Anglicare Chief Executive Dr Lynn Arnold and Flinders University Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Barber have signed a Memorandum of Understanding committing their respective organisations to a formal agreement aimed at fostering cooperation and collaboration between the institutions for their mutual benefit and that of their staff, clients and students.

The MoU confirms a partnership initiated following a joint meeting with Dr Arnold, Professor Barber and key staff last December, where discussion focussed on areas of mutual interest and the opportunity to develop a working relationship together.

In a joint statement to staff, Dr Arnold and Professor Barber state they are “looking forward to engaging in new and different areas of co-operation, lifting the benchmark in community sector/academic co-operation with real benefits to the community at large”.

The aim of the partnership is for the organisations to establish, maintain and extend co-operation in the areas of:

- public awareness
- professional development
- research
- student placement, learning and employment pathways
- service/practice and policy development.

While these areas have been identified to date, both organisations acknowledge that other areas of co-operation may emerge over time allowing the partnership to further expand.
Who, what and how…

Who

Under the direction of Dr Arnold and Professor Barber, a steering group comprised of representatives from each organisation has been established. The members of the steering group are:

**Anglicare SA**

**Responsible officer**  Simon Schrapel  Executive Director, Strategy, Policy & Services (Chair)

**Other nominees**  Catherine Bridgland  Executive Manager, People & Organisational Development

Belinda McCulloch  Manager, Public Affairs & Media Bureau

Dr Peta Raftery  Research Officer

**Flinders University**

**Responsible officer**  Professor Andrew Parkin  Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

**Other nominees**  Professor Chris Miller  Head School Social Work

Dr Nicole Morcom  Executive Officer to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

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

A staff member has been nominated within each organisation as the staff liaison contact point. They are:

**Anglicare SA**

Belinda McCulloch  Manager, Public Affairs & Media Bureau

T 8305 9200  E: bmcculloch@anglicare-sa.org.au

**Flinders University**

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

T 8201 2913  E: anthony.hails@flinders.edu.au

Staff are encouraged to contact the liaison person at your organisation to discuss any ideas you may have for Anglicare/Flinders University collaboration, as well as for any question on the partnership arrangement. Your input is both welcome and vital to ensuring the success of this partnership.

Staff are also asked to inform the liaison person of any existing or new initiatives between the two organisations in order to ensure we have accurate records that reflect the full extent of the partnership.

What…a common goal

With a key commitment to exploring new and different ways of working together, the steering group has developed a common goal for the collaboration as being:

*An ongoing, sustainable relationship with innovative outcomes known and used in the wider community*

This goal relates to the four separate components of the collaboration

- a relationship which is ongoing, tried and continues in a positive way
- results which are innovative/niche/different
- public awareness of the collaboration and the results it brings, and
- public benefit from the collaboration.
Opportunities for future collaboration identified by the steering group include:

- conducting a major joint forum examining the future of the third sector
- delivering a series of ‘theory into practice’ seminars for Anglicare and Flinders staff and students
- examining Honours student projects within Anglicare
- developing collaborative research projects and funding applications
- facilitating student placements in areas such as IT, marketing, business and education.

The steering group has also developed a matrix of current areas of collaboration, which is essentially a starting point, laying the foundation for our collaboration.

| Collaboration examples               |  |
|--------------------------------------|  |
| **Public awareness**                 | Both organisations support Adelaide’s Festival of Ideas |
|                                      | FIPPMP involvement in Onkaparinga Communities for Children (C4C) community forums |
| **Professional development**         | Anglicare research officer accepted into Flinders University mentoring initiative |
| **Research**                         | Flinders University Adjunct Research Fellow appointment of Anglicare research officer |
|                                      | ARC Linkage Grants with Anglicare SA |
|                                      | Social Inclusion and Disability Project undertaken by AHURI |
|                                      | Evaluation of Anglicare Parenting Order Program |
| **Student placements, learning and employment pathways** | Student Housing Advocacy sessions (Anglicare – Flinders University Law School) |
|                                      | Placement of 10 Bachelor or Master of Social Work students per annum in the Anglicare Loss and Grief Centre to provide counselling and related services |
|                                      | Anglicare involvement in promoting employment opportunities through Flinders University student career fairs and initiatives |

**How…making it happen**

The steering group aims to meet at least every quarter to, monitor progress and discuss new areas for development.

To date the steering group has been:

- clarifying its role and function
- developing a framework for managing the relationship between the two organisations
- developing a framework for communication
- development and signing of the Memorandum of Understanding
- mapping of existing Anglicare SA/Flinders University areas of collaboration
- creating research collaboration opportunities.

Within each organisation, the lead delegate will liaise with staff on furthering the collaboration, with individual staff requested to identify opportunities for collaboration and consult with their respective steering group members.

A staff communiqué is expected to be jointly published three times a year. The communiqués will:

- keep you informed of progress
- provide updates on key areas of collaboration
- inform you of forthcoming opportunities for involvement
- call for participation in various discussions/activities.

The communiqué will be jointly published through the respective offices of Mr Simon Schrapel (Anglicare SA) and Professor Andrew Parkin (Flinders University).

External information material will be published at times appropriate to media or public stakeholder interest.

**A response from you**

The steering group welcomes your responses — and ideas, questions and opinions as we work together to make our partnership unique, progressive and purposeful. Please contribute through your staff liaison person — thank you!