



“A Word from the CEO”

Leigh Garrett

At the moment all of our services are stretched to capacity but we continue to deliver high quality successful services that reduce offending. We are particularly pleased with the results in the Home Detention Integrated Support Services Program. This is a new program funded by DCS that is State wide and proving to be very effective. Any new program requires enormous energy to implement and Dot Stagg and Tracy Chapman and the Team have done an amazing job to get it up and running quickly and effectively.

The Reintegration Accommodation Services team are doing a great job in maximizing accommodation options and the Clinical team is very busy providing services to the Courts and clients in the community and other OARS CT Programs.

White Ribbon Accreditation

I am very pleased to announce that OARS CT has been awarded White Ribbon Accreditation. This is a great achievement and it reinforces my commitment as CEO to have a safer and more respectful workplace and to publicly stand against domestic violence. I would particularly like to thank Louise Kelly for her tireless efforts to ensure that we were able to achieve this excellent outcome, and all staff who participated in any way to assist Louise. I am very grateful for all of your hard work. We will have a launch in coming months and the White Ribbon organisation will be sending a senior person to join us as we celebrate this achievement.

Strategic Planning

Recently, a lot of thought has been given, at all levels in the organisation, about the future and how we can better reduce crime and victimisation. The Executive Team met in May, and the Board had a Planning Day in April 2018 to consolidate this into our new Statement of Purpose and five Strategic Directions. These are on the back page.

Port Adelaide Office - the new OARS CT Office at Port Adelaide has proven to be winner and several of the Executive Team have moved in as well. We are assessing our long term accommodation needs in the coming months.

Leigh

Statement of Purpose

Enhancing community wellbeing by reducing offending and victimisation

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS:

Reintegration Services
Clinical Services
Advocacy
Victims & Crime Prevention
Organisational Excellence

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

Corporate Services located at:
53-61 Dale Street, Port Adelaide, SA 5015
Ph: 08 8218 0700
or on the web at
www.oars.org.au



Newsletter June 2018



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 winter season and throughout the year.

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

2018 Started off with a budget re-boot to give us a more accurate view of our expected outcomes, particularly in light of significant program variability. A number of new programs, as part of their implementation, had participation numbers that were lower than planned as referrers and stakeholders improved their knowledge and participation with the programs. Issues are largely resolving, although turbulence and challenges are a constant in our industry.

As the new programs mature, a number of opportunities still exist for expansion into proactive, community-based initiatives. These will provide greater opportunities for ex-offenders to become productive, community members and we are optimistic that they will receive the funding and support they deserve. We certainly won't be keeping them secret if they become a reality.

In March, our Port Adelaide office was officially opened by the Hon. Chris Pitcon, MP who was Minister for Corrections at the time. We were grateful that Minister Picton, mere days before the State election was held, took time out of his schedule to accommodate us. Friends and supporters of OARS heard of the Minister's support for what we do, and many were able to chat to him afterwards when he stayed for refreshments.

The change in government has seen the portfolio now sit with the Hon. Corey Wingard, MP. We have been heartened by the new government's support for the work we do in reducing recidivism and enhancing community wellbeing and safety. In the coming months we will be seeking to work with Minister Wingard and his departments in continuing the positive steps taken over the last 18 months in the creation and support of innovative and effective services.

We continue to endeavour to optimise the impact and performance of the Board. A strategic planning day held in April yielded some key strategic decisions that will be further developed by the CEO and Executive of OARS. In addition, we anticipate that Rachel Shaw – an outstanding lawyer with a long history of defending disadvantaged individuals – will join us officially at our next AGM. In the meantime, she is observing our meetings to get to know who we are and what we do. We are excited about the diversity she brings and the contribution she will make on the Board once appointed.

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.

- **Funding** - The Federal Government recently delivered their budget. The National Affordable Housing Agreement and the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness have merged. These agreements provide the funding for our **Ex-Custodial Homelessness Services**. If this Federal Budget measure is passed in the Senate, the good news is that our homelessness funding will be secured for three years. There are no funding cuts in these areas, and payments will be indexed, but we are keenly aware that the funding is not sufficient to meet the needs of all South Australians who require assistance, or provide enough social housing to exit clients into affordable, safe housing. There is still work to be done in this space. We are pleased that **all our other major funding** is in place for the next financial year, and we hope to continue and expand these services to meet the increasing demand and shorten waiting lists for client services.
- We are pleased that the new **booking system** implemented for the **Cadell Bus System is working well** - Tickets can now be booked and paid for online via our website, which is proving popular.
- **Centre for Restorative Justice** - A number of schools have engaged with us in the past six months to undertake **training in Restorative Practices**. Comprehensive information and details of training options are now available on the new **CRJ website** www.restorativejustice.com.au Please contact Deb Black via email dblack@restorativejustice.com.au if you have any queries.
- On 14th March 2018, we were pleased to **officially open our Office located at 53-61 Dale Street, Port Adelaide**.
- The Hon Corey Wingard has been appointed as Minister for Correctional Services. We have had an opportunity to meet with him for discussion and consultation, along with other recently appointed Government Ministers.
- The report written by **Louise Kelly** (a member of the OARS Executive Team) for her **Churchill Fellowship** is now available publicly. Entitled **'Reducing Recidivism Through Supported Reintegration and Rehabilitation**, it is excellent reading!
- We have welcomed a number of new **Volunteers** who have kindly shared their time and skills in various capacities including administration, and in our Circles of Support & Accountability (COSA) Program.
- The new Home Detention Integrated Support Service is now well underway and includes coordinated support including accommodation, counselling, drug and alcohol behaviour/treatment services. It is hoped that this will contribute to a reduction in recidivism.
- We continue to receive **positive feedback** about our services. Here is an example from two Treatment Intervention Court Participants in March 2018:

Friday facilitators received an unexpected visit from 2 Aboriginal clients who completed and passed the 12 Step MRT (Moral Reconation Therapy) program in October 2017. Both stopped to share some great news – each of them having maintained abstinence since completing the program had received a suspended sentence for their crimes and have secured paid employment. After completing MRT one client went on to complete his certificate 4 in Traffic Management. He now works for the Adelaide City Council as a 'lollie pop man' and is happy to report that he is saving money for a family holiday as well as putting money aside each week for his granddaughter's future. The other gentleman reports maintained involvement in supporting and mentoring Aboriginal children through coaching footy and facilitating cultural activities such as spear fishing. Not only is he contributing positively to his community but he has obtained employment as an Aboriginal Heritage Consultant, overseeing digging of construction sites all over Adelaide. Both men sincerely thanked MRT facilitators for their individual efforts and support during their time on the program. It was the highlight of the week seeing these guys exceed their own expectation and having played a small part in their recovery journey.

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

Accredited until July 2020

- Quality Improvement Council Health & Community Services Standards
- National Standards for Mental Health Services (NSMHS)
- Work has now commenced on putting together the Improvement/Work Plan, for both QIC and NSMHS

White Ribbon Workplace Accreditation

- OARS CT is now an Accredited White Ribbon Workplace. It is anticipated that a launch will be organised, with a representative from White Ribbon attending.