



## *“A Word from the CEO”*

*Leigh Garrett*

As the 2015-16 financial year comes to a close, I am really pleased to be able to report that we have had a successful year with our clients and a solid year financially. We have piloted some new and innovative services with support from our partners at the Department for Correctional Services and have continued to provide great support in the programs that have been part of our services for many years.

Most of our services have waiting lists and this is particularly problematic in our Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Services and our Accommodation Services. Thankfully we have received notification that the Commonwealth Government will fund us to a greater extent in our AOD services, and whilst we are still in negotiation about the contract, an expanded AOD service should be available in late August to early September.

We have also run a pilot programme to support people who have offended sexually. The Program is called Circles of Support and Accountability or COSA for short. It is well known internationally and evidence has proved its success at significantly reducing re-offending sexually against children. This program is run by volunteers, who we train and assist to engage with ex-offenders, and they provide a group-based support and accountability service to reduce victimization.

We are always looking for volunteers to assist us in a number of our services including the Yatala Family Centre and COSA. If you can help please contact us.

Thanks again for your kindness and support as we try to reduce victimisation in South Australia.

*Leigh*

## *Our Vision!*

### **OUR MISSION:**

Reduce social harm by strengthening communities and social inclusion through the provision of restorative justice services, high quality treatment and rehabilitation services, support and advocacy, at critical transition points.

### **OUR VISION:**

Strong communities with positive social connections underpinned by restorative practices.

### **OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

Social Justice  
Restorative Justice  
Community Participation  
Human Rights  
Continuous Improvement  
Advocacy  
Prison as a Last Resort.

## *Our Services*

Home Detention Integrated Support Service  
Reintegration Accommodation Services  
Drug & Alcohol Counselling & Comorbidity  
Support for individuals and families,  
including Advocacy & Referral  
Gambling Support Service  
Therapeutic Courts Treatment Services  
Emergency Financial Assistance  
Christmas Toy Program  
Centre for Restorative Justice  
Cadell Bus  
Yatala Family Centre

Contact us at:

320 Port Road, Hindmarsh SA 5007

**Ph: 08 8218 0700**

**Fax: 08 8212 5515**

**or on the web at**

**[www.communitytransitions.com.au](http://www.communitytransitions.com.au)**



## *Newsletter Winter 2016*

*The purpose of this newsletter is to keep members and supporters updated on the events at OARS Community Transitions.*

*We have many experiences to tell you about and have selected a few to share with you.*



*We also want to take this opportunity to ask you to consider making a donation to support our clients and services during this winter season.*

The OARS SA Board comprises:

Annabel Shinkfield (Chair)  
Robin English (Deputy Chair)  
Michael Faraonio  
Chris O'Grady  
Greg Pattinson  
Peter May  
Leigh Garrett (CEO)



Annabel Shinkfield, Chair

Dear Members and Supporters

Here we are at the conclusion of another financial year full of challenges, but also a great deal of welcome positivity. It has been highly energizing to have had the privilege of becoming acquainted with our Patron, His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, Governor of South Australia. The CEO and I were invited to a private meeting with the Governor on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February this year to discuss our activities, and were grateful to hear of his deep passion for safer communities. We were able to discuss the many ways our services improve community safety, as well as a number of strategic opportunities we hope to pursue that will build the resilience of children and families of offenders. We know that helping offenders to maintain functional relationships with their families is a key factor in reducing recidivism and victimisation within our communities.

The State Government has continued its reform agenda in the Justice and Corrections sectors. We have been greatly appreciative of a number of constructive meetings with the Honourable Peter Malinauskas, MLC, whose portfolios include Police and Correctional Services. The Minister has been generous with his time, meeting with the CEO and I first on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February this year, and then making the time to speak with the Board at our June 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. During these discussions, the Minister took the opportunity to outline the challenges his department faces in delivering the improvements in offender outcomes that the community demands. Happily, we were able to reassure the Minister that our programs and services are already assisting with delivering these outcomes, and that we have a number of opportunities that will further improve recidivism rates and community wellbeing. As a Board we were impressed by the Minister's clear passion for the services we provide; he is certainly the only Minister to have so enthusiastically engaged with our Board, which he made time for in spite of a pressing, pre-election workload.

We look forward to the next financial year with a great deal of optimism that our services, and the number of people who benefit from them, will experience the increase we have been working hard to achieve. Reductions in victimization will surely follow.

Warm regards,  
**Annabel Shinkfield**  
Chair

## UPDATE ON OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

OARS COMMUNITY TRANSITIONS endeavours to provide an array of creative, compassionate and relevant services for its clients. A brief list is included on the back of this brochure. We have pleasure in providing this half-yearly update for your information.

