



“A Word from the CEO”

Leigh Garrett

2019 has been an interesting and exciting period for us as the Marshall government consolidated the 10By20 policy created by previous Minister Malinauskas, and committed to continuing the programs funded under this new approach. This has fitted in perfectly with our mission and ensured that funding for critical programmes was maintained. We have achieved some fantastic results this year for our clients, and as a result new opportunities are arising, and this has brought with it the need for change.

Last year we changed the names of the Service Divisions of OARS CT to Re-integration Services (RS) and Rehabilitation Treatment Services (RTS) and as new opportunities have emerged, it became clear to me that each Division needed its own General Manager to fully capitalise on the current services and develop and implement new services. Dot Stagg was appointed as General Manager RTS and Tracy Chapman as General Manager RS.

Dot has done a fantastic job managing these Divisions over the last 5 years or so, but OARS CT has changed significantly over that time and we are now operating more services, and importantly these services are more sophisticated and have higher accountability to Government funding agencies than previously was the case.

Further changes to the management and team structure was required, with three separate Team Managers appointed to report to each of the General Manager Roles, totalling 6 across the organisation.

These strategic changes will ensure that we have the leadership capacity to effectively manage an organisation that is bigger than in the past and is continuing to grow.

Louise Kelly has done a tremendous job in ensuring our readiness for NDIS Registration, with Desktop and Onsite Audits undertaken during the last few months. We hope to finalise this process soon. Our mid-term Quality Improvement audit with the Quality Improvement Council was also undertaken.

We are looking forward to the next financial year, which looks certain to be another year of growth and development. Your assistance is always needed and appreciated.

Leigh

Statement of Purpose

Enhancing community wellbeing by reducing offending and victimisation

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS:

- Reintegration Services
- Clinical Services
- Advocacy
- Victims & Crime Prevention
- Organisational Excellence

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Social Justice
- Restorative Justice
- Community Participation
- Continuous Improvement
- Prison as a Last Resort.

Our Services

- Home Detention Integrated Support Program
- Women’s Intensive Support Program
- Reintegration Accommodation Services
- Assistance with Care and Housing
- Drug & Alcohol Counselling
- Gambling Support Service
- Gambling Intervention Program
- Therapeutic Diversion Courts Services
- Counselling, Health and Substance Management (CHaSM)
- Support for individuals and families, Including:
 - Advocacy & Referral
 - Emergency Financial Assistance
 - Centre for Restorative Justice
 - Cadell Bus Service
 - Yatala Family Centre

Corporate Services located at:

53-61 Dale Street, Port Adelaide, SA 5015

Ph: 08 8218 0700

or on the web at

www.oars.org.au



Newsletter June 2019



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 and throughout the year.

The OARS SA Board comprises:

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



Annabel Shinkfield, Chair

Dear Members and Supporters

2019 has been a positive year to date.

The staff have worked incredibly hard alongside our clients to support them in achieving more positive life outcomes. The internationally-recognised HISSP program has yielded some outstanding results for ex-offenders and the community, contributing to a drop in prison numbers in South Australia for the first time in many years – the only State in Australia to do so in the reporting period. In fact, very few HISSP program participants re-offended, resulting in benefits for community safety. We are excited by the success of this program and will continue to look for new and innovative ways to help prevent recidivism.

In March, the board met for its Strategic Planning Day, where we took time out to review and analyse our business. Key areas of focus included an assessment of our existing activities, current industry trends and how we might adapt or respond to challenges we saw. We found the session informative and constructive and look forward to further developments in areas identified.

In a challenging and complex industry, we are lucky to benefit from the experience and expertise of our staff. Foremost among these are our General Manager Services, Dot Stagg and our CEO Leigh Garrett, who have each served OARS for 25 years. Dot has delivered excellent relationships with our key stakeholders, providing a fierce capability in advocating for our client services and commendably leading teams in delivering them. Her expertise and industry knowledge is both extremely valuable and greatly appreciated.

Leigh's 25 years with OARS has seen us through the devastation of funding cuts that slashed our services by nearly two-thirds, the "rack 'em/stack 'em" years, the creation of Community Transitions, the creation of HISSP and an expanding number of programs that seek to boost the impact we can have on the lives of clients. His strategic capabilities, unflagging energy and his enthusiasm for opportunities is an inspiration to the Board, as I'm sure it is to all in the industry who know him.

