



ac.care

opportunities for life ... for country people  
est. 1986



ANNUAL REPORT | FY 2024 - 2025



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

**The ac.care community of staff, volunteers, board members and other contributors recognise we live and work on land that always was and always will be Aboriginal land.**

We are honoured to provide services on the lands of the Boandik, Meintangk and Bindjali in the South East, Ngarrindjeri, Kurna and Ramindjeri in the Murraylands and Fleurieu Peninsula, Peramangk in the Adelaide Hills and First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee Region, including the Meru language group, the Ngaiawang, Ngawait, Nganguruku, Erawirung, Ngintait, Ngaraalte and Ngarkat people, along with the many other clans and family groups across these regions.

We respect the traditional custodians of these lands and their ancestors and acknowledge their deep and ongoing connection to the land and continuation of cultural practices.

We pay respect to Elders past, present and future, for they hold the memories, traditions, cultures and hopes of the First Nations people of Australia.

Our respect extends to First Nations people from these lands and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples from different nations that reside here today.

We recognise the tragic impact of past injustices and generational trauma that has led to systemic disadvantage faced by many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today and commit to contributing to reconciliation and building a better future for all alongside First Nations people and communities.

## CONTENTS

- 4 ac.care operating context
- 5 ac.care services directory
- 6-7 Board chair and executive officer report

### PRIORITISE PREVENTION AND EARLY SUPPORT

- 10 From the executive – Community Services impact strengthened
- 10-11 Resilience and positivity help Riverland mother overcome challenges
- 12-13 Chance Chatty Café meeting proves life-changing for Murraylands couple
- 14-15 Stories of impact

### LEAD STRONG COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

- 18-19 Limestone Coast business luncheon raises \$135,000 to address homelessness
- 21 Joy of Christmas shared with country foster carers
- 22 Country community unites to march forward for International Women's Day
- 23 Halloween spirit takes over ac.care sites
- 24-25 OneFortyOne and ac.care deepen partnership to support Limestone Coast communities
- 26 Ronnie mascot hunt reconnects young people to Murraylands community
- 27 Community makes homelessness its business through strong winter appeal support

### PARTNER WITH FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE

- 30 Being Brave – Creating a different way!
- 32 Parents supported to become their child's first teach through Hippy home-based learning

- 33 Agency supports SE Nations netball squad for state carnival
- 34 Community voice helps shape understanding of local need

### DEVELOP A DEDICATED TEAM LEADING CHANGE

- 38 From the executive – Developing a dedicated team leading change
- 40 Niki's foster care experience empowers others
- 42 Community centre builds connections beyond bricks and mortar in Riverland
- 44 Former homelessness client makes their mark at Mount Gambier community space
- 45 Why volunteer for ac.care?

