



# Care

## Baptist Care (SA) NEWS

### Introducing Peer Workers at WestCare

WestCare supports people who are homeless, many of whom are also experiencing mental health issues. For this reason, WestCare and BC(SA)'s groundbreaking Peer Work Project worked together to introduce volunteer Mental Health peer workers into the WestCare team. Peer workers are people who are living well with mental illness and able to use their unique knowledge and expertise to support others experiencing mental health issues.

Over the past two years, peer workers have been volunteering at the centre 1-3 days a week to spend time talking with clients over lunch, participating within the community arts program and engaging with staff. The initiative has been extremely successful, providing valuable mental health education to staff and offering hope and positive role models for clients.

"One of the comments that has often been made to me during my 10 years here is that clients want to talk to someone who understands them and what they are going through," explains WestCare Manager Dave Secomb. The Peer Work Program is able to provide them with this. Another wonderful benefit has been that several of the peer workers, supported by their experiences at WestCare, have gone on to obtain paid work as case workers or peer workers within the sector.

According to peer worker Mick Kelly, the greatest benefit of being a peer worker is the feeling of acceptance and usefulness. "You can get negative when you're out of work for a long time, and to be accepted at WestCare [is] a confidence booster."



### Message from the Chief Executive Officer

I'm not normally a follower of the British Royals, but like two billion other people, I sat with my family to watch the recent wedding of Will and Kate. One commentator attributed the enormous interest in the event to it being a good news story amidst so many bad stories. I couldn't help but reflect that surely, if ever there were good news stories, they are the stories of the many refugees and migrants who have made Australia their home. A migrant background is common to many of us. My mum was a migrant when the white Australia policy existed and, because she was born in Thailand and a Thai national, she was initially turned away from entering Australia. Fortunately, my father's protest won her entry to our country.

I recently had the privilege of meeting our Refugee Service's staff. Amongst them is Jock, himself a refugee, who you will read about in this edition.

Between June 19 and 26, 2011 there will be an opportunity to create a good news story with your neighbours by saying a big 'Welcome to Australia' to asylum seekers, refugees, new arrivals and other migrants. Baptist Care (SA) is in a special position to provide services to refugees and is a sponsor of this great idea that started here in South Australia. If you go to <http://www.welcometoaustralia.org.au/> you can learn more about creating a good news story with the 'Welcome to Australia' campaign.

It is interesting that the life of Christ involved migrating to a foreign country to find refuge from danger. Australia has become a place of refuge for many people, often needing significant support to settle in their new home. Having lived in Malaysia and Indonesia when I was younger for a number of years, I recognise how challenging it must be for someone to move to a new country. I thank God that at Baptist Care (SA) we can create more good news stories with others and I would encourage you to continue to support our staff and their work amongst refugees in helping them to make Australia their new home.

**Paul Scully**  
Chief Executive Officer

## Working for a better future



Securing paid work can be a challenging and, for some, a frightening and frustrating experience. At the same time, the emotional and financial impact of unemployment can also be devastating. “I really believe in the importance of *really* listening to people so that you can build trust and let them know that you do care,” explains BC(SA) Employment Services Counsellor, Muriel Bic. “That way you can discover what’s impacting on their employability; whether it’s lack of confidence or lack of equipment... You also need to have the resources on hand to be able to do something practical for them.”

Alan\* was a mature aged man who was made redundant after being employed in the same job for years. He had never been with a job agency before and the experience was completely daunting for him. He believed himself to be totally unemployable and “ready for the scrap heap”. Working closely with his case worker, Alan gradually came to realise that he had valuable skills and plenty to offer an employer. When a relevant job was advertised, he needed encouragement to apply. He also needed practical items, such as work equipment and financial aid to fix his car. The Business Development Team then liaised closely with his prospective employer and negotiated individualised work place arrangements to facilitate his introduction into the business. Happily, Alan’s application was successful and he’s now employed full time! This was a fantastic experience for everyone involved, and a perfect example of what can

be achieved when staff come alongside someone and they commit to finding creative solutions together.

Job Services Australia is an Australian government initiative



Employment Services staff (above) journey alongside people to help achieve the best possible outcome for them

## David Jock: An incredible journey



David Jock

The catastrophic events that have befallen many of those connected to BC(SA) Refugee Services are beyond the comprehension of those of us who have been born into the relative affluence and security of Australian society. Not so for David Jock (known as Jock). He understands the stories of displacement, brutality and hardship of the young people he works with, because it has been his story too.

The civil war between North and South Sudan saw 2.5 million people killed, millions more displaced and over 20,000 boys from the Southern Nuer and Dinka ethnic groups orphaned and displaced as they fled attacks targeting their homes and villages. Jock was nine in 1989 when he and his younger brothers were among these ‘lost boys’ forced to leave behind their families and walk barefoot for months across the desert in search of refuge.

Only half of them ever made it.

The horror of the exodus can never truly be fathomed by those who did not experience it; the children were attacked by wild animals, starvation, disease, thirst, fatigue and the elements. They were bombed, shot at and drowned; they ate bark and grass to survive.

Fourteen years of Jock’s life were then spent in hunger and poverty in refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya. During that time, Jock learned English and became an interpreter for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and for the Australian Department of Immigration. When the opportunity to relocate to Australia arose, he chose to live in Adelaide after learning it was known as the ‘City of Churches’. “I thought that my God would live there,” he explains.

