



## “A Word from the CEO”

Leigh Garrett

Our AGM was held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and it was a great opportunity to reflect on the year.

2020-21 was a watershed year for OARS SA as we grew substantially and had some amazing feedback about our work. Working with our sister organisation (Community Transitions) we implemented an innovative **domestic violence program** to assist perpetrators to overcome coercive and violent behaviours, **expanded our services into WA** under a contract with Serco for both in-prison services **at Acacia Prison** as well as community services, and we also commenced a new Program ‘**Community Connections**’ in SA’s western suburbs. to provide support to people to enhance their independence and strengthen connections with the communities, social networks and services.

In the last six months, whilst there has been loss of COVID funding for the domestic violence service, Don’t Become That Man, our work in this arena continues as we have taken the opportunity to set up a pilot Therapeutic Community Program called ‘**Time Out for Treatment**’. The service was recently visited by the Hon Vincent Tarzia, Minister for Correctional Services. The staff and clients provided a casual dialogue and shared their experiences. It was a great time and the Minister was affected by what he saw and heard. One client had previously served a very long prison sentence and now he has a full-time job, is in a private rental home, and can see his kids. With great counselling, care and support from our team, clients are changing their behaviour and attitudes.

We have also been active in discussions with the Government regarding the proposed Coercive Control Legislation.

In this newsletter I have highlighted some of the four important themes which cross over all services.

As the year comes to a close, I think many are looking forward to a break, but I extend my sincere thanks to those who will continue providing essential services during the coming Christmas season (both at OARS and in other public and community services). Thank you for your focus on others’ needs - which really encompasses the true meaning of Christmas.

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  
Community Connections (SA Western Regions)  
Men’s Domestic Violence Therapeutic Community – Time Out for Treatment  
Acacia Prison (WA) Real Support Network

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## Newsletter December 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 Christmas season and throughout the year. Our Donation Slip and Website provides details on the various ways you can donate.

### The Board comprises:

Annabel Shinkfield (Chair)  
Robin English (Deputy Chair)  
Peter May  
Jessie Byrne  
Jane Zadow  
Leigh Garrett (CEO)



Annabel Shinkfield, Chair

Dear Members and Supporters

It was my pleasure to Chair the 134<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of OARS and the 13<sup>th</sup> of Community Transitions (our sister organisation) in November. It has been an exciting but hectic twelve months as OARS and Community Transitions have expanded their services with innovative local and national initiatives.

The close of the financial year revealed a very positive financial result and some excellent client outcomes. We have been vigilant with our expenditures, securing working capital and a balance sheet that gives us some scope for developing initiatives without first getting government funding.

We were sad to receive the recent resignations of both Greg Pattinson and Chris O'Grady as board members, who each have served for 7 years. Greg left to concentrate on Foodbank's continued growth, and Chris to relocate interstate. Greg's experience as a CEO and Chris's investigative curiosity greatly assisted our decision making, and we wish them all the best for the future. Jane Zadow has been observing at our board meetings over the last few months and was elected to the Boards of OARS and CT at the recent AGM. We welcome Jane and look forward to the contributions she can make; she particularly brings a skillset in financial management which will be appreciated. We are looking to grow the Board further in 2022.

Recently Her Excellency, the Hon Frances Adamson AC, was appointed as the new Governor of SA, and we are delighted that she has agreed to be our Patron.

As we move toward the close of another year, with the joys and challenges that the festive season brings, I invite you to make a difference to those in need with a donation. Details about how to donate are in this brochure or the enclosed donation slip.

On behalf of the Board, I wish you the best of the season and for the coming year.

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 CT highlights.

At the recent AGM, Leigh highlighted four important themes that have crossed all our services:

- **Our great client feedback:**  
99.6% of our clients were happy with our services.  
99.8% of our clients reported they were treated well when accessing services  
99.2% report they would recommend OARS to others
- **Our financial strength**  
Our financial result for 2020-21 was excellent. Slow and steady progress with fee paying services and tight management of grant funded services has led to a surplus. Our team were thanked for this very positive affirmation of the controls and processes which underpin a stable and honest finance system.
- **Our positive culture**  
Our Quality Accreditation Audit undertaken in 2020 provided outstanding feedback to OARS. COVID has tested this culture and our capacity to remain focused on client needs and services to the very max. Our staff and volunteers have responded to these huge pressures. Staff have been managed firmly and fairly during these unprecedented times of stress, and the difficult decision to mandate vaccination as compulsory at OARS CT, has been made. Thankfully, whilst causing distress to a few, this has overall been well received and most importantly will keep staff and clients as safe as possible.
- **Our strong future**  
OARS is moving ahead with new funding options becoming available, which includes the rollover of our DV Perpetrators Accommodation Service that we have named 'Time Out for Treatment'. OARS proposed and started this program with some support from the State Government and funds from our reserves.

Funding for all other OARS Services remain, except for the Court's Administration Authority's Domestic Violence Prevent Program, which was again a surprise result for us, with the successor yet to be announced. We will conclude this program in December 2021. In spite of this setback, the future for OARS CT is strong and vibrant.

The SA Government and the Department for Correctional Services are currently doing a business case for the development of a world class rehabilitation prison to be built in SA, which is great news for the State and OARS as it sits perfectly in scope with our strategic focus and will mostly likely underpin a broader approach to rehabilitation across the department into the future. We believe that the success of our Home Detention Support Program (HISSP) and the excellent research which clearly shows its success, has contributed to this focus on rehabilitation.

### How to Get Involved:

- We are experiencing high demand for our services and your **donation** would be appreciated. **Online donations can be made to: BSB: 065-006 A/c No: 1004 9072, with your name & "Xmas Don" as reference, or by filling in the donation slip attached.**
- 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.

## Good News Story

### Rehabilitation Treatment Services (RTS)

Client S was engaged with our Pre-Release Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) services, and within 4 weeks of his release he contacted OARS to engage in further AOD supports in the community through our Counselling, Health & Substance Management (CHaSM) Program.

During his recent contact, he spoke highly of the services he received whilst in prison and stated that this was the first time he had sought support upon release. He reports to be drug free, in stable housing, has linked in with his employment provider and is due to begin a course to refresh his white card within the next two weeks, with possible employment opportunities attached to this.