### BUILDING FOUNDATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE CHANGE

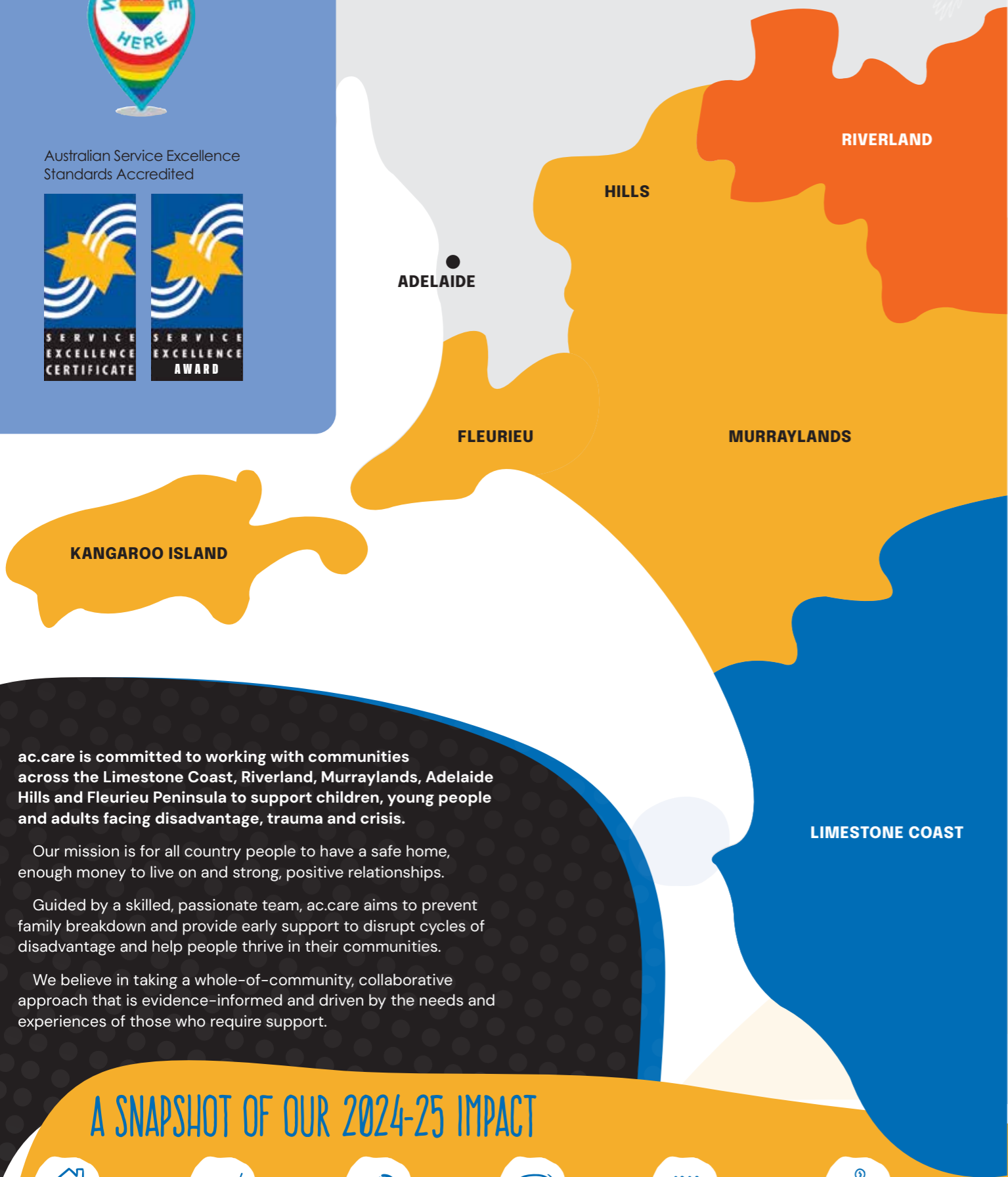
- 48 New chapter for ac.care services in the heart of Mount Gambier
- 49 Country agency reaches new milestone in proud history
- 49 From the executive – Building foundations for sustainable change
- 50 Community at heart of new Millicent garden space

### FINANCIAL SUMMARY

- 54 ac.care funding partners
- 55 Treasurer's report
- 56-59 Financial statements



Australian Service Excellence Standards Accredited



ac.care is committed to working with communities across the Limestone Coast, Riverland, Murraylands, Adelaide Hills and Fleurieu Peninsula to support children, young people and adults facing disadvantage, trauma and crisis.

Our mission is for all country people to have a safe home, enough money to live on and strong, positive relationships.

Guided by a skilled, passionate team, ac.care aims to prevent family breakdown and provide early support to disrupt cycles of disadvantage and help people thrive in their communities.

We believe in taking a whole-of-community, collaborative approach that is evidence-informed and driven by the needs and experiences of those who require support.

## A SNAPSHOT OF OUR 2024-25 IMPACT



265

children found homes with local foster carers



155

families open their homes and hearts as foster carers with ac.care



43

children and young people were cared for in our residential care homes



573

people avoided homelessness with early intervention support



100

people were able to get through a crisis with access to emergency or short term accommodation



2071

people were supported in a crisis with financial help and food through Emergency Relief services



482

people managed a difficult financial situation by seeking financial counselling



278

people moved from homelessness to stable accommodation



1246

parents and children supported by Communities For Children Murraylands programs and activities



62

families were supported to become their child's first teacher through HIPPY



1072

people strengthened family relationships through family and relationship programs



172

people participated in specialised family violence counselling and group programs

# AC.CARE SERVICES DIRECTORY

## ABORIGINAL SERVICES

- Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY) empowers parents to become their child's first teacher.
- Service to Aboriginal Youth (STAY) provides Cultural support and opportunities to Aboriginal young people aged 10-19 years.
- Youth Support and Development (YSD) program for young people aged 15-19 to improve participation and engagement in education, training, independence, health and wellbeing, and community.

