

Message from the Chief Executive

“Love God” and “Love Others”

Our motivation to assist people is a practical extension of Christ’s love and commitment to others. Over the last four years it has been pleasing to see growth in our programs and an increasing commitment to deliver excellent care and services, innovative community building initiatives and to convert a spiritual desire for change into a tangible expression of God’s love for all.

Since the establishment of Baptist Care (BC(SA)), significant changes and improvements have been made in the areas of governance, organisation, management and systems. These changes are in response to our new approach to work closer with the churches and to meet the increasingly sophisticated processes, policies, procedures and general business rigour required of us by funding bodies and key stakeholders. There have been many challenges faced in implementing these changes, however I have no doubt that they will have a variety of positive outcomes for the Board, staff, volunteers, and most importantly, the people we serve. I encourage our donors and supporters to continue to assist our staff and volunteers as they seek those positive outcomes for all who are in need.

BC(SA)’s mission is to work with people and communities in response to the two great commands of Jesus Christ “to love God” and “to love others”.



In leaving the position of Chief Executive in early January, I thank everyone; Board, staff, volunteers, sponsors, donors and our churches, for the opportunity to participate in the exciting BC(SA) journey. I pray that the ongoing journey will be rewarding for everyone involved and that the work of BC(SA) is further strengthened through working in closer collaboration with our churches. But above all, may those who are in need experience justice, respect and fullness of life, as we obey the command “to love God” and “to love others”.

Len Payne
Chief Executive



Inner City's brand new homelessness service

BC(SA) is thrilled to announce that our bid to provide a brand new National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) service for Aboriginal people in the Eastern Metropolitan region was successful. Following major reform in the homelessness sector, a competitive tendering process took place which eventually saw the number of providers in the area reduced from seven to two. BC(SA) will act as the lead agency in partnering with the Aboriginal Sobriety Group (ASG) to assist Aboriginal people to access housing.

"We have a great working relationship with ASG and a history of working together on various projects over the years. They have over 30 years of experience working with Aboriginal people and there has been a mutual recognition of the benefits of sharing knowledge and working together," explains Inner City and Adventure Camping Senior Manager, Ian Townsend.

The new service will employ 3 FTE case workers and 2.5 FTE support workers and provide case management to 140 individuals and families over a 12 month period. "This is the beginning of a new way of doing things and a fantastic opportunity for BC(SA) to meet the needs of the Aboriginal community in the inner city."

Although NAHA will operate from the Inner City, the case management service is not to be confused with the activities of the WestCare Day Centre, which, aside from the employment of a Community Transition Worker, will continue to operate as it always has. The new service will commence December 1.



A festival of colour at WestCare



The Arts Centre has been making a splash in WestCare's courtyard; transforming the area into a festival of colour through its Place Making project. Funded by the Community Arts Network of SA (CAN (SA)), the project used community arts techniques and activities to give participants a sense of ownership over the space that they inhabit. Local textile artist Sandy Elverd and circus performer, Steve Noonan, were engaged to facilitate a series of art activities during September which saw WestCare's courtyard come alive.

A popular project was the creation of a 'juggling tree' which involved swinging soup ladles filled with juggling balls from tree branches so that people could pluck them at will and juggle, or take them home if they wished. Other major components included wrapping multicoloured scarves around benches and trees, painting veranda posts, decorating the sidewalks with chalk drawings and soaking vines and weaving them into giant balls.

"Absolutely everyone we have spoken to thought it was fantastic – there was such a positive response," said Arts Centre Manager, Mark Finlay. "Given the amount of interest we would love to re-visit the project in the future."

A new chapter for BC(SA)

BC(SA)'s Australia wide search for a new Chief Executive Officer is over, following the appointment of Paul Scully who will commence his new role in January 2011. Paul's appointment will see him and his wife Julie, relocate from Hervey Bay, Queensland, where Paul has been employed as a senior manager with LifeLine Community Care for the past 12 years. Paul has 14 years experience as a Churches of Christ senior pastor and has served as a lecturer in community services at the University of Southern Queensland. He is an Associate Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management, and his academic qualifications include a Bachelor of Theology, Masters in Counselling and Masters in Arts. Paul has also undertaken studies in commerce and is a member of a number of committees and boards responsible for seeking to address family life, mental health, problem gambling and other community service needs.