Upon his arrival, Jock continued in his role as guardian to his younger siblings. He worked long hours in a recycling plant and as a bilingual tutor while also studying theology

## commands of Jesus Christ, “to love God” and “to love others”

and completing a degree in youth work at Tabor College. He made it his mission to serve his community, volunteering his services to many causes. Today, he works as a youth worker in BC(SA)'s widely commended *Imagine the Future* program.

Jock's incredible achievements are a source of inspiration and hope to his colleagues and most importantly, to those with similar stories.

“We're so privileged to have Jock in our Baptist Care team,” said Refugee Services Manager, Hannah Browne. “He really is a blessing and continual inspiration to the boys he works with, their families, the African communities here in South Australia, and also to each of us [his work colleagues] who learn so much from this remarkable young man.”



Jock speaks with the Honourable Brendan O'Conner MP and Senior Sergeant Kym Foster about 'Imagine the Future'

## Minister commends BC(SA) Refugee Services's early intervention program



### An Australian Government Initiative

On the 20th April the Honourable Brendan O'Connor MP, Minister for Home Affairs and Justice visited BC(SA) Refugee Services to congratulate us on the “fantastic work” being done in our crime prevention program *Imagine the Future* (ITF).

The project, which is run in partnership with Survivors of Torture, Trauma and Rehabilitation Services (STTARS), targets at risk youths; helping them to explore and celebrate their identity and culture, strengthen relationships with people in authority and make positive life choices. The Minister described early intervention programs such as ITF as “absolutely critical” on both an individual and community

level. “I applaud the efforts of Baptist Care, and of the young participants themselves...It's exciting to see young people in this fantastic project given support to meet their potential.”

Refugee Services Manager Hannah Browne concluded the formalities with an address to the young participants: “We trust and believe in you; and we're excited to see how much you have to offer... We look forward to seeing what you will achieve over the next few years as you complete school and go on to do other things. We will remember each one of you.”

Special guests included Senior Sergeant Kym Foster – Drug Action Team, Dr. Joseph Masika – President, African Communities Council SA (ACCSA), Juma Abuyi – SAPOL African Communities Liaison Officer, Chol Solomon – Chairman, Southern Sudanese Referendum Task Force, and David Wilkins, representing the office of Federal Member for Adelaide, Kate Ellis.

*Imagine the Future* was featured on ABC's Stateline in May. The full story can be viewed at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/video/2011/05/13/3216658.htm>



ITF participants Marcus, Sekou, Ishmail, Headman, Sumaila, Mambo and Abdinasar with (back left to right): Refugee Services Manager, Hannah Browne, Dr. Joseph Masika – ACC(SA) President, Senior Sergeant Kym Foster, Chol Solomon Ajath – Chairman Southern Sudanese Referendum Task Force, David Jock – Refugee Services Youth Worker, Juma Abuyi – SAPOL African Communities Liaison Officer, The Honourable Brendan O'Connor MP and STTARS Trauma Counsellor, Michael Caruana.



*Imagine the Future* participants enjoying program activities

## Yes, I want to help people in need this Winter

- 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 to receive the Newsletter by email.  
My email address is .....
- I would prefer not to receive information from BC(SA).

Name .....

Address .....

Church Affiliation (optional) .....

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Card Number ...../...../...../.....

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Expiry ...../..... Signed .....

Post to: 157 Beulah Road, Norwood, SA 5067 • Telephone 1300 654 450 • [www.baptistcaresa.org.au](http://www.baptistcaresa.org.au)



## Community Partnerships at Work: Salisbury Midnight Basketball

The second of a series of four Midnight Basketball Tournaments came to its exciting conclusion on Saturday 16th April. BC(SA)'s Youth Education and Transitions (YETS) team have been one of the community partners of this highly successful social inclusion initiative for young people. Each night of the tournament, participants enjoy dinner together and then participate in life skills workshops followed by the basketball game that runs through until midnight.

"The cultural diversity of the young people that attend is quite wide and it is a joy to see the young people socialising together and participating in something that helps them to build friendships, confidence in themselves and personal development," said YETS Manager, Janette Hirschausen.

The financial costs of the event are significant and without the input of BC(SA) staff, such as Brad Diplock, as well as committed staff from other agencies, these types of activities could not occur.



BC(SA) YETS participants take part in the Midnight Basketball Tournament



## YOUNG UNACCOMPANIED REFUGEES

BC(SA) Refugee Services have recently rolled out an exciting new program working with asylum seeker children. These young men have arrived in Australia with no family or support and we have been given the opportunity to provide care and support to them on arrival. Are you able to support us in this opportunity to show God's love to these displaced young men? If you are able to volunteer your time to support these young men in any capacity or donate any of the following items please contact Hannah Browne at BC(SA) Refugee Services on 82312850:

- Warm clothes, shoes, mens clothing, new socks and underwear (in a range of sizes for young men)
- Basic hygiene items (deodorant, hair products, shavers, etc)
- Games (Pictionary, UNO, cards, scrabble etc), childrens books or basic English books, Atlas/world maps; maps of Australia
- Sports equipment, second hand soccer or football boots
- New or second hand TVs, DVD players, CD players, iPod docks, DVDs, Music
- Slow cookers, rice cookers

## Grants and Donations

### Donations

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

### Successful Grants and Tenders

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



Funds for the Student Accommodation Support House (SASH) to assist young people who are homeless to complete their education