## COMMUNITY AND LEARNING

- Community centres at Berri, Millicent and Mount Gambier provide a welcoming, safe and friendly environment to participate in adult learning, receive support during hardship and gain new skills to achieve life goals.
- Community Connections supports people to increase their independence in the home and build stronger social and community connections.

## FINANCIAL WELLBEING

- Emergency Relief provides financial help and food items to people who are experiencing financial hardship.
- Financial Counselling is a free and independent service offering information and support to individuals and families who are experiencing financial difficulties.
- Millicent Service SA and Services Australia agency

## HOMELESSNESS

- South Australian Country South Homelessness Alliance Lead Agency, servicing the Limestone Coast, Murraylands and Riverland.
- Reconnect early intervention program for young people aged 12-18 at risk of homelessness.
- Studio Purpose youth accommodation and support.
- Tenancy Education Program (TED) is an award-winning ac.care initiative that helps people develop skills to gain or retain a tenancy.

## OUT OF HOME CARE

- Foster carer recruitment, assessment, training and support.
- Emergency, respite, long and short-term foster care.
- Staffed 24/7 youth and child residential care homes.

## FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- Children's Contact Service, providing a safe, neutral place for changeovers and supervised contact.
- Family Dispute Resolution for parenting and property matters.
- Family and Relationship Services that include non-judgmental, confidential counselling at no cost to individuals, couples and families.
- Post Separation Cooperative Parenting focuses on the needs of children during separation and helps reduce conflict and improve communication.
- Strong Families, Strong Communities empowers families through activities and support that diverts families from entering statutory child protection services.
- Family Reunification
- Specialised Community Referral
- Specialised Family Violence Service
- Family Advocacy and Support Services
- Intensive Family Services
- Communities for Children Murraylands facilitates programs delivered by our community partners – Playgroup SA, Tailem Bend Community Centre and Centacare – across the Murraylands region, including Murray Bridge, Mid-Murray, the Coorong and Karoonda.
- Youth Resilience Scholarship recipients are given encouragement, financial assistance and support to young people living in country communities so they will continue with existing education and training or undertake new opportunities.

## 2024-25 - A YEAR OF BIG DECISIONS

**During the past year, ac.care has committed to many changes to better progress our vision to disrupt cycles of disadvantage and to strengthen the fabric of our communities. We want all country people to have a safe home, enough money to live on and strong positive relationships.**

ac.care continues to deliver many essential services to people across our country communities. To continue delivering these services effectively and efficiently and with positive impact, we continue to grow a highly skilled, compassionate and dedicated staff team who are supported and resourced to thrive in a safe working environment. We strive to be an employer of choice, to respond to the needs of our communities, and to have the trust and respect of our funders. We listen to the people who use our services and ask how they want services delivered to best meet their needs.

As we approach our 40th anniversary, we have made major decisions to ensure that ac.care continues to be strong, to grow, be innovative and be adaptable to the changing needs of our communities.

In the past year our decisions and changes have included:

- The strengthening of our governance by moving from an incorporated association to a Company Limited by Guarantee, which members supported in February 2025.
- Reaffirming our long-term strategic vision and setting a three-year horizon which will build stronger organisational foundations.
- Investing in a two-year program to reform our technology to ensure that our services, and the information we hold remain safe and secure, our technology is mobile, adaptable, user friendly and that it enables us to make better use of our data to increase our impact.
- Using artificial intelligence (AI) to enable new, creative and more efficient ways of operating.
- Transitioning our financial management from old-style spreadsheets to a modern cloud-based technology platform that brings vastly improved efficiency, better management of our finances and the ability to plan into the future.
- Reforming and enhancing our Human Resource function.
- Beginning the process of constructing one central Client Management System
- Investing in a Project Management Framework which sequences and tracks the big tasks that we have set ourselves.
- Not to develop further Reconciliation Action Plans but to commit greater resources towards building stronger relationships and partnerships directly with Aboriginal people, communities and organisations. This is because we want to be accountable to local First Nations peoples and to listen to them in new and better ways. We are committed to supporting the transition of services to

Aboriginal control where this is supported by funders.

