



“A Word from the CEO”

Leigh Garrett

The first half of this year has gone so quickly, with a restructure and preparation for the merger of OARS and Community Transitions from 1 July 2023, outlined in the Chair’s Report.

Due to expanding opportunities, and in order to spread the management loads, an internal re-structure has resulted in the development of three client service divisions plus the existing Centre for Restorative Justice. Tracy Chapman was appointed General Manager (GM), Client Reintegration Services, and Tricia Oats, GM, Client Treatment Services. Michael Arbon joined the team in January 2023 to take up the role of GM, Specialised Client Services, which will include the Exceptional Needs Unit and NDIS clients. Deb Black remains the Manager Restorative Services for CRJ, and Louise Kelly (Deputy CEO) will continue to lead our National Programmes currently at Acacia Prison in WA. I am confident these changes will consolidate the growth we have experienced and provide space for more clients to receive our excellent support.

I have also instituted a Team approach to client Services management and quality called the **Client Services Hub**. Louise will Chair a group of the three General Managers and will be responsible for coordination, service development and quality, risk and strategic planning. I am excited about how the Client Services Hub will work as it will provide a space for client facing General Managers to work really closely and collaboratively.

Louise and I provided evidence to the SA Parliamentary Social Development Committee Inquiry Re: NDIS complex needs participants and inappropriate accommodation. They requested some recommendations for solutions to this problem. We also continue to advocate for our clients during this housing crisis.

Our NDIS Audit was undertaken in February, with both OARS and Community Transitions accredited with no non-conformities. Other Quality Management accreditations will occur in June.

Another improvement we are working on is a new version of our client database, which we also hope to launch in July 2023. It is currently in its testing phase.

It is a busy time and we appreciate your support.

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

Client Reintegration Services

Ex-Custodial Accommodation Service Program
Home Detention Integrated Support Program (HISSP)
Men’s Domestic Violence Therapeutic Community – Time Out for Treatment
Adelaide Remand Centre
Cadell Bus

Client Treatment Services

Intake & Assessment
Counselling, Health and Substance Management (CHaSM)
Therapeutic Diversion Courts Services
Pre-Release Alcohol & Drug Program
Drug & Alcohol Counselling
Gambling Support Service
NDIS Positive Behaviour Support
Circles of Support & Accountability

Specialised Client Services

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)
Exception Needs Unit
Care Finder Program
Community Connections (SA Western Regions)

Acacia Prison (WA) Real Support Network

Centre for Restorative Justice

Head Office located at:

Level 1, 336 South Road, Richmond, SA 5033
Ph: 08 82490700

or on the web at www.oars.org.au

Social Media - Instagram account

(@communitytransitions)

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



Newsletter June 2023



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 (which is included) and Website provides details on the various ways you can donate.

Please note that from 1 July 2023, we envisage distribution of future newsletters via email. Could you please advise us of your email address (to acarroll@communitytransitions.com.au) if you would like to continue receiving newsletters in the future.

We are also increasing our social media profile. So please connect with us on **Instagram** or **LinkedIn**



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/oars-community-transitions/>



(@communitytransitions)

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

The Board comprises:

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



Annabel Shinkfield, Chair

Dear Members and Supporters

This is a very exciting time, as **OARS** and **Community Transitions** formalise a merger. At the AGMs held in November 2022, it was approved that the two entities would merge from 1 July 2023. OARS will transfer all its activities and assets to Community Transitions, and will continue to operate under the trading name 'OARS Community Transitions' in SA, and 'Community Transitions', elsewhere. This merger will enable us to be more efficient, streamlining our processes and our focus. At board level, we will refine to a single board instead of two, seeing us consolidate meetings and align under a single strategy.

As mentioned previously, this comes at a time when we have achieved an outstanding industry reputation, shown evidence-based results and significant growth. Positive relationships have been established with our Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, and the State and Federal Governments. Interstate, we have already established services in Western Australia and, in other states where no organisations similar to ours exist, opportunities for our successful programs are being considered. Leigh and the team have received some amazing feedback from clients and funders, fuelling the Board's confidence for growth in the future.

With some recent attrition of board members last year, we have been working to fill a skills gap of legal expertise. Consequently, we were thrilled to welcome Richard Stanley as a new board member in April. Having established his own successful practice, he brings extensive legal and relevant industry experience. We look forward to his contribution.

As I write this, we are experiencing a surge in referrals. Clients are struggling with increased cost of living expenses, and the rise in rental rates is particularly stressful for our clients and their families. As winter approaches, I would ask that, if you can, you consider giving to our Winter Appeal. With your donation, we can provide support to families at this challenging time. (For details on how to give, see highlighted section "How to Get Involved").

Thank you for your ongoing 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.

- **Thank You!** – Whilst it seems a long time since Christmas, we wanted to express our appreciation to the Adelaide Day Centre who once again provided fantastic support in providing 174 Christmas Hampers that we distributed to clients. We also received donations of toys and financial support from various donors. Thank You!
- **Christies Beach Office** - A previously leased portion of our Christies Beach Office has been returned to OARS CT to allow us to expand in the southern areas. Following renovations, we hope to provide new services there in the coming months, including a **Women's Hub**.
- **Centre for Restorative Justice (CRJ - Education Minister's Roundtable – Discussion into Prevention of Violence at Schools**. Following attendance at this forum in December, CRJ submitted suggestions to the State Government re reducing violence in schools, inclusive of Restorative Justice approaches. CRJ also held a Strategic Planning session to discuss broader future planning opportunities for 2023-25.
- **Home Detention Integrated Support Service Program (HISSP)**. At the request of the SA Dept for Correctional Services, an independent evaluation report into the changes to Home Detention in SA was conducted by the Social Policy Research Centre, University of NSW. It highlighted that our HISSP Program has received outstanding results. The report can be found at <https://www.corrections.sa.gov.au/about/our-research/hd-research-evaluation>. We have been advised that the Minister for Correctional Services, the Hon Joe Szakacs, would like to attend OARS Office in June to celebrate the successful outcomes of the HISSP Program, and the continued partnership between DCS and OARS.
- **Funding Update**. With an increase in referrals, it has been welcome news to hear that our programs have been re-funded, some with additional components, for example, **CHASM** (Counselling, Health & Substance Management Program) has had its funding extended until June 2024, as well as the addition of funding for Peer and Family Workers. **Carefinder Program (previously known as Assistance with Care & Housing)** has received expanded funding until June 2025; and it was great to hear that our **Domestic Violence Funding** from State and Federal Govt to work with men who have been remanded in custody as a result of their inappropriate violent behaviour to their partners, will be provided, including an extension to the **Time out for Treatment Program**. Our **Gambling Help Service** was re-funded in 2022 to 2025, with options to 2031. We thank our funding bodies for these continued and increased resources.
- **Circles of Support & Accountability** - CoSA has been identified as the preferred model for engaging with perpetrators of sexual harm against children, with OARS CT the only organisation delivering this service. We also hope to expand this program.

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 & "Winter 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 Stories

Program: Drug Court (Treatment Intervention Group)

Client S ceased using methamphetamines and has maintained their abstinence for over 6 months. During this time, they reconnected with their children and gained employment. S stated that groups have played an important role for them to be able to achieve these goals.

Reintegration Accommodation Services

Client BL is working 30 hrs/wk and showing great living and household management skills at the hostel.

Client CH is working at Coles and his hours have increased to 30 hrs/wk. He has really struggled with his mental health and the loneliness from not being near family and friends but he has put in the hard work and is now feeling on top of things. Senior Case Manager overheard him supporting client LV and encouraging him to get involved with the supports and community.