



“A Word from the CEO”

Leigh Garrett

It has been an exciting but hectic six months as OARS and our Sister Organisation (Community Transitions) have expanded their services and locations. For some years we have considered the need to broaden our scope to provide a number of services connected with the work of OARS in South Australia at a national level. In SA we have done this under the name ‘OARS Community Transitions’. Some years ago we developed an organisation called ‘Community Transitions (CT)’ to accommodate non-offender programs in SA, and to expand our services Interstate in areas where existing services are not well covered by an existing NGO.

To this end we are pleased to announce that we have been contracted by Serco to provide pre-release support programs in Acacia Prison (WA) and after release through a new throughcare model called the Real Support Network. (Further details on CT Programs are listed in the following page).

Hand in hand with the expansion of services in SA and beyond, has come consideration of our office needs. At the beginning of the year, we moved our head office staff into new accommodation at Level 1, 336 South Road, Richmond. The lease on our city client service office located at 231 Morphett Street expired on 31 March 2021, and we are pleased to announce that we will be opening a new city client office at 33 Franklin Street, Adelaide. Client services also continue to be delivered from our suburban offices at 53-61 Dale Street, Port Adelaide, and Dyson Road, Christies Beach.

During the last six months, the Executive Team has also been busy concentrating on strategic planning and risk management and has attended a number of sessions to enhance their focus and skills.

We continue to evaluate and manage our services to ensure we are continually improving in line with our quality management plan. We have again received exceptional client feedback during this period with 98.9% of client responses indicating there were happy with our service.

I thank our staff and volunteers for managing complex services that have grown in a challenging time, and with some more exciting projects in the making, we are looking forward to the future.

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.

OARS & CT Services

- Home Detention Integrated Support Program (HISSP)
- National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)
- Reintegration Accommodation Services
- Assistance with Care and Housing
- Aboriginal Post Release Program
- Drug & Alcohol Counselling
- Gambling Support Service
- Gambling Intervention Program
- Therapeutic Diversion Courts Services
- Counselling, Health and Substance Management (CHaSM)
- Pre-Release Alcohol & Drug Program
- Circles of Support & Accountability
- Support for individuals and families, Including:
 - Advocacy & Referral
 - Centre for Restorative Justice
 - Cadell Bus Service (on hold during COVID)
 - Community Connections (SA Western Regions)
 - Don't Become That Man (Men's Domestic Violence Prevention Program)
 - Acacia Prison(WA) Real Support Network

New Head Office located at:

Level 1, 336 South Road, Richmond SA 5033

Ph: 08 8218 0700

or on the web at

www.oars.org.au



Newsletter June 2021



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 services during this winter season and throughout the year. Our Donation Slip and Website provides details on the various ways you can donate.

The OARS SA Board comprises:

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



Annabel Shinkfield, Chair

Dear Members and Supporters

So far this year we've seen a continued growth in the programs and services we offer to assist clients. Through both OARS and Community Transitions, we've extended our service reach with the added complexity of navigating a significant new operation in Western Australia. The Board has greatly valued the vision and ceaseless energy that Leigh contributes to finding viable and impactful service opportunities for both entities. We have also appreciated the outstanding job Louise has done in supporting Leigh in bringing his visions into a successful reality.

In February this year, the Board met for a strategic planning day. Capably facilitated by an external consultant, we started by each contributing what we saw as the key achievements for OARS Community Transitions; needless to say, there were many. We moved then to what success would look like for us over the next 10 years, contributing key insights into where we might be located, what services we would provide and to whom, as well as an assessment of our corporate structure. This led to some excellent strategic directions that we felt excited to hand across to Leigh and his team to guide their planning and execution.

Recently the Board conducted a self-assessment which highlighted several opportunities for enhancing our performance, including increasing our exposure to industry partners and stakeholders as part of a program of continuing development. We look forward to hearing, and learning, from selected guests every couple of months.

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 has been exacerbated by COVID impacts on the economy, housing and employment. 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.

Thank you for your continuing interest and support.

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.

OARS Operational highlights throughout the last six months include:

- **Adelaide Primary Health Network (PHN)** announced OARS as their preferred provider for drug & alcohol counselling services to clients in contact with the criminal justice system. We have met with PHN regarding the co-design of future services and discussed contract arrangements for 2021-2023.
- The **Centre for Restorative Justice** has been extremely busy in the last few months. As well as re-training our own staff to ensure our organisation retains its 'restorative' culture, we have had extensive activities with schools and are providing 'partnership packages' to two schools that includes restorative practice training and support to reduce bullying and the suspension rates.
- There has been a lot in the news recently about new **homelessness reforms** and a number of funding changes have been made in this sector. OARS was deemed a 'specialist service' (for offenders) and was therefore not required to tender. A number of new Alliances have now been contracted and we will be working collaboratively with all of the successful Alliances now the tender process has been finalised.
- **Our Reintegration Services Team** continues to deliver outstanding outcomes by providing support to clients as they exist prison (sometimes on Home Detention), sometimes accommodating them in our hostels, sometimes in regional or metropolitan locations, then assisting them to appropriate longer term homes. The lack of affordable rental properties makes this challenging for our clients.
- The **NDIS Program** for people with high and complex needs has seen a growth in referral numbers and fantastic outcomes for clients. We are also having discussions with Dept for Correctional Services regarding referrals.

Community Transitions (our Sister Organisation for Interstate Programs and Non-offender SA Programs)

- We are providing an innovative **domestic violence prevention program, we have called 'Don't Become That Man'** with Internet and phone counselling for men who are pre-violent. There is also an accommodation component to this service, enabling the women and children to remain in their home. Whilst funded initially by COVID funds, we are hopeful for ongoing funding.
- **Acacia Prison (WA) Real Support Network (RSN)**. We have received funding to provide Pre-Release services in Acacia Prison (WA), and Community Support and Keep In Touch services for those recently released from prison. It comprises case management, Psychological services, and a Non-Crisis support line.
- **Community Connections (SA - Western Regions)** – a new program commencing in May 2021 and funded to June 2023 to provide a range of services to support people to enhance their independence and strengthen connections with the communities, social networks, and services.

Good News Story OARS Gambling Support Service

OARS Gambling Support Service has supported a long-term client through her charges, court matters, incarceration, and subsequent release into an IHEP property. Most recently OARS has been working with the client on risky situations and how she plans to manage her reintegration into the community. The client has progressed, is now having weekend access with her son and feels positive and motivated to gain employment and work on herself. The client reports feeling 10/10 confident in abstaining from gambling, although thanks OARS CT for being a support during this reintegration period. The Client has been abstinent from gambling for 5 years and has been engaged with OARS CT off and on throughout that duration for ongoing support.

Good News Story – Reintegration Accommodation Service (RAS)

A RAS Client contacted his Case Manager and shared how proud he feels after being offered permanency at his job. Prior to his incarceration, he was employed as a welder but he was unable to maintain this employment due to patterns of offending and his eventual incarceration. Since his release, he has taken the opportunity to stabilise in his IHEP property, engage in Drug and Alcohol treatment and reflect on and address his offending behaviours. The client was given a second opportunity by his employer and was placed on an extended probation period. The client has been able to maintain positive routines and has demonstrated his commitment to his employment and implementing changes in his life. He advised that he was proud that this hard work was acknowledged by his employer with the offer of a permanent position.

The client is currently engaged in seeking long term housing close to his employment and presents as confident about the future.

How to Get Involved:

- We are experiencing high demand for our services and your **donation** would be appreciated.
- 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.

From January 2021 our Head Office is located at:

**Level 1, 336 South Road
Richmond. SA. 5033
Phone: 8218 0700**