- Developing a new leadership structure with a re-configured executive team who are supported by a new Growth, Service and Delivery (GSD) Team.
- Relocating our Head Office from White Avenue on the outskirts of Mount Gambier to an accessible and prominent site in Percy Steet in the Mount Gambier central business district. Our former site of 27 years is poorly located and no longer fit for purpose. Percy Street is being re-developed to suit our modern operations and to support our highly skilled workforce.
- Constructing a new Quality and Safeguarding Framework to support increased service delivery and improved outcomes for everyone who uses our services.
- Committing internal resources towards ensuring that every young person who leaves our care to live in the community, has a strong plan and wrap-around support giving them the best possible chance to be a successful and independent adult.

Achieving these things requires strong governance, stewardship, leadership and deep commitment all underpinned by our values which reflect our proud history as an Anglican community organisation. We support the most disadvantaged in our communities but also work to strengthen families so that all country children have a strong start, young people are supported to reach their full potential, and all adults are safe and connected in their communities.

We cannot do this important work without a dedicated workforce and the strong support of our communities. It is an honour and a privilege for us to lead this incredible organisation knowing that we are part of an amazing team who work every day to make a positive difference in the lives of so many. We thank you for your ongoing support and prayers.



**Richard Fisher**  
ac.care Board chair



**Shane Maddocks**  
ac.care chief executive officer

---

# PRIORITISE PREVENTION AND EARLY SUPPORT

---



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE - COMMUNITY SERVICES IMPACT STRENGTHENED

In 2024–2025, ac.care’s Community Services portfolio continued to strengthen our impact across country South Australia, delivering high-quality, client-centred programs that empower individuals, families and communities to thrive. Guided by our values of Compassion, Adaptability, Relationships and Excellence, we focused on prevention, collaboration and sustainable change through housing, family, financial and community development services.

Our teams supported thousands of people experiencing homelessness, financial hardship, and family stress, working alongside partner agencies and government to deliver early intervention and wrap-around supports. We enhanced quality and safeguarding practices across all programs, embedding client voice, human rights and trauma-informed approaches to ensure services are safe, inclusive and responsive.

Significant achievements this year included the expansion of regional homelessness responses through the Country South Homelessness Alliance, strengthened partnerships with Aboriginal communities to promote cultural governance and self-determination, and delivery of community-led wellbeing initiatives that built local resilience and connection. Our Financial Counselling and Capability programs responded to record demand, while our Family Services teams led innovative approaches to early help, safety planning and family preservation.

Internally, we continued to invest in our workforce through professional development, reflective practice, and student placement opportunities, supporting social workers and practitioners to grow within a learning culture of excellence.

The achievements of 2024–2025 demonstrate the strength of our people and our partnerships. Together, we have delivered tangible outcomes for those most in need and advanced our vision of all country South Australians having a safe home, enough money to live on, and strong, positive relationships. We thank our funders, partners and staff for their commitment to creating lasting change.

Emma Poole,  
ac.care Community Services executive manager

## RESILIENCE AND POSITIVITY HELP RIVERLAND MOTHER OVERCOME SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES

**A RIVERLAND mother has demonstrated remarkable resilience and positivity while on the brink of homelessness, all while bravely battling an aggressive cancer that has altered her life forever.**

Donna\* and her young child now happily live in a safe, stable home following a turbulent 12-month period that included a brush with homelessness after fleeing family violence, as well as months of agonising treatment that altered Donna’s physical capabilities.

Donna’s story was shared as part of National Homelessness Week 2025 to highlight the often complex and compounding challenges that people are navigating when they seek support from country agency ac.care.

The future is full of optimism for Donna thanks to her positive mindset and determination, but it has been a long journey that took a distressing turn around Christmas 2023 when, while living with a relative, she experienced family violence and had to flee to keep herself and her child safe.

This shattering incident came just as Donna prepared to travel to Adelaide for cancer treatment after receiving a shock cancer diagnosis several months earlier.

After returning to the Riverland, Donna contacted ac.care’s Berri Community Centre where the Riverland homelessness service team quickly worked to find

a safe housing option while she and her child stayed with another family member.

“Finding a safe home not only helped me, but it also helped my baby as well as you do not want to raise your child in a violent home,” Donna said.

“That is how my childhood was, so it was really important to me to not have my child living the same lifestyle that I did growing up.”