The first part of 2016 has proven extremely busy with an exciting office move for our Executive, Administration and Accommodation Outreach Services. After 21 years at 234 Sturt Street, Adelaide, these teams have **now moved to 320 Port Road, Hindmarsh**. (Our phone numbers remain unchanged). Our client services will continue to operate from 231 Morphett Street, Adelaide (as well as our Christies Beach and regional services). The process of archiving our documents for the move was interesting, with many photos, Annual Reports and newsletters displaying a long history - we were heartened to see that many of our supporters have journeyed with us for a long time. Thank You!  
June is often a stressful time for management and staff as we wait to hear whether our programs will be re-funded. We are pleased to be able to announce that all of our programs will continue. We are thankful to all of our funding bodies. We have also been successful in securing some new Programs:

- A new program known as the **Interim Home Detention Integrated Support Service Program (IHSSP)** is commencing in June. We believe this will assist in improving outcomes among home detainees.
- Our **Circles of Support & Accountability (COSA)** Program has commenced and will feature in a segment on Lateline in the near future. Supporting sex offenders is often not popular, however we hope this program will assist clients and enhance public safety.
- We are delighted to be successful as a Preferred Provider for the **Primary Health Network Drug & Alcohol Treatment Services**. We are awaiting further information regarding level of funding & service provision. We continue to provide **Drug & Alcohol services funded by the Dept of Health**.
- Our work in the **Restorative Justice** arena has also continued with training in various schools (both Regional and Metropolitan). We are also developing an RJ Training Program for the Youth Detention Centre, and Partnership Packages for agencies/organisations.
- The **Boomgate Family Centre at Yatala Labour Prison** is undergoing refurbishment. Our thanks to Amanda Blair and the management and staff of Lend Lease for donating their time and expertise to get this project underway, and the cooperation of DCS staff.
- Our work in the **Court Diversion Programs** continues to grow. With the addition of a Drug Urine Analysis at Mt Gambier, the Drug Court and Domestic Violence Perpetrator service are all now available at **Mt Gambier**. Our **Staying Quit and Moral Reconciliation Therapy groups** continue to receive referrals from the Treatment Intervention Court, and the **Drug & Alcohol Groups, Domestic Violence Prevention Program and Safe Relationships groups** continue in the Adelaide/Metropolitan areas. A **Treatment Readiness Group** is also available for clients with treatment/motivation barriers.
- Our **Hostels** continue to support men recently released from prison. The veggie gardens are going well, cooking classes have commenced and the Berri Hostel has now re-opened after suffering closure due to white ants. All hostel clients in Berri have now registered with an employment agency. The Brompton Hostel underwent a recent refurbishment.
- There are 12 women accommodated within the **Transitional Housing Program**. We are looking forward to seeing this program develop.
- The new **Gambling Intervention Program**, that endeavours to divert people with gambling related offending issues away from incarceration and into therapeutic programs, saw its first participants and supported them as they moved through their reviews. Clients provided very positive feedback regarding the support received. The program has been extended until the end of the year. We were also delighted to hear that the **Gambling Help Service** will be re-funded until June 2017.
- The overall operations of OARS have been under considerable pressure as services have been developed and implemented, with many clients with high and complex needs. A **small staffing restructure occurred and new staff employed** in the metropolitan area and **Senior Case Workers at our Berri and Brompton Hostels** to ensure client services run smoothly.
- We were so thankful to the staff of Gloria Jeans at Colonnades for their initiative in assisting with us when we were unable to run our **Christmas Program** in December. Donations were also received from Zonta Women's Southern Area, the Adelaide Day Centre, and Essentials 4 Life, as well as private individuals. Thank you for this wonderful response.



Leigh Garrett with David Brown, CEO of Dept for Correctional Services

### Opportunities to Assist Us:

- Our **Family Centre at Yatala Labour Prison needs more volunteers** for Saturday mornings. If you are able to assist, please call Dot Stagg on 8218 0700.
- If you are an **Employer** and would be open to exploring the **potential of employing ex-offenders**, we would be delighted to hear from you.
- We have a number of **support services available on a Fees-for-Service basis**. Please contact Dot Stagg on 8218 0700. We can provide support for clients with multiple complex issues, including: Gambling Support Service, Drug & Alcohol Counselling/Treatment, Pre & Post-Employment Support, Restorative Conferencing, and Staff training tailored to your needs.
- We are currently experiencing high demand for our services and your **donation to our Winter Appeal** would be appreciated.

### Quality Accreditation Update

We are delighted to have successfully completed the **National Disability Insurance Scheme Accreditation** process in January 2016.

Our QM Team attended training and meet regularly to ensure we are on track for our **2017 Quality Improvement Council Accreditation**