



## "A Word from the CEO"

Leigh Garrett

2022 will go down as an amazingly good year for OARS.

The last six months have been incredibly busy, with new opportunities opening up to serve our clients. Some of the operational challenges and changes that have occurred, including COVID, did not deter the team from achieving fantastic results with the **growth of grant funding, fee-for-service programs** and different ways to operate with new clients who need special support and care in our **Exceptional Needs and NDIS Service**. The Board has allowed funding to be utilised from our reserves to take on more staff during this growth phase and our organisation is currently undergoing a senior management restructure of client services.

The Centre for Restorative Justice (CRJ) has also been successful with two submissions and hopes to commence providing services soon as **Restorative Engagement Facilitator for Commonwealth Defence Force** and **Redress Facilitation Services- Dept for Child Protection**.

I am absolutely thrilled to announce that our **CHaSM program** won the PHN **Award for Outstanding Achievement in Primary Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services for 2022**. This was the top award in this AOD category and was one of five categories for Outstanding Achievement. This is an amazing achievement and all staff involved have done a fantastic job.

We believe we have developed a strong and credible relationship with the new State Government, with productive meetings and visits to our services. We applaud their view on crime prevention and focus on reducing recidivism, with SA now having the lowest rate in Australia at 32.9%. Our **HISSP Program** has a 19.2% rate and is being recognised widely. The Govt has now set a new target of 20% by 2026, and a new Rehabilitation Prison is proposed for SA.

Louise Kelly (Deputy CEO) and I visited our **Community Transitions team** in Western Australia, who deliver **services at Acacia Prison and in the community**. We look forward to further opportunities arising interstate.

I am immensely thankful for the support of the Board, Louise Kelly, Tracy Chapman (General Manager Client Services SA), Henriette Travill (IT / Resources), the Executive Team and OARS CT staff throughout this year. We are looking forward to 2023!

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

## 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](http://www.oars.org.au)

## Social Media - Instagram account

(@communitytransitions)

<https://www.instagram.com/communitytransitions/>



## Newsletter December 2022



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 consider making a donation to support our services during this Christmas season and throughout the year. Our Donation Slip (which is included) and Website provides details on the various ways you can donate.



### The Board comprises:

Annabel Shinkfield (Chair)  
Peter May (Deputy Chair)  
Jane Zadow  
Christopher Lines  
Katherine McLachlan  
Leigh Garrett (CEO)



Annabel Shinkfield, Chair

### Dear Members and Supporters

At our recent AGM, it was great to reflect on the year and some of the results OARS and CT have achieved. We are proud of the industry reputation we have gained that has shown evidence-based results and significant growth. In 2018 our revenue was nearly \$6m and in 2022-23 it is projected to be about \$11m, which is a great increase in a relatively short period. Leigh has a dedicated, engaged team and this has been evidenced in some amazing survey results from clients, funders and staff. We have also developed positive relationships with our new Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, and the new State Government. Our expansion into Western Australia is also going well and we hope that more services can be developed interstate for clients.

We warmly welcomed Chris Lines and Dr Katherine McLachlan to the Boards of OARS and Community Transitions - two very different, highly skilled and experienced people. Chris, with a business focus, who has a great deal of management experience. Katherine is an academic with a law degree, who also has a victim perspective. She is on the Parole Board, and sees the decision making of offenders. She has put her academic expertise to good practice. We will certainly benefit from their skills, knowledge, experience and passion for our clients. Our thanks also go to Robin English, who deferred his retirement until the AGM held in November. We are now on the look-out for further Board Members, particularly those with legal and/or relevant industry experience.

As I write this, we are experiencing an extremely high demand for our services, with the cost-of-living raising for many of our clients and their families. I would ask that, if you can, you consider giving to our Christmas Appeal (see highlighted section "How to Get Involved"). With your donation, we can help ease our clients' hardships and provide comfort to families in this festive season.

Thank you for your 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 CT highlights.

OARS was honoured to receive the **Adelaide PHN Primary Health Care Outstanding Achievement Award in Primary Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services**. It was worth so much to us as an organisation, but as a bonus, came with \$3,000 worth of professional development sponsorship, a trophy and certificate.

Tricia Oats accepted the Award on behalf of OARS CT and spoke of the nature of the programme and how important it was to work with people who had offended, and how the program had been responsive and adapted to the circumstances thrown up by COVID.

- **Services** – It is great to see the **relieving of COVID restrictions** for most of our programs, with **Drug and Alcohol, Gambling** and the **Circles of Support & Assistance Programs** now able to re-establish groupwork and face-to-face appointments. With prison visits open, the **Cadell Bus Service** is again up and running, enabling visitors without transport to meet family members.
- Emma Flitton has a new role in the organisation – to focus on **strategic planning, risk management and quality improvement**. This will enhance these important governance matters as we prepare for accreditation next year.
- The **Gambling Support Service** provided outreach to OARS Brompton Hostel with two individuals living in the house as an early intervention education initiative. This will be ongoing for all new members in the house, identifying potential gambling related harm.

**Domestic / Family Violence.** The OARS Therapeutic Accommodation Program **Time Out for Treatment** received a visit from the Hon Katrine Hildyard (Minister for Child Protection; Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence). We hope to expand our support in 2023 to keep women safe by providing further services for perpetrators of Family / DV.

(Pictured left:

Leigh Garrett, the Hon Katrine Hildyard, Annabel Shinkfield)



- **Aboriginal Lead Role** - Following an OARS CT Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Working Group meeting, the Chair of the Committee was approached to discuss opportunities for the organisation to develop and implement an Aboriginal Lead position within the organisation. 22% of the OARS CT client cohort identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. A specialist Lead role creates internal support to operational and leadership staff to work in a culturally safe manner with these clients, services, and the community.
- **Staff Training** – We have purchased an online Training System which provides access to training modules that are essential to our business and culture, such as: workplace health and safety, anti-bullying, discrimination and harassment, diversity and inclusion, mental health, and wellbeing. Each module takes approx 40 minutes to complete.

#### 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**, please contact us.

### Good News Stories

#### Reintegration Accommodation Services (RAS)

*As well as providing safe accommodation, our hostel staff work with clients to create a culture of safety, respect for the hostel, striving for employment, and connections to the wider community – these can be very difficult for our clients: Here are some good news stories:*

- **MM** has work as a carpet layer. He has worked nearly every day and enjoys being busy and also maintains the hostel in good order when not working.
- **OW** works with MM as assistant carpet layer. And is feeling extremely positive about his future now. He is also a great contributor to the hostel
- **GN** arrived at the hostel and quickly gained employment as a deck hand.
- **DH** found private accommodation and moved out. Was extremely happy to have found private accommodation after all the applications we put in.