



## “A Word from the CEO”

Leigh Garrett

A great deal of time has been taken during the past six months liaising with our various funding bodies to clarify contract details for 2017-18. All funding was secured and we have been fortunate to secure additional grants, given the State Government’s recent announcement to provide approximately \$40m for offender rehabilitation over the forward estimates. Relationships have also been developed with potential partners.

Our submission regarding the Home Detention Integrated Support Service Program (HISSP) was successful and in November 2017 became operational. This followed the success of our interim program that resulted in no clients on this program returning to prison during the 16 month pilot program. My thanks go to Dot Stagg and the Client Services Teams who have implemented services to provide opportunity for better outcomes.

The Executive team was also very active preparing for our Quality Audit in July, and my thanks go to Louise Kelly for her coordination of this at short notice. Our accreditation will now continue for another 3 years. We have also gained accreditation to deliver mental health services.

The Specialised Intervention Services Program (SIS) is still growing and once again a great deal of work has been undertaken, mainly by Tracy Chapman. Louise Kelly has ensured that all necessary Accreditations for NDIS are current. Everything is in place to move forward with NDIS opportunities if and when they arise.

In May, Shonnie Pascoe (Senior Financial Accountant) and Vicky Whiteway (Human Resources) commenced in their respective roles and their skills and experience has strengthened the Executive Team. Our IT resources also required revision and expansion and Henriette Travill continues to provide excellent onsite support.

Like all NGO’s in a rapidly changing and disruptive world, the past six months was somewhat pressured, but we are grateful for the new opportunities that arose and the growth in services for our clients.

Thank you again for your interest and support. Best wishes for a safe and peaceful festive season.

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

- Home Detention Integrated Support Program
- Women’s Intensive Support Program
- Reintegration Accommodation Services
- Drug & Alcohol Counselling
- 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

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[www.oars.org.au](http://www.oars.org.au)



## Newsletter December 2017



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 and throughout the year. We would particularly like to enhance our support for families.

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

The last six months have seen OARS focus on activities that will provide scalability and flexibility of its operations, to be able to deliver an expanded suite of services to existing and new client groups.

This has meant that the CEO and Board have worked to balance the medium-term growth needs of the organisation with appropriate risk analysis and mitigation, and financial management. The latter is often also impacted by the timing of payments by funders, which can place pressure on even the best-made budget. Happily, the end of the year sees us in a strong position and well-placed to embrace the opportunities of 2018.

The Board has been delighted to see continued alignment of the goals of the Department of Corrections with the objectives of OARS, even throughout a change in political leadership of the Corrections portfolio. Minister Malinauskas' leadership was inspirational, and the 10By20 vision he established appears to be receiving continuing support by the new Minister for the portfolio, Minister Chris Picton. We are grateful for the focus of both the Minister and the Department of Corrections' CEO in supporting improvements in recidivism and community safety.

Reducing recidivism is one of the core objectives of OARS SA, and the programs we run have been shown to achieve this. Although recidivism is, for many good reasons, not measured in any global and consistent manner, we have been able to produce program-specific data that proves the difference we make. Every reformed offender contributes to higher productivity, safer communities, economic recovery, and neighbourhood resilience and wellbeing. And the many 'good news stories' we receive are a credit to both our clients and the staff and volunteers that support them.

Christmas can be a challenging time for our clients and their families. We try to provide a higher level of support to make this the happiest time it can be, and invite you to support the Christmas Toy and Hamper Program. Donations of hampers are received from the Adelaide Day Centre, at 32 Moore St, Adelaide, and are distributed to our clients, with small gifts for their children.

New toys and monetary donations are very much appreciated and bring a lot of joy to disadvantaged families.

On behalf of the Board, I wish our supporters, clients, volunteers and staff a safe and happy holiday season.

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.