As we settle in to a cold and wet winter, we are mindful of the difficulties many have in meeting the costs that this season brings. The hardship experienced by our clients and their families means that requests for help increase. With limited resources we can't help everyone, but your support will mean fewer families will have to choose between warmth and food this year. Please consider donating anything you can by returning the enclosed donation slip.

Thank you for your continuing interest and support.

Annabel Shinkfield, Chair

UPDATE ON OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

OARS COMMUNITY TRANSITIONS provides 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.

- In response to the Commonwealth Government's intention to establish a **Public Child Sex Offender Register** we have made it clear that a database such as this will not make children safer and may in fact make them less safe. The Royal Commission into child sexual offending did not recommend a register and the majority of victim advocacy groups do not support it either. We have asked the SA Attorney General and Minister for Correctional Services to advocate that they do not support this measure.
- Domestic Violence** continues to be a major problem in our society. We are **strongly** in support of the new initiative that has been commenced by the Government through the Office for Women and the Dept of Human Services to operate a significantly improved **DV perpetrators housing and support service**. This is a new approach to family violence and will enable women and their children to stay in their own homes by providing housing and treatment for perpetrators.
- The **Adelaide Remand Centre** has been privatised, with SERCO being the successful bidder. We have been actively involved in the tender process with SERCO and will sub-contract specific services at the ARC under this new arrangement.
- The Adelaide PHN has approved funding for the design, development and operation of a pilot **Indigenous Alcohol & Other Drug post-release support service**. This has been identified as a critical issue for Aboriginal people leaving prison. We have partnered with the Aboriginal Sobriety Group in this new pilot program.
- Our **Gambling Support Service** has received additional funding for a Relapse Prevention Group, which has allowed an expansion of this important service.
- Our **Courts funded services** (which includes group work and counselling in Treatment Readiness, Moral Reconciliation Therapy, Staying Quit, Safe Relationships and a DV Abuse Prevention Program) will continue. We hope to expand these services to meet the increasing demand and shorten waiting lists for services.



As mentioned in our last Newsletter, it was fantastic that the **Home Detention Integrated Support Service Program (HISSP)** won an **International Prisons & Corrections Association Award in 2018**. We were delighted that the Minister for Correctional Services, the Hon Corey Wingard, attended an event in April to recognise this. Leigh Garrett received the Award on behalf of OARS CT. Key staff involved in this program from both OARS & the Dept for Correctional Services, were in attendance, including the Department's CEO, David Brown. It is encouraging to see that in a report released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, prison numbers in SA reduced. It is the first time in 30 years that prison numbers have decreased. We believe HISSP has made a huge difference in South Australia.

- A **refurbishment of the Port Adelaide and Morphett Street Offices** to accommodate additional staff was completed in March, including upgrades to our IT infrastructure. **Regional Offices** are currently being transferred to the NBN.
- Centre for Restorative Justice (CRJ)** – Training in schools has continued, as they see the benefit of training staff in **restorative practices and anti-bullying behaviours**. Increased requests for Restorative Conferencing between victims & offenders involved in the courts/criminal justice system is also evident. This is proving very beneficial to assist those who have been harmed to move forward. Contact Deb Black via email dblack@restorativejustice.com.au for details.

How to Get Involved:

- We are experiencing high demand for our services and with winter approaching, your **donation** would be appreciated.
- Volunteers** play an important role, contributing their time and skills in various capacities including administration, at the Yatala Family Centre (Boomgate) on Saturdays mornings, and in our Circles of Support & Accountability (COSA) Program. We need more – so if you can assist, please contact us!
- 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.
- Obtaining **suitable accommodation for offenders** leaving prison is a challenge. Should you have any options available, please contact us.

Quality Accreditation Update

Accredited until July 2020

- Quality Improvement Council Health & Community Services Standards
- National Standards for Mental Health Services (NSMHS)
- The mid term QM Review was undertaken with a visit from QIP.

White Ribbon Workplace Accreditation

- OARS CT is an Accredited White Ribbon Workplace until April 2021.

NDIS Registration

- A Stage 1 Desk Top Audit was completed in January 2019 with conformity completed across all modules. An initial onsite audit was undertaken in April, with a final audit to be completed in June 2019.