



## “A Word from the CEO”

Leigh Garrett

On November 28, we held the 131st AGM of OARS. All Directors were re-appointed and the Annual Report and Financial Statements were accepted. I spoke about the future and the opportunities for service growth over the next 6 months, as several new funding sources have become available recently. The Chair of the Board spoke about the 2017-18 year and the great achievements during the year including the implementation of the Home Detention Integrated Support Service Program (HISSP).

During the meeting, Vanessa Swan, from the Department for Correctional Services, presented the **Award that was won by the HISSP Program at the 2018 International Prisons and Corrections Association Annual Conference. The Award is for the best program of Offender Treatment and Reintegration in the world in 2018.** Vanessa spoke at length about the importance of the Award, that only 8 types of Awards are presented at the ICPA Conference every year, and only one Award relates to offender re-integration. This is the Award we won. This is a massive achievement for us and DCS as our key partner in the design and delivery of HISSP. Dot Stagg and Shane Wallace received the Award on behalf of OARS CT and my only regret is that Tracy Chapman was not able to be present. Dot, Tracy, Shane and our fantastic HISSP Team deserve huge credit for this achievement.

At the AGM, we also had a number of previous OARS CT Board members present and 2 previous Chairs of the Board, Meredith Newman and Judge Andrew Wilson. We really appreciate the people who support us, and many of you have for so long. Professor Rick Sarre was also present. Thank you!

We have reflected on many of the good news stories we have heard from clients this year and hope you will enjoy reading a couple we have included in this newsletter. It is always encouraging to the team to receive positive feedback, but even more moving to actually see our clients' lives improve. Should you wish to contribute with a donation to support our work, we would be most grateful.

I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas.

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  
Assistance with Care and Housing  
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](http://www.oars.org.au)



## Newsletter December 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 Christmas season and throughout the year.

## The OARS SA Board comprises:

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



Annabel Shinkfield, Chair

Dear Members and Supporters

Whilst 2018 was challenging, from the Board's perspective we saw a solid financial result accompanied by the successful consolidation of the HISSP (Home Detention Integrated Support Service) Program, which has now gained international recognition, the reinvigoration of the Centre for Restorative Justice (CRJ), and a positive adjustment to the first change in South Australian Government for 16 years. We have been heartened of the confirmation by the incoming Minister Wingard, that a focus on reducing recidivism will continue and we look forward to working with him over the coming months to make SA's communities safer and more productive. Another year of funding fluctuations and rocketing electricity costs made balancing the budget tough, but the CEO's responsiveness and solutions-focus delivered a reassuring surplus at year's end.

With numerous examples of poor ethics in corporations, culture has been a hot topic in the world of governance. In a pro-active move, we introduced a Culture Statement for the workplace that described the standards of behaviours expected to ensure a happy and productive work environment, reinforced by a round of anti-bullying training.

With the appointment of a part time Coordinator for the Centre for Restorative Justice (CRJ), it has been rewarding to see the rise in use of this critical conflict resolution and anti-bullying approach. We hope to see the use of restorative justice continue to grow, reducing victimisation and giving offenders the ability to accept and own the consequences of their actions.

In June, we were disappointed by the resignation of Michael Faraonio, who has served on our Board for almost 4 years. Work and family commitments made continuing his service on the Board unacceptably difficult. While his contributions have always been greatly appreciated and will be missed, we thank him for the value he's added to OARS CT, and wish him well in the future.

The Board, after the CEO's evaluation for the financial year, continued to appreciate the unflagging energy, passion and commitment of Leigh. We recognise that, after 24 years in the role, he tirelessly seeks out opportunities for new services and funding, continually revising structure and capability to find new ways to make a difference to the lives of those who can't do it alone. With the support of his management team and staff, Leigh has achieved much throughout this year. It is with great anticipation that we look forward to the accomplishments of 2019.

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

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 Clinical Services Division came up with a great idea to **change the Divisional name to Rehabilitation Treatment Services**. It more accurately reflects what we do and will resonate better among stakeholders and partners, and in the community as well.
- **Funding** - We are pleased that all our major funding has continued this financial year and we hope to expand some to meet the increasing demand and shorten waiting lists for services. A new program also commenced, **Assistance with Care and Housing**. It has a focus on wellness, for those who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, and is funded by Dept of Human Services.



As mentioned by Leigh, Vanessa Swan from the Dept for Correctional Services presented the ICPA Award to OARS staff, Dot Stagg and Shane Wallace for the HISSP Program, which provides coordinated support including accommodation, counselling, drug and alcohol behaviour/treatment services.. What an honour - **The Award is for the best program of Offender Treatment and Reintegration in the world in 2018!!**

- **Consolidation of Office Accommodation:** The relocation of a number of services to our Pt Adelaide Office in December 2017 has proven successful, and in July 2018 we closed our Hindmarsh Office. **Please note our corporate address is 53-61 Dale Street, Port Adelaide.**
- This recent **good news story was received by our Rehabilitation Treatment Service Division**. It's great when someone takes the time to give that sort of feedback after 12 months away from the program:  
A former client who attended SMART Recovery and Drug and Alcohol counselling rang OARS to say how well things were going for her, and how much she appreciated the support she had received from workers in the RTS division. She has found stable housing, has been abstinent from using methamphetamines and, for the first time in many years, gained employment. She was excited to share this good news with us and sent photos of herself looking healthy and happy!
- Our **Reintegration Accommodation Service (RAS)** Division also reported this client's experience, which is what OARS is all about - collaboration focused on client need. This client was obviously in a huge crisis and our services may well have saved this person's life: RAS Team Leader was asked to meet briefly with a client when he attended the Port Adelaide office for an initial apt. The client presented as suicidal due to his lease ending in two days and lack of supports around housing. The client was connected with a RAS community worker and advocacy with his housing provider and community mental health ensued. At the end of the day he had a one month extension to his lease, accommodation and counselling supports in place, advocacy with mental health supports ongoing and living skills support to maintain his tenancy. Great collaboration between the teams!
- **Homelessness** continues to be a constant battle, so our staff have been actively involved in the Homelessness Week held in August. Staff also attended the SA Homelessness Conference and Leigh was invited to give a presentation on Homelessness exiting Prison at the National Homelessness Conference in Melbourne. The simple fact in SA is that we need greater supply of properties urgently.
- **Centre for Restorative Justice** - In addition to training in Restorative Practices in schools, we have also provided training in a remote Northern Territory Aboriginal Community, and have some further opportunities to visit again soon. We have also been involved in facilitating Restorative Conferences between offenders and victims in courts recently. This has proven very beneficial and assisted those who have been harmed to move forward. We have Comprehensive details of training options available on the **CRJ website [www.restorativejustice.com.au](http://www.restorativejustice.com.au)** Please contact Deb Black via email [dblack@restorativejustice.com.au](mailto:dblack@restorativejustice.com.au) if you have any queries.
- **Volunteers** have continued to play an important role, contributing their time and skills in various capacities including administration, and in our Circles of Support & Accountability (COSA) Program. We need more - so if you can assist, please contact us!

### How to Get Involved:

- 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.