with and be a part of their broader communities.
- That Take Love is able to attend KYCK conference and engage with over 5,000 students each year.

Please Pray

- That more young people will respond to Jesus' call to love and serve others.
- For wisdom in determining what Take Love should focus on and discerning where we can be most effective
- That we will be able to grow our reach further, especially in Northern Inland, South-West Sydney, Wollongong, Illawarra and Shoalhaven.

Each week, Anglicare chaplain Steven meets with diverse groups of people to read the Bible and pray together. One man, a prisoner named John*, shared the details of his traumatic childhood and how he had spent many years trapped in drug addiction and living in a tent under a freeway bridge.

That day, Steven read from Hebrews 11: "By faith Abraham made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise." John immediately felt God was speaking to him.

Steven and John spoke afterwards, and John showed him how having the name of a friend who had died of an overdose tattooed on his arm helped him with his addiction. John has now been released from prison and been connected with Overcomers Outreach for further support.

**Name and some details changed to protect privacy.*



People in prisons

Anglicare Justice Chaplains take the gospel to prisons and law enforcement as well as providing pastoral support in these challenging areas. Their ministry involves leading services, taking one-to-one Bible studies and helping others in practical ways through listening, building trust and prayer.

Give Thanks

- For our well-trained team of 16 chaplains who can listen and respond to people in a significant time and place of need.
- For the staff who work in prisons, juvenile justice centres, the Rural Fire Service and the Police Service.
- That our chaplains were able to continue their work throughout COVID-19 restrictions and had many meaningful conversations.

Please Pray

- That the Holy Spirit will guide our conversations and conduct in institutions requiring extra sensibility and discernment.
- That the volunteer chaplains, who assist our Anglicare Chaplains, will meet the needs of prisoners, staff and law enforcement.
- For grace and wisdom during the thousands of hours of interactions with ever-changing prison populations.

Family Life Skills



The Anglicare Family Life Skills and Education Team offers evidence-based courses, workshops and resources in partnership with local churches and community organisations. The sessions cover parenting, relationships, mental health, life skills and more to bring lasting change and enrich lives.

Give Thanks

- For the scope and flexibility of the team to creatively meet the needs of churches and organisations.
- For good relationships that continue to be built with churches across the Sydney Diocese.
- That 1,900 participants attended seminars and courses over the last financial year.

Please Pray

- That the skills and lessons learned will be carried into the everyday lives of people to bring long-term change.
- For good health and ongoing energy for the whole team.
- That the team will be well-prepared for the broad range of people they work with across different socio-economic, geographical, cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds.

Even in rural areas, language can be a barrier. Annie is a Chinese immigrant who doesn't speak English well. When she joined Anglicare's Older Persons Mental Health program, the staff and Annie had to resort to communicating through Google Translate.

Annie explained she was having financial difficulties, so she was connected with a Financial Counsellor, who assisted her to access Centrelink, and was introduced to the Mobile Community Pantry to access discount groceries.

She joined Anglicare's Social and Wellness centre in Tamworth for older people who are isolated and want to reconnect with other people. At the centre she made friends and found a new sense of belonging in her community. She has also been connected with an English class running at a local church.

Through a network of services all working together, Anglicare was able to provide holistic care for Annie.

Northern Inland

Anglicare serves not just the people of Sydney, but also those living in the Northern Inland area around Armidale, Tamworth, Moree and especially in remote and regional communities. Our Northern Inland programs take a broad range of mental health, counselling, aged care, pastoral care and food support services to those who need them.

Give Thanks

- That we can faithfully serve the people of the Northern Inland area.
- For growth and stability of the team and the services they provide.
- For the capable and enthusiastic team of leaders and staff who care deeply for their community.

Please Pray

- For energy, strength and unity as the team members frequently travel hundreds of kilometres.
- For wisdom in applying for and delivering programs.
- That vital aged care services will become firmly established in Tamworth.



Refugees and asylum seekers



For those who must flee from their home countries, arriving in Australia can be an uncertain, difficult and traumatic time. Our team reaches out to refugees and asylum seekers, providing specialised mental health support and helping them to begin to feel at home.

Give Thanks

- For a skilled team of dedicated individuals who are committed to providing Christ-like care.
- That the mental health of many clients has improved through our programs.
- For our volunteers who build relationships and for churches who are welcoming and accepting of refugees.

Please Pray

- That those who lost or were unable to find employment during COVID-19 lockdowns will now be able to work again.
- That there will be a greater awareness and acceptance of mental health issues in refugee and asylum seeker communities.
- That Afghan and Ukrainian people who have recently arrived in Australia will settle in to their new homes and find peace in Christ.

Seniors in the community

Anglicare Chaplain Keren was contacted by a family member to visit their relative who was receiving palliative care in hospital. On arriving in the client's hospital room, the family left them together to talk. On saying hello and sitting beside the bed, the client offered their outstretched, frail hand for Keren to hold.

For a long time, they sat in silence as Keren just listened to their shallow breathing and deep sighs. She prayed to God for the right word or action to take that would help them. In the end, she said nothing until nearly two hours later when the client said, "Thank you for sitting with me, it's just what I needed. No one will let me think." Then they prayed together.

On reflection, Keren learned that sometimes pastoral care ministry is more than words—it's being a presence.



For those still living at home in their older years, maintaining relationships and receiving the emotional, social and spiritual support needed can become challenging. Our Community Aged Pastoral Care team visit homes and make phone calls to ensure no one feels alone.

Give Thanks

- For the opportunities God has given the team to make meaningful connections with older people and their families.
- For the team's unity and desire to serve God, one another and older people.
- For wonderful volunteers, their faithfulness and the connections they've made with older people.

Please Pray

- That God will provide—the needs are great, but resources are limited.
- That those who feel isolated, lonely and invisible will know they are seen, treasured and loved.
- That more volunteers will come forward to be part of the Phone Friend team.

On what seemed an ordinary day in the Lithgow Anglicare Op Shop, Sandra* walked in. As she was browsing the shelves, Store Manager Corrine asked if she needed any help. As they chatted, Sandra shared her story of mental health challenges and homelessness. The shop team made her a cup of tea, sat down with her and offered to pray together while volunteer Vanetta packed a bag of items to help her.

Sandra was then connected with a local church and Anglicare case worker from whom she could receive emotional, spiritual and financial support. She continues to visit the Lithgow Op Shop and the team are always ready to welcome her in. Sandra says that as soon as she enters the store, she can truly feel the presence of God.

**Name and some details changed to protect privacy.*



More than an Op Shop

Over 600,000 people walk through our Op Shop doors each year, but they are much more than just retail experiences. Our Op Shops are a strategic touch point with local communities and a place where those who need help will always be heard and can be referred to our broader services.

Give Thanks

- For the local churches and schools who partner with us and donate to our Op Shops.
- For many opportunities to be enriched and to enrich others as we serve.
- For the many volunteers who returned to reconnect with their communities after COVID-19 lockdowns.

Please Pray

- That more people will volunteer and see the opportunity to connect with their communities in a meaningful way.
- That we will be adequately prepared to serve those who come to us needing material, emotional and spiritual care.
- That our staff and volunteers will be ready to listen to those who walk through our doors and have the wisdom and energy to do so faithfully.

Seniors at risk of homelessness



The risk of homelessness can come at any stage of life. For older Australians, the rising cost of living combined with retirement and relying on government pensions can have devastating consequences. Anglicare Housing supports men and women over 55 with safe and secure accommodation.

Give Thanks

- For the 624 residents receiving shelter, as well as care and support, from our team.
- For the opportunity to support others and make a positive difference in their lives.
- That our residents can become a part of a community and feel a sense of belonging.

Please Pray

- For older men and women who are homeless and in need of a safe place to live.
- That additional funding will allow Anglicare to help even more vulnerable seniors without a home.
- That our team will be able to show compassion and empathy to those who need more than just shelter in their lives.

Vulnerable children



Every child deserves a safe home, but many children are growing up in families experiencing poverty, homelessness, domestic violence, mental illness and addiction. Anglicare works with families to prevent them from slipping into crisis and finds safe places for children through foster care and adoption.

Give Thanks

- For the foster carers who lovingly welcome vulnerable children into their homes and create an environment of safety and belonging.
- For the church and school communities who support foster carers, foster children and their families.
- For the energy, professionalism and compassion of our Foster Care, Adoption and Family Preservation team who work tirelessly for the best possible outcomes.

Please Pray

- That children who are waiting for permanent homes experience the transforming love of God through foster families, community and the care of our teams.
- That church congregations are awakened to God's heart for the most vulnerable in our communities and will be open to caring for children in foster care.
- That our foster carers experience peace and understanding in their relationships with their foster children, biological children, their community and with our staff.

Anglicare caseworker Matilda was checking in on clients who had previously been given support in the aftermath of the 2019-2020 bushfires. Rather than starting from the top of the list of names, she began contacting people from the most severely impacted areas. As she did, she prayed for the guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead her to the people who needed assistance most urgently.

On an early phone call, Matilda spoke with Sue.*

Sue shared how she was almost three weeks behind in her mortgage payments and that she had only bananas and half a loaf of bread left to feed her family of five. The family was suffering the effects of both the bushfires and the subsequent loss of work due to COVID-19.

As Matilda explained to Sue that Anglicare could assist her financially, she began to cry. “I think an angel must have told you to call today,” Sue said, “because today was the day I told my husband we’ve nothing left.”

Matilda didn’t know it at the time, but the amount of assistance Anglicare could offer was almost exactly the total of the mortgage arrears Sue owed. She also assured Sue that Anglicare could provide food assistance for her family.

Sue told her how that very morning she had looked up at a patch of blue sky and said thank you for her family, but that she also needed some help. On that same day, God had provided for her.

They prayed together, and Matilda shared how she believed the timing was more than just coincidence but God’s hand at work. Matilda praised God that Sue was able to be reminded of his love and care for her.

**Client’s name has been changed to protect their privacy.*

People seeking food and financial help

Imagine struggling to put food on the table for your family or to pay for the basic necessities of everyday life. This is the reality for many Australians each day. Anglicare provides practical assistance in the form of food, bill assistance, no interest loans and other necessities.

Give Thanks

- That our team can provide a creative, warm and welcoming offer of Christian hospitality as a demonstration of Jesus’ love.
- For the generous food and financial donations that have helped to ensure Anglicare has access to high quality food and goods to provide for our clients.
- For the resilience and determination of the Food and Goods Warehouse team who have weathered many storms throughout the pandemic.

Please Pray

- For families struggling due to the pandemic and increased costs of living.
- That we will be able to partner with more Anglican churches to help reach more communities, especially those in greatest need.
- For wise management of our budget and staff capacity to ensure that we can provide a meaningful and sustainable service to the community.

Suzy is from a non-English speaking background and fled from domestic violence. She has one school-aged child and wants to be independent—to live a life where she makes her own decisions for her child and herself.

She is learning to speak English and has grown in self-esteem and confidence to the point of advocating on her own behalf for her needs and her child. She is well connected to the community with the support of her Anglicare family worker and has learned to drive. Soon, she will be undertaking her driving test and is confident that she will attain her driving licence and be able to use the car that she has purchased.

Suzy knows the next phase of her life will be filled with hope.

Families starting again

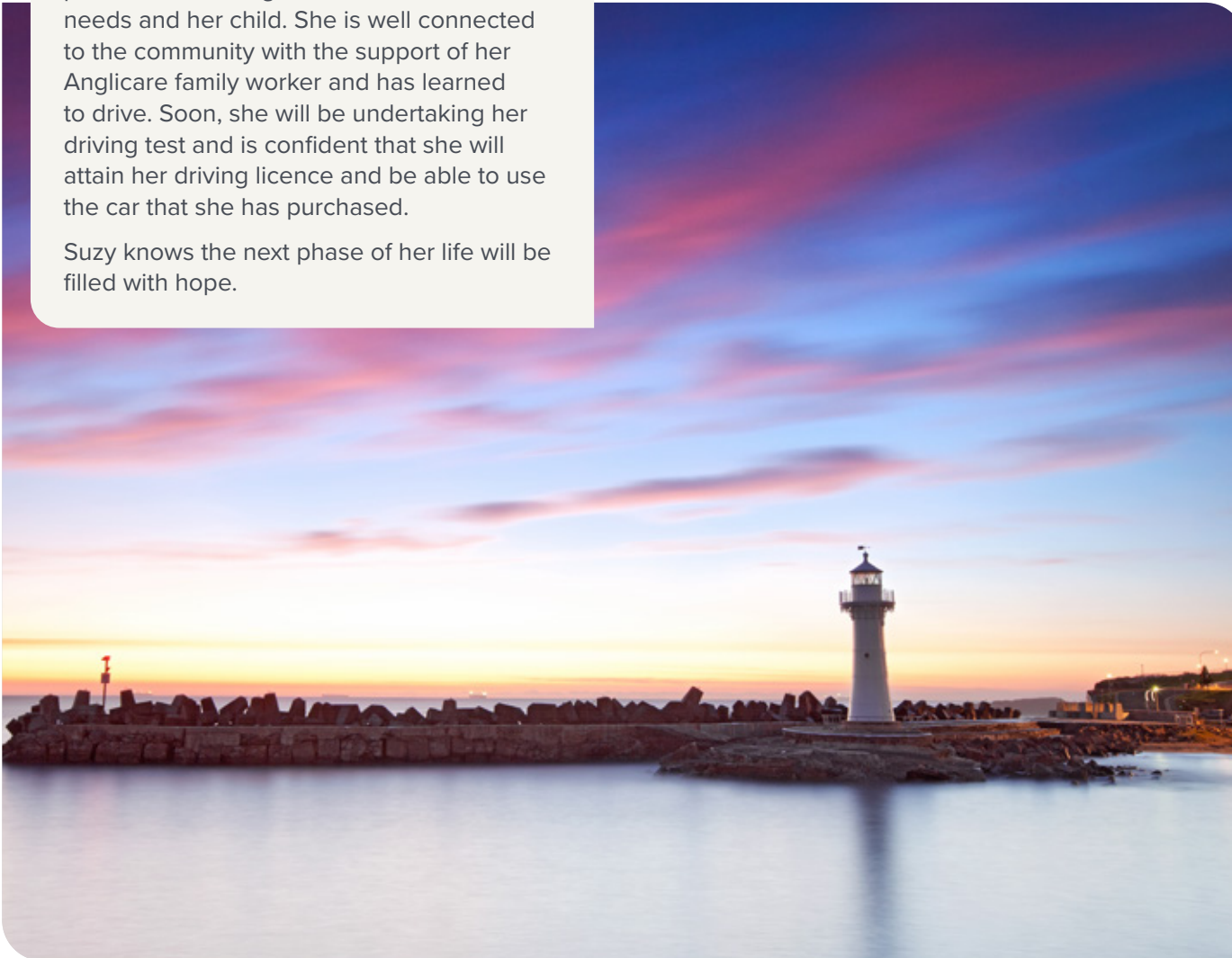
For some, escaping domestic violence or other dangerous situations at home means packing your things and leaving at a moment's notice. Our SHIFT program supports families, offering them support and accommodation in these times of crisis.

Give Thanks

- That God has taught us it is better to give than to receive.
- For local churches who continue to support families and give them a loving place to belong.
- For the opportunity to show Christ's love to others in practical ways.

Please Pray

- That in a high-cost housing market, affordable rental opportunities will be found for families.
- That effective support can continue to be given to families even as COVID-19 often makes this difficult to do face-to-face.
- For families whose rental applications continue to be rejected, that God will give them a safe place to call home.



Pastoral care courses



Knowing what to say during tough times is vital in caring for others. That's why Anglicare chaplains train Christians in jails, hospitals, aged care homes, retirement villages and churches across the Diocese and beyond in pastoral ministry so they can effectively and lovingly serve others.

Give Thanks

- For those who recognise the importance of pastoral care and want to further their understanding of it.
- For the team of teachers who train Christians in pastoral care ministry and the opportunities to assist people to love well.
- That those who attend the courses can walk away with new practical skills.

Please Pray

- That God will provide the resources to further pastoral care training across the Diocese.
- For the opportunity to develop new strands of pastoral education.
- That those who go through the courses will be able to more effectively love and care for others as Jesus does.

People living with dementia



When you're living with dementia, you may not always remember what you need to do or where you need to be. That can be scary, frustrating and worrying for your family and friends. Thankfully, tailored care is available to help and support.

Give Thanks

- That God hears the prayers of his people, even when they can no longer speak out loud.
- For the opportunity to provide education sessions for families supporting a loved one with dementia.
- For Anglicare's dedicated team of dementia specialists, clinicians, chaplains, lifestyle and care workers who serve people living with dementia and their families.

Please Pray

- For opportunities to share the good news of Jesus with residents and clients living with dementia.
- For peace, strength, patience and reassurance for family carers of people living with dementia.
- That new staff and volunteers will come onboard to help provide care to clients.

Responding to domestic violence

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Domestic violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women. The overall wellbeing of those who have experienced domestic violence can suffer, and recovery requires psychological and spiritual support as well as physical safety.

Give Thanks

- For the successful launch of the book *Renew: An Australian Guide to Christian Women Survivors of Domestic Abuse*.
- For Anglicare's commitment to continue improving our response to domestic violence through the wide uptake of Safe and Together model of practice.
- For the women, men and children who have been given support as they escape domestic violence.

Please Pray

- That those experiencing domestic violence will find safety and support.
- That those who commit violence will repent of their behaviour and abusive choices.
- That churches will be safe places for those who have experienced abuse.
- That *Renew* will be a helpful resource for survivors and churches.

Our *generous* volunteers



Anglicare volunteers are essential in providing support, emotional and social connection. These men and women are vital in assisting staff and providing extra support in their communities. Every week they go above and beyond in showing the love and compassion of Jesus.

Give Thanks

- For each volunteer who donates and commits their time to faithfully serve God and their neighbours.
- For a great team that serves our organisation wholeheartedly and remains focused on the wellbeing and health of the community.
- That Anglicare staff are blessed, encouraged and greatly assisted by the support of our volunteers.

Please Pray

- For the safety and protection of all volunteers from COVID-19 and other illnesses.
- That new volunteers will come forward to serve their communities through Anglicare.
- That new avenues will open up for volunteers, allowing us to serve more communities across the state.

Anglicare care advisors are dedicated to the wellbeing of their clients. Sally cares for Christine, who remains living at home but is deaf and has no family support. Sally coordinates a large group of people to ensure she has appropriate care and support to enable her to continue to stay at home.

Christine puts all her trust in Sally and is her first point of contact. Sally is always active in her role and has strategies in place for how Christine communicates with her and with others.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Christine became socially isolated late last year. But Sally took her out for lunch which lifted Christine's spirit, ensuring she felt cared for and loved.



Anglicare At Home

Your home is a place of safety and comfort, and we all want to stay there as long as we can. But in older age, everyone's needs are different, which is why Anglicare's at home care supports independence with services tailored to the needs of each individual.

Give Thanks

- For the opportunity to help older people to live independently at home.
- For teamwork and collaboration between departments in a sometimes challenging environment.
- For the individual lives touched by the thoughtfulness of staff and their willingness to go out of their way to serve.

Please Pray

- For the safety and wellbeing of older people living on their own or during times of illness.
- That government reforms will not prevent Anglicare being able to provide care in a holistic, Christ-centred way.
- That a steady workforce will allow us to deliver continuity of care.

The Gospel in the workplace



The Good News of Jesus is at the heart of who we are—and we want to share it! All Anglicare staff complete Christian Care training to consider how we can serve and enrich the lives of those we care for in a Christ-centred way.

Give Thanks

- That God’s love can be shown and shared through Anglicare’s work.
- For the ongoing creative opportunities to share Christ-honouring conversations and stories about why we care like Jesus.
- For our 4,000 staff and Christian Care Ambassadors who seek to share the love of Jesus as they care for the whole person - attending to physical, mental, emotional, social, spiritual and financial needs of clients, residents and customers.

Please Pray

- For the effective rollout of our *Christian Care - Living our Vision, Mission and Values* e-learning and the *Growing Conversations About Jesus* course for our staff.
- That the *Taste and See* course would help support the faith journey of staff and residents who don’t yet know Jesus personally.
- That people will encounter Jesus and the hope of the gospel through all of our services.

Sarah* had struggled with drugs and alcohol for many years. She was living on Centrelink payments. After paying for rent there wasn't much money left for food. A friend suggested she visit the One4Life Community Care Program at South Sydney Anglican Church. They ran a food ministry on Fridays.

Sarah lined up with everyone else to receive a bag of food. Then she was invited to come to Overcomer's Outreach, a program to support people with addiction. There she was given the opportunity to attend Christianity Explored. Sarah came to understand that Jesus had died for her and loves her and now he was transforming her life.

"I was baptised and have been coming along to church for three years and six months. I know that because that's how long I've been clean."

Sarah now helps with the One4Life food ministry so that she can help others like herself.

**Name changed to protect client's identity.*



Community Care programs

Many churches are aware of deep needs or ways they want to serve Christ in their communities but don't have the support or resources to do so. Anglicare's Community Care Program provides churches with a way to receive tax-deductible donations for their community projects.

Give Thanks

- For churches looking to reach out into their communities through new ideas and projects.
- That Anglicare can support churches through the provision of resources.
- For the 13 programs already up and running, including four focused on supporting Indigenous communities.

Please Pray

- For wisdom for church leaders as they undertake and roll out new initiatives.
- That the new projects launched will allow churches to serve their communities and show the love of Jesus more effectively.
- That more new projects will be launched in partnership with churches.

Wisdom in leadership



Clear and servant-hearted leadership is essential in ensuring Anglicare can effectively work in our community. With over 4,000 staff and 2,000 volunteers who serve more than 60,000 people in over 130 locations across the Sydney Diocese and beyond, wise leadership is critical to success.

Give Thanks

- For the servant hearted women and men of faith who God has raised up to serve our clients, customers and residents.
- That our leadership team can put the gifts and experience God has given them into practice.
- For our Board, CEO and Executive, who set our direction and execute a clear mission for our work.

Please Pray

- For guidance, wisdom and courage for our Board, CEO and Executive. That God will lead their response to significant challenges and rich opportunities.
- That we will continue to put the people we serve at the heart of what we do.
- For God to provide gifted Christian women and men to join us and help carry out our mission.

Notes

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