- With the commencement of the **Home Detention Integrated Support Service Program** on 1 November 2017 and recent **expansion of existing programs**, a number of **excellent new staff have been employed**, and along with several internal promotions, a high quality leadership and client services team has been created. This has included the appointment of Flora Fielder who was appointed as Manager of Reintegration Accommodation Services. Flora has leadership experience and quickly made a gentle but solid impact. A number of **client service staff have relocated** to our office at **53 Dale Street, Port Adelaide**, which has had a makeover and increased IT capacity to ensure efficient infrastructure supports our services.
- Louise Kelly**, Member of our Executive Team responsible for Engagement Development and Innovation, was our speaker at the OARS AGM held in November. Louise was recently awarded a Churchill Fellowship. She had been undertaking studies to **research initiatives for reducing recidivism through supported reintegration and rehabilitation** and field trips in August/ September in **Singapore, UK, Canada, USA**. Louise shared with us some of her insights gained from this recent overseas trip where she had opportunity to visit many organisations with a similar mandate to OARS and to view their innovative programs.
- Sadly, **Russell Jamison** tendered his **resignation as our Hon Solicitor** in November. He has recently retired and ceased practice. It has been a pleasure to have him act in this capacity since he moved next door to OARS in 1978 on Halifax Street. He has dealt with hundreds of matters on a pro bono basis over that period and also served on our Board in recent years. Russell was presented with a gift in appreciation of his service at our AGM. Russell responded with a very interesting and insightful overview of his time serving OARS.
- A new **booking system** was implemented for the **Cadell Bus System**. Tickets can now be booked and paid for online via our website.
- Deb Black has continued to provide drive and energy at the **Centre for Restorative Justice**. A new website is being developed, which will provide more comprehensive information and details of training options. The CEO has provided presentations at the Judges Conference in September, and to SAPOL Student Prosecutors on the restorative justice process.
- The Commissioner of Children, Helen Connolly, visited our **Yatala Family Centre (Boomgate)** to discuss the needs and barriers of children that access the Correctional facilities to visit a Parent. Support offered to families through the **Yatala Family Centre** continues to be well received. *"I find that the Family Centre is a great place to come and have a chat. Staff are very friendly to talk to and it keeps the kids entertained before the visit which makes it a lot easier on us parents."*  
*"This service is a very kind and caring one with a welcome cuppa and friendly chat...Just the right thing at the right time."*  
If you would like to **volunteer** at the Boomgate on a Saturday morning, we would love to hear from you! (training provided).
- A formal **evaluation of the Circles of Support & Accountability (COSA) Program** is being undertaken by Dr Kelly Richards and a team from Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS). We are currently **seeking volunteers** to assist with this program, so please contact Dot Stagg if you are interested (training provided).
- The Clinical Services team have recommenced **the provision of counselling and support across six correctional facilities**.
- The **Good News Stories received from our clients** continue to encourage us:
  - Some excellent work has occurred with our **Integrated Housing Exit Program** case workers. They are working with clients on a number of issues with great results. These issues range from health, addiction, financial, relationships and housing. Recent results saw three clients being successful in gaining employment, one entering an intensive detox program, two completing a financial budgeting course, one reconnecting with family and three finding long term accommodation.
  - Breaking the cycle of addiction (whether drug, alcohol or gambling) is a hard road to travel, but our **Clinical Services Team** have reported some excellent results with clients – some amazing stories of rehabilitation, family reconciliations, and clients gaining employment, whilst others are taking the initial steps showing improvement in communication, memory function and mental health.

### Opportunities to Assist Us:

- We are experiencing high demand for our services and your **donation** would be appreciated.
- Our **Family Centre at Yatala 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.

### Quality Accreditation Update

Our Quality Management Review was undertaken in the week commencing 17th July 2017. We were assessed against the Health & Community Standards, and added the Mental Health Services to our list of Accreditation Standards with the Quality Improvement Council. We are delighted to have been accredited for a further 3 years.

We are currently completing the **White Ribbon Workplace Accreditation** process and have now addressed all the criteria to meet this important workplace standard.