Two years on and we’re going strong!

Following two years of collaborative activities together, Anglicare SA and Flinders University celebrate the diverse array of relationship building and engagement which has occurred to date.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Barber and Anglicare CEO Dr Lynn Arnold are enthused about progress so far, and current and future developments through the collaboration.

At a Steering Committee meeting in the latter part of 2010 Dr Arnold said the constructive engagement between the two institutions is allowing them to explore new opportunities to engage in joint ventures.

“‘We’re looking at further placement of staff between the two institutions which could potentially build on the core business challenges each establishment faces and to broaden horizons with reciprocal staff placements between Human Resources, IT and Marketing,” Dr Arnold said.

Professor Barber commented on “the pleasing collaboration between the two organisations and the scope of ideas already developed”.

Positive Ageing — Can we achieve this for everyone?

Positive Ageing was the theme for the latest Anglicare SA – Flinders University Research to Practice Seminar, held at Victoria Square, Flinders City Campus on 4th March 2011.

Attracting over 50 participants from a variety of organisations, six speakers shared their thoughts, research and experience on positive ageing, and what it meant for them in their work situation.

Anglicare SA CEO Dr Lynn Arnold began the afternoon with a correlation between ageing and running a marathon – suggesting the last lap of a marathon is very much aligned with the last lap of your life. Dr Arnold challenged those present by suggesting that ‘life’ need not peak at a certain age and then slowly decline, but continue going up and up, right to the end.

Anglicare’s strategic direction on Promoting Positive Ageing focuses on finding ways to support people as they age in a way that respects their needs and wants.
Professor Karen Reynolds, School of Computer Science, Engineering and Mathematics at Flinders University shared her focus on Technology and Ageing. Professor Reynolds suggesting that while the development of aids, appliances and equipment, home modifications and remote monitoring of older people are all assisted technologies which are useful; the take up in the community is slow due to a variety of factors.

Professor Reynolds also suggested gaps in current research in this area, with the need for new research that is people-centred rather than technology-centred as well as strategies to reduce the cost of using assisted technologies.

Mr Brenton Caffin, CEO of The Australian Centre for Social Innovation (TACSI), discussed their focus on the need to reshape cities and services for people of varying abilities, and to create age-friendly environments.

Anglicare provided examples of working with clients to produce situations of positive ageing in supporting marginalised, older people as well as a focus on housing support which is ‘more than housing’.

Professor Mary Luszcz from the School of Psychology and Flinders Centre for Ageing Studies shared her focus on how psychology might facilitate positive ageing.

The afternoon finished with an exploration of potential research opportunities that could be developed.

- For more information on positive ageing:

  Anglicare: Greg Bussell, Positive Ageing Officer, Tel 8305 9200

  Flinders University: Professor Karen Reynolds and Professor Mary Luszcz

Climate change is a social justice issue with potential consequences for social service delivery. There are questions which we need to investigate in order to plan for social service provision.

Will an increase in extreme weather events associated with climate change produce a new cohort of dislocated and homeless people? Does the vulnerability of the already disadvantaged and socially excluded in society compromise resilience to these pressures?

What are the implications for food security, cost of living and for communities in which agriculture is an important part of the economy?

How will people and communities of low socio-economic status cope with the cost of living increases associated with emissions reduction?

Is there a flip side — do potential new enterprises associated with a low carbon economy provide a form of green hope in the face of climate change?

What does climate change mean for our capacity to provide services and sanctuary for refugees — will numbers and the nature of asylum seekers and refugees change significantly?

In a time of change, what is our capacity to respond to change? Where will capacity need to be grown in the social service sector to respond to the strains created by climate change?

When: Tuesday 31 May, 9am – 1pm

Where: Flinders University City Campus, Victoria Square

RSVP: To register your attendance or for further information contact Emily Lee, Project Officer, Anglicare SA (tel) 8305 9347 or email research@anglicaresa.com.au
Anglicare has recently appointed six new General Managers to oversee Operations – programs and services, four are existing staff members. Anglicare’s Chief Operations Officer Peter Wright said both he and CEO Dr Lynn Arnold were confident that the GM team will be capable of strategically and operationally managing their portfolios both in the intermediate and longer term. The new GM’s are:

- **Andrew Davies** – General Manager, Housing and Homelessness (housing, housing support and homelessness intervention)
- **Albert Barelds** – General Manager, Children Youth and Family Wellbeing (alternative care, family preservation, child care and youth services)
- **Jane Rajkowski** – General Manager, Seniors and Lifestyle Support – currently on leave with Trevor Grant Acting GM for 2011, (community health and aged care-HCAC and disability services)
- **Julianne Siggins** – General Manager, Community Engagement & Strengthening (anti poverty, community development, counselling, family support, drug & alcohol services, vocational)
- **Allan Mitchell** – General Manager, Seniors Living (residential aged care, retirement living, transitional care)
- **Steve Gillis** – General Manager, Service Development & Support (systems, quality, risk, contract management & tendering, property management)

Anglicare has also appointed its new **Director of Aboriginal Services**, Sonia Waters. Sonia, an Aboriginal woman, has more than 20 years experience working with Aboriginal communities in the areas of social inclusion and health and most recently was the Director, Community Relations, in the Social Inclusion Unit of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. Sonia will oversee the development of Aboriginal services by engaging with Aboriginal community members, providing support to Aboriginal staff and their managers and raising Anglicare SA’s awareness of contemporary issues facing Aboriginal communities.

Anglicare’s new **Research Officer** is **Dr Ian Goodwin-Smith**, who commenced with Anglicare November 2010, replacing Dr Peta Raftery. Dr Goodwin-Smith received his PhD in politics from The University of Adelaide, focussing on the intersection of postcolonial and social democratic thought. He has a research and teaching background in the areas of politics, social theory and public policy, with a particular emphasis on social inclusion, social policy and social justice. He has worked in those areas at The University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia.

**Update of Activities**

If you would like to know what we have achieved through our collaboration to date (a lot!) , please look at our respective websites:

- [www.anglicare-sa.org.au](http://www.anglicare-sa.org.au)
- [www.flinders.edu.au](http://www.flinders.edu.au)

And specific website for the Anglicare SA – Flinders University collaboration


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**Contact Information:**

For further information on the Anglicare–Flinders University collaboration staff are asked to contact:

**For Anglicare SA:**

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**For Flinders University:**

Mr Anthony Hails, Executive Officer to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

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