While we look forward to a new chapter in BC(SA)'s history, we remember the significant role that has been played by Len Payne. His contribution has included providing guidance throughout the process of amalgamating Baptist Community Services (SA) and SA Baptist Homes for Aged and leading operations through the particularly challenging period as the newly formed Baptist Care (SA) established its identity. We're extremely grateful for the considerable role that he has played in steering BC(SA) in its current direction and wish him and his family all the best for the future.



Len Payne



Paul Scully

Mentoring program seeks volunteers

BC(SA)'s Fuse Mentoring Program may have concluded late last year, however the program has succeeded in regaining funding to operate within the southern metropolitan area for a further two years. “We are proud to be partnering with the City of Marion to deliver the project,” explains Program Coordinator, Andrew McDonough. “Fuse links new arrivals to people who are already established in the community – so it's an intentional friendship to help people feel more at home in Australia.”

Fuse Marion is seeking volunteers who are willing to spend at least 6 hours a month with a new arrival. “We're looking for people from a wide range of ages, backgrounds and interests.”

Volunteering may involve a wide array of activities, including for e.g., helping with English, playing sport together, assisting with paperwork, connecting people to local services, visiting them in their homes or taking them to local attractions like the beach or the park.

If you're interested in becoming involved, please contact Andrew McDonough on 0466 776 501 Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesday mornings.

This project is supported by the Australian Government.



Yes, I want to help people in need this Summer

- Please accept my gift of \$
- I would like to become a regular WestCare Sponsor at \$30 per month.
- Please debit my credit card monthly until further notice.
- I would prefer not to receive information from BC(SA).

DONATIONS OVER \$2 ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

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Plugging in to lifelong learning

BC(SA) continues to provide cutting edge, innovative programs to engage youths who are disengaged from education. "Plugged In" is the first of four exciting pilot programs designed for the target group and has involved BC(SA)'s Youth Education & Transitions Team partnering with the City of Tea Tree Gully and working collaboratively with our Adventure Services staff to provide the 10 week program in the North East region of Adelaide.

Through practical activities, creative games, skits and team building exercises, the young people learn about essential life skills. The program learning is accredited through the Duke of Edinburgh – Bronze Award and has been specifically designed taking into account the motivation level, concentration span, social and personal issues, learning needs and difficulties of the target group. Through our partnership with Families SA, participants are also completing the evidence based Rock and Water program which teaches social competencies through physical activities.

"It has been so exciting to see the transformations in many of our clients through [participation in] Plugged-In," said Renae Kennewell, Manager of Youth Education & Transition Services.



Grants and Donations

Donations

We thank everyone who generously supported our Spring Appeal. Your support has helped WestCare to continue to work with those who are in need.

Successful Grants and Tenders

We would also thank the following for their generous contributions to BC(SA) programs:



Funds towards the annual Whitmore Square Carols event

In addition, BC(SA) was successful in tendering for the Commonwealth & State Government funded Productivity Places Program to provide additional training opportunities to job seekers.



Funds to run learning workshops for young refugees who have disengaged from mainstream education

Western Innovative Community Action Network (ICAN) – funding for a youth worker to work with refugees who have disengaged from education

Aldis/Tinsley in good hands

We're pleased to announce that ownership of our Aldis Nursing Home and Allan Tinsley Hostel has been transferred to the James Brown Memorial Trust. Already operating the Kalyra Aged Care Facility, Kalyra Aged Care Villas, Kalyra Heights Village and the James and Jessie Brown Cottages, the Trust is an experienced and well respected not for profit provider of aged care services.

There is a tinge of sadness as we transfer responsibility on January 4 2011, however, residents, their families, staff and volunteers have all affirmed the acceptance of the Trust as the next Provider, and we are confident that the future of Aldis/Tinsley is in excellent hands.