While securing a safe place to live was a priority, Donna also recalls the small gestures of support from ac.care Riverland homelessness service case manager Shane that provided comfort during this difficult time.

“Shane helped me out with the gas bottle and some money to get to and from Adelaide for my appointments,” Donna said.

“He also helped me with some food, as well as anything that I needed doing.”

However, just as stability began to return, Donna was rushed to Adelaide where she received the devastating news the cancer had shifted to her spine.

Donna underwent multiple significant surgeries to remove cancer from her body and had medical implants put in place to help retain her ability to walk.

Her recovery was prolonged after enduring a stroke during recovery, as well as experiencing radiation burns during treatment.

“I couldn’t see my daughter for 21 days after that and all up I spent around five months away from her throughout the year,” Donna said.

Additionally, Donna had to self-fund many costs related to her treatment, including accommodation, as she could not access supported housing due to radiation exposure, which posed a risk to immunocompromised people.

“I was meant to do it again around Christmas last year and I said to the doctors, I just can’t fund it.”

While her health remains a priority, Donna took a major positive step forward in September 2024 when she moved into a new home with her daughter. This also marked the start of her relationship with ac.care Riverland homelessness service case manager Jacque, who has been guiding them through this new chapter while continuing to provide small but impactful support.

“It has been good to have someone that says ‘give it to me and I’ll take that burden and you worry about you in here and I’ll deal with that out there’.

“I don’t think a lot of people understand what pressure that takes off a person when they are at their most vulnerable.

“Jacque has been like a warm embrace and for someone who grew up in a rough life, it is something you can’t express.

“Sometimes you have to remind yourself, even through all those dark moments, that there are people out there who will go above and beyond to help you out.

“And look where I am now, I love my house, and me and my child are so settled – we are so happy.”

Donna encouraged others facing challenges to contact ac.care for support in regaining control of their situation.

“We can’t take away all the bad things that have happened, but it’s given me this whole other bunch of good stuff in life that you need when you’re at your lowest,” Donna said.

“That is one thing money can’t buy – security, freedom, a safe place.

“That is what I have been given thanks to ac.care, not just for me, but for my child too, and that is priceless.”

\*Name changed for privacy reasons

**ac.care’s Murray Bridge youth homelessness project was highly commended in the partnership category of the national Anglicare Australia 2024 awards.**

The Studio Purpose project was praised for transforming the lives of vulnerable youths after the community worked together to develop a second set of four units last year to provide housing for eight young people at risk of homelessness.

ac.care Murraylands Homelessness Service youth homelessness case worker Cristina “Crissy” McCalden and manager Thanuja Hiripitiyage are pictured with the award.



SCAN ME  
TO LEARN  
MORE



**STARTED WITH A CHAT:**

After both experiencing loneliness, a chance meeting at Chatty Café Murray Bridge helped Murraylands residents Robin Kavooris and Vonny Jaensch find connection that has changed their lives.

## CHANCE CHATTY CAFÉ MEETING PROVES LIFE-CHANGING FOR MURRAYLANDS COUPLE

**A TWIST of fate and a friendly smile were moments that mattered for two Murraylands residents when it came to finding a life-altering connection at Chatty Café Murray Bridge.**

What started as a coffee and a chat has blossomed into companionship for Robin Kavooris and Vonny Jaensch, who now lead busy lives full of meaningful connections after both overcoming profound loneliness following the loss of their partners.

The Chatty Café Murray Bridge regulars shared their story to mark Loneliness Awareness Week, with the 2025 theme "Moments Matter" a fitting description of their journey.

Their story started at The Square on South Terrace where ac.care Community

Connections Murraylands support worker Sheila Millington – in collaboration with Murray Bridge Community Centre and The Haven Murray Bridge – launched South Australia's first Chatty Café in August 2023.

Robin was among the first people to attend the inaugural Chatty Café Murray Bridge after seeing a flyer while shopping.

"I had been lonely seeing my wife pass away back over three and a half years, and it was so quiet in my place," Robin recalled.

"I thought I'd better go join the community at bingo or any other place to meet people, then I went to Coles and saw about Chatty Café."

Robin became a regular as he attended the weekly Thursday morning sessions, forming

connections with other Murraylands residents that lasted anywhere from minutes to months.

A twist of fate occurred a year later when Vonny went to The Square with a friend for an exercise class, only to discover they had the wrong time. Instead, they were encouraged to come back the following day to Chatty Café – a moment that mattered greatly.

"When I came up that day, the first person I saw was Robin at the far end on the corner, and he gave me this big smile," Vonny recalled.

"That was really just the very start, and gradually we became closer every week," she said.

As for their first chat, it was the loneliness they had both experienced since losing their partners that became the foundation of their early friendship.

"We were talking about how we had to get over living without our partners," Vonny recalled.

"I'd lost my husband a year and a half before, and yeah. So, we were both lonely, and I wasn't particularly looking for anyone yet."

Their friendship continued to grow, with them meeting other friends outside of Chatty Café, before Robin asked to take Vonny on a first date.

"We didn't let on here for a while, but eventually we said we are a couple now," Vonny said.

Their bond has strengthened over their shared interests in gardening, travel, Robin's love of classic vehicles, and their affection for their pet dog Bella.

Importantly, it has also brought together their families and friends to create new connections across the community spanning generations.

"We take the grandkids to the movies; that's usually how the holidays go now. We take the little ones, three of them, it's lovely," Vonny said.

While their social lives are a lot busier these days compared to before they met, Robin and Vonny still head to The Square most Thursdays for a Chatty Café catch-up.

"It is just nice to be able to come here every week knowing you are going to have a good day, or you might be there for someone else, or someone there for you," Vonny said.

"Without it, it wouldn't have been a journey, so we thank Chatty Café for being here, and luckily, I was here on the wrong day."

ac.care Community Connections Murraylands support worker Sheila Millington encouraged the community to attend the free, weekly Chatty Café Murray Bridge sessions or stop for a chat with someone on the bright yellow Chatty Bench.

"Finding connection does not need a grand gesture or long journey; it often starts in those small moments where a smile or quick chat can make all the difference," Sheila said.

"Loneliness and social isolation have significant adverse health impacts, so we must all try to play our part in helping someone break through to find connection in the community.

"I can't promise you'll find the same meaningful connection as Robin and Vonny, but you might just find your positive moments that will matter in your journey."



SCAN ME TO WATCH THE VIDEO



48,830

people visited ac.care community centres at Berri, Mount Gambier and Millicent



5634

volunteer hours contributed

# STORIES OF IMPACT

## CO-PARENTING RELATIONSHIP STRENGTHENED THROUGH FAMILY SUPPORT

**THE co-parenting relationship has been strengthened for two people through the support of ac.care Family Dispute Resolution program.**

The separated parents had been in high conflict and while they had reached some agreements previously on children's matters post-separation, they had been unable to face each other or communicate directly.

After completing two Family Dispute Resolution mediation sessions, both parents agreed to attempt a joint session, sitting face-to-face, in the same room. In the session they were able to communicate and make agreements in the best interests of their child.

Both parents shared their gratitude with their practitioner, highlighting how it had supported their co-parenting relationship as both people felt they could receive individual support, were made to feel welcome and heard, and validated in their experiences.

According to the parents, this enabled them to work through their conflict, to be able to sit together and discuss what was in their child's best interests.



## CHILD'S VOICE GUIDES PARENTS TO CREATE POSITIVE CHANGE

**A CHILD'S voice proved pivotal in creating positive change between separated parents who had been in high conflict.**

The parents had not communicated with each other directly for nearly 12 months when presenting at ac.care, with initial sessions held individually due to their inability to effectively communicate.

Both parents stated they felt the child was used as emotional support by the other due to the sharing of issues they had with one another to the child. Upon the practitioner's recommendation, the parents agreed to attempt Child Inclusive Mediation.

In the child's session, the child expressed confusion, disappointment and hurt that they were the 'go between' and hoped their parents could communicate

directly with each other. Time spent with each parent was not a consistent routine and the child hoped they could spend time between both homes without fear of upsetting either parent.

In the parents' individual sessions to receive the child's feedback, both parents were open to and understanding of their child's views and reflective in their own behaviours that led to their child feeling caught in the middle. Both parents decided they would attempt to be in the same room for mediation.

During the mediation, the parents were not only able to be in the same room to discuss a plan that would be in the best interests of their child but reached a full agreement on a parenting plan. They spoke honestly about the issues that had arisen during the co-parenting relationship and how they could move forward to ensure their child would be their priority. They agreed to act as the adults, taking the burden away from the child, to alleviate the stress and pressure their child had been carrying.

After the session, both parties left ac.care together, smiling.

## HOMELESSNESS SERVICE PROVIDES BEAUTY AND CINEMA EXPERIENCES FOR PEOPLE IN HARDSHIP

**PEOPLE experiencing hardship in Mount Gambier were invited for hair and beauty sessions or to enjoy a cinema screening through experiences organised by country agency ac.care.**

The separate experiences were organised by ac.care Limestone Coast homelessness service manager Kelly McGuinness to bring joy and connection to people experiencing personal challenges.

"We had one person who was so grateful for their experience, they shared a picture of themselves on social media – something they said they normally didn't feel comfortable doing," Ms McGuinness said.

"It was a great example of how something small we may get to experience regularly can really make an impact on someone who doesn't have that luxury."

While the experiences go beyond the specialised support offered by ac.care, Ms McGuinness said they played an important role in building a sense of community and bringing positivity into people's lives.

"We work closely with the people who need support to address the challenges they are experiencing and to work with them to create the safety and stability they need to thrive," Ms McGuinness said.

"A lot of these interactions happen in our service delivery, as well as in our day-to-day functions at the community centre, so it was great to move outside of those spaces and to offer something to bring some joy.

"These experiences are often not a priority or out of reach for people facing hardship, so we are thankful that we have the community support to be able to provide these opportunities."

# LEAD STRONG COMMUNITY COLLABORATION



## LIMESTONE COAST BUSINESS LUNCHEON RAISES \$135,000 TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

**LIMESTONE Coast businesses have banded together to raise \$135,000 to increase the impact of ac.care in supporting people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.**

The major fundraising tally was achieved at the 2025 Limestone Coast Support Homeless People Luncheon with business, civic, and community leaders among over 400 guests at The Barn Palais on Friday, August 8.

Billed as the region's largest business networking event, the luncheon – traditionally held every two years – was fittingly held during National Homelessness Week.

"This event aligns strongly with the purpose of National Homelessness Week as – aside from the important fundraising that occurs – the luncheon raises awareness about the hardships faced by local people and the complex challenges that increase their vulnerability," ac.care chief executive Shane Maddocks said.

"A key part of the event is sharing insights into the experience of homelessness, as we know when we work together as a community through shared

purpose and responsibility, we can truly make inroads into these big challenges."

Mr Maddocks thanked the broad range of contributors towards the event's success, including The Barn, Coopers, Barry Maney Group, DiGiorgio Family Wines, auctioneers Darren Maney and Matthew Treglown, event emcee Barry Stafford, and guest speaker Melanie Cooper AM.

"The Limestone Coast community once again showed its generosity with strong business and personal support through sponsorships, donations, providing items for the raffle and auction, as well as buying tickets to be part of this special event," Mr Maddocks said.

Mr Maddocks also thanked the local people who bravely shared their own deeply personal experiences with homelessness and how they were supported by ac.care.

"People put a lot of trust in us when we help them, often at their most vulnerable, so it is humbling to hear their stories and how ac.care positively influenced their lives," Mr Maddocks said.



**HOMELESSNESS HELP:** Event emcee Barry Stafford, guest speaker Melanie Cooper AM and ac.care chief executive Shane Maddocks at the event.

Event emcee Barry Stafford paid tribute to event co-founder Barry Maney OAM, following the 10th anniversary of his passing, reflecting on his legacy and how it continues to influence the region's business sector.

"This event continues to generate community spirit across the business sector with businesses that would otherwise be competitors coming together to work together for a great cause," Mr Stafford said.

Guest speaker Melanie Cooper AM shared the story of her family's business – iconic South Australian business Coopers Brewery – including its triumphs, challenges, and how it has given back through philanthropic and community-

Contributions to ac.care made by local businesses OneFortyOne and O'Brien Electrical Mount Gambier were also highlighted during the luncheon, while the event has also inspired new partnerships that will increase the agency's impact in other ways.

A major charity auction at the event, featuring 26 items, raised more than \$40,000, while South Australian Regional Development Minister Clare Scriven took to the stage to announce a \$20,000 contribution from the State Government.

Raffles and other activities were also held on the day with broad support from regional businesses helping boost the fundraising result.



**COMMUNITY SUPPORT:** OneFortyOne was proudly represