



## “A Word from the CEO”

Leigh Garrett

As we close out 2016 we have witnessed a shift in State Government policy on Corrections and Justice and now is the time to reflect on the Government’s 10By20 target and the transformation that is possible as a result of this. We see the possibility of a broader range of re-integration services emerging in SA now and this is great as it is desperately needed. We hope to be receiving some more funding to assist the work we undertake, but along with the possibility of better services for offenders, is the need for improved support to families’ partners & children.

The Family Centre at Yatala Prison has been refurbished as mentioned in a following article. The Centre is a really important place for family visiting their loved ones in prison to be supported and counselled. We need your help to assist us with donations that can keep this vital service growing and funding some of the operations of the Family Centre. We need \$10,000.00 to keep improving and expanding this service, so please help us.

We would love to see a Family Centre outside the main gate of every prison in South Australia and we intend to make a significant effort to achieve this goal. It will require the support of DCS but it also needs your support.

We have continued our advocacy work this year as well and we would hope that our work over many years has played a small part in the policy shift we are now seeing. This role is not funded by Government but we consider that it is crucial to provide an independent voice advocating for the needs and issues facing people who have offended. Please support us in this work as well.

Thank you for your interest in our work. We hope you have a peaceful and safe Christmas and New Year period.

Leigh

## Our Vision!

### OUR MISSION:

Reduce social harm by strengthening communities and social inclusion through the provision of restorative justice services, high quality treatment and rehabilitation services, support and advocacy, at critical transition points.

### OUR VISION:

Strong communities with positive social connections underpinned by restorative practices.

### OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Social Justice
- Restorative Justice
- Community Participation
- Continuous Improvement
- Prison as a Last Resort.

## Our Services

- Interim Home Detention Integrated Support Program
- Reintegration Accommodation Services
- Drug & Alcohol Counselling & Comorbidity
- Gambling Support Service
- Gambling Intervention Program
- Therapeutic Diversion Courts Services
- Counselling, Health and Substance Management (CHaSM)
- Support for individuals and families, including
  - Advocacy & Referral
  - Emergency Financial Assistance
  - Centre for Restorative Justice
  - Cadell Bus Service
  - Yatala Family Centre

Contact us at:  
 320 Port Road, Hindmarsh SA 5007  
 Ph: 08 8218 0700  
 or on the web at  
[www.communitytransitions.com.au](http://www.communitytransitions.com.au)



## Newsletter December 2016

*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 clients and services during this Christmas season.*

The OARS SA Board comprises:

Annabel Shinkfield (Chair)  
Robin English (Deputy Chair)  
Michael Faraonio  
Chris O'Grady  
Greg Pattinson  
Peter May  
Leigh Garrett (CEO)



Annabel Shinkfield, Chair

Dear Members and Supporters

2015-16 financial year was a time of welcome positivity. A number of exciting opportunities have arisen for OARS to expand its client base and impact, with still more to come. We have been embracing these opportunities while conscious of the increasing competition in our sector. There is a compelling need to ensure the services we offer are industry-leading, innovative and unique, to ensure that we can continue to offer clear and distinctive value to our funders. The Board is looking forward to supporting the CEO in a number of exciting new opportunities which we look forward to updating you with as they develop.

We welcomed Peter May to the Board at the AGM in Nov 2015. His sector expertise and insights during the year have greatly enhanced the Board's collective knowledge.

OARS has continued to build on the strong financial position it has worked so hard to achieve. All of our financial KPIs were met throughout the year, resulting in a surplus that we believe achieves the right balance of optimising the services we can provide with the need to ensure the sustainability of OARS into the future.

Of course, this kind of success is not possible without the dedication of our most precious resource; our staff and volunteers. In particular, our staff have contributed through their preparedness to be flexible and adaptable, which is incredibly important when taking on new initiatives. Our teams continually show they are prepared to contribute to ensure we secure the best outcomes for our clients who, first and foremost, are the ones who need us to be 'on our game'. There are of course many services that we are still unable to deliver because of a lack of funds.

As we look toward another Christmas, our clients and their families face significant difficulties in providing the most basic of needs, let alone a festive event that will create loving family memories for children who can all too easily compare their own experiences with that of their friends. We ask that you consider making a donation to our Christmas Appeal to support families and children of offenders.

On behalf of the Board of OARS, thank you for your interest and support throughout the year. I extend our very best wishes for a safe and happy Christmas, and a positive year ahead.

Warm regards,  
**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.

The second part of 2016 has been very strategic with some new opportunities to provide innovative services to our clients. The Executive and Management Team met in October for a day of **Strategic Planning** to discuss the many new initiatives currently under consideration. Some of these included:

- A new **Alcohol & Other Drug Service** for people involved in the criminal justice system, funded by the Adelaide Primary Health Network, will be known as OARS Counselling, Health and Substance Management Program, or **CHaSM** for short. We are currently formalizing the implementation plan and have commenced service implementation. **CHaSM** will operate from a new office location we are opening at Port Adelaide, and also from our existing locations at Morphett Street Adelaide, and Dyson Road Christies Beach. **CHaSM** will offer a mix of 1:1 Counselling, Treatment Readiness, Relapse Prevention, SMART Recovery, Education and Information, development of an Intervention Plan, and appropriate referrals as required. We continue to provide other **Drug & Alcohol services funded by the Department of Health**.
- The **interim Home Detention Integrated Support Service Program (IHSSP)** commenced in June and is assisting home detainees to improve individual outcomes, post release. The Service is provided throughout the metropolitan and regional centres. Services vary from providing accommodation, substance misuse intervention/treatment, problem gambling issues and domestic/family violence counselling interventions. We were delighted that the Minister for Correctional Services, the Hon Peter Malinauskas, chose to launch this program via a press conference from our office, and to talk about the more rehabilitative approach being taken by the Government. 2 clients participating in the IHSSP program attended and were interviewed by the media to get their perspective of how the program works and benefits the participants.
- As a consequence of the expansion of services, OARS has been busy recruiting and we are pleased to welcome a number of **new staff and volunteers** to our team. As mentioned previously we are also commissioning a **new office in Port Adelaide**. In addition, our **Christies Beach Office** has **extended its operating hours to 4 days per week**.
- The **Family Centre** at Yalata Prison has now been refurbished and provides a much nicer environment for families – Our thanks go to the team at Lend Lease Foundation, the Department for Correctional Services, as well as Amanda Blair, for connecting everyone to make this project possible. The Centre is open each Saturday and on **Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> December, the "Boomgate" Christmas Party** will bring joy to the children, as they enjoy a sausage sizzle, face painting and lucky dips.
- There have been successes with some clients residing in our **Accommodation Services** gaining employment. One client in **Berri** has gained casual employment, another in **Mt Gambier** full-time employment and two clients in **Brompton** have also commenced work. Other clients have been involved in a Deakin University (Vic) report on the **'Barriers to Employment faced by People Being Released from Prison'**. We appreciate their willingness to share their experiences and opinions.
- Our **Circles of Support & Accountability (COSA)** Program was featured in a segment on the ABC's Lateline Program. It was a very balanced and sensitive approach to the complex issue of child sex offending and we hope COSA will continue to assist clients not to re-offend and therefore enhance public safety.
- A number of 'Good News Stories' have been shared by our **Gambling Support Service and Gambling Intervention Program**, which continues to provide case management services to people interacting with the Criminal Justice system, due to issues with problem gambling.
- Our work in the **Restorative Justice** arena has also continued with training in various schools. We have also been contacted by the American Bar Association to discuss our involvement with a **study tour for a delegation from Bahrain**, that we hope will occur in the first quarter of 2017.
- The Reintegrated Accommodation Support Program has assigned a Case Worker to our Community Gateway. It is through this program that we look to develop an information and support group to assist clients to apply for private rental.
- The Clinical Team continues to facilitate **Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) Groups and Staying Quit (SQ) Groups** for participants on the **Treatment Intervention Court**. We have commenced a **Treatment Readiness Group in Mt Gambier**. **MRT Groups and Safe Relationships Groups** are also available for participants on the **Domestic Violence Abuse Prevention Program**.



The 'Boomgate' Family Centre at Yalata, has undergone refurbishment – thanks to a team from Lend Lease.

### Opportunities to Assist Us:

- Our **Family Centre at Yalata Labour Prison** needs **more volunteers** for Saturday mornings. If you are able to assist, please call Dot Stagg on 8218 0700.
- 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.
- We have a number of **support services available on a Fees-for-Service basis**. Please contact Dot Stagg on 8218 0700. We can provide support for clients with multiple complex issues, including: Gambling Support Service, Drug & Alcohol Counselling/Treatment, Pre & Post-Employment Support, Restorative Conferencing, and Staff training tailored to your needs.
- We are experiencing high demand for our services and your **donation to our Christmas Appeal** would be appreciated.

### Quality Accreditation Update

We have commenced the **White Ribbon Workplace Accreditation** process and will be addressing criteria to meet this important workplace standard.

Our QM Team are also working to ensure we are on track for our 2017 **Quality Improvement Council Accreditation**