



“A Word from the CEO”

Leigh Garrett

On October 23rd, we held the 132nd AGM of OARS. All Directors were re-appointed and the Annual Report and Financial Statements were accepted. I spoke about 2018-19 being a year of very significant change for OARS and it has stretched us all, but at the end of the day there has been some great achievements:

- We had a good result financially that was well ahead of budget.
- We restructured the organisation for growth.
- We appointed people to new higher-level management roles. Team Managers were appointed, and the General Manager role was split into 2. Louise Kelly was appointed Deputy CEO.
- Our General Manager Services, Dot Stagg, announced her retirement after 25 years of service. Dave Stanford also retired after nearly 26 years.
- We decided to develop an NDIS service for offenders.
- Our services provided excellent support to our clients and the HISSP and CHASM Programs were recognised by achieving significant Awards.

It was a time of reflection for me as I reached 25 years as CEO of OARS, and I thank Annabel and the Board for their continued faith and support. We are about to recruit some additional members to the Board and following a short period of evaluation we expect to fill the casual vacancies.

The future has some great opportunities for us and this month we have submitted a significant proposal to expand services for partners and children of prisoners and reduce the likelihood of family breakdown and children requiring out of home care.

We really appreciate the people who support us, and many of you have done so for a very long time. Thank you!

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
 NDIS
 Reintegration Accommodation Services
 Assistance with Care and Housing
 Aboriginal Post Release Program
 Drug & Alcohol Counselling
 Gambling Support Service
 Gambling Intervention Program
 Therapeutic Diversion Courts Services
 Counselling, Health and Substance Management (CHaSM)
 Pre-Release Alcohol & Drug Program
 Circles of Support & Accountability
 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 December 2019



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 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

The Annual Report for 2018-2019 was tabled at our AGM held on 23rd October 2019. I was pleased to highlight, from the Board's perspective, some of the events contained in the report.

During the year, the Board met to discuss, dissect, dissent and decide our strategic direction, with the goal of ensuring our sustainability and growing our impact. It is important to keep 'scanning the horizon' and matching what we see within our capabilities; even expanding our capabilities when opportunities arise. The outcome of the strategic planning session is outlined on the back of this newsletter as our 'Strategic Directions'.

We have been gratified by Leigh's continuing passion for what we do, even after completing over 25 years in his role as CEO. He has driven innovation and seized opportunities to increase our services. When we compare our current budget to last year's, it reveals five new funding lines – a tremendous result in a very tough funding environment

Another fantastic result was that SA reduced its prison population by 1% (47 prisoners) as at the end of June 2018, a year that also saw a lowered offender rate. No other State in Australia did this. We believe OARS has contributed to this reduction - the programs we run, some of which are unique in Australia, are making a difference. It would be great if other Australian States adopted our proven programs to mirror what has been achieved here.

The Board appreciates and recognises the tireless work of the staff and volunteers at OARS and celebrates the difference made in the lives of clients. The good news stories we hear each month are evidence of how the teams at OARS work alongside our clients to create new stories – of hope, courage and achievement. In telling these stories, we can help to overcome community perceptions, and change attitudes towards ex-offenders.

We look forward to 2020 with enthusiasm, and, on behalf of the Board, I wish our members, 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.

- A recent meeting with the **Minister for Correctional Services, the Hon Corey Wingard**, was productive and he expressed his support for OARS and the work we do. We have asked for a more strategic relationship to be developed between OARS and the State Government. We also worked through a **number of complex policy matters with the goal of making South Australia's communities safer.**
- 20-26 October was **Gambling Harm Awareness Week**, and our team participated in some events across the sector, as well as held a successful BBQ event at the **Family Centre at Yatala** on Saturday morning.
- October also saw our team participate in the **Festival of Now** Event in Light Square – a celebration of Mental Health & Wellbeing in SA.
- OARS CT won a contract to assist Serco in the **Adelaide Remand Centre**, which commenced in August.
- We also submitted a bid with Serco to operate the **Electronic Monitoring System in the NT** and are awaiting the outcome of this.
- We have now completed our work to become registered as an **NDIS Provider** and are opening up opportunities to commence services to clients.
- The **Centre for Restorative Justice** has been involved in a number of Restorative Conferences for clients facing Court. This has assisted victims of crime to meet with the offender and have an open and honest conversation. The offender also hears first-hand the harm caused and has an opportunity to personally apologise. It is a very intense experience for all involved, and we hope it answers some questions and assists in allowing victims to move on with their lives.
- Following the Award presented to the **HISSP Program** at the International Corrections and Prisons Association Conference, the program was discussed at the recent OARS / Dept for Correctional Services Joint Governance Committee and the program was presented at an international conference. DCS indicated that there was much interest. Results in this program are great and on track to meet KPI's. Over 1,000 HISSP clients have been referred in the last 2 years.
- **Court based services** continue to perform well and a recent ABC article gives an insight into the work being done by our MRT group counselling. It can be viewed at: <https://www.abc.net.au/triplej/programs/hack/behind-the-scenes-look-at-adelaide-south-australia-drug-court/11587172>.
- The Government announced an expansion of our **DV Perpetrators Accommodation Service.**
- **On 14th December**, from 9am – 1pm, the **children's Christmas Party** will be held at the **Family Service Centre at Yatala Boomgate**. Activities include face painting and a sausage sizzle.

GOOD NEWS STORY

A Reintegration Accommodation Services client reported having completed her RSA certificate - an introduction to the Hospitality Industry. Since completing this Certificate, she will be involved in Accor Hotel's "Indigenous Employment Program", a 5 day program at the Mercure Grosvenor. The client stated she is really excited and is hopeful of gaining employment on completion.



GOOD NEWS STORY

A client, Casey, held an art expo in November in Adelaide – this is an example of some of his artwork on display.

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 Scott Patrick on (08) 8249 0702.
- 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 continued against the Improvement/ Work Plan.

NDIS

Work was completed to become a registered NDIS Provider.

CHASM Program wins Award

Our **Counselling, Health and Substance Management (CHASM)** Program recently came runner up at Adelaide PHN's Award for Achievement in Improving Access & Equity to AOD services.



This is a great achievement and a testament to the staff who deliver CHASM, which is receiving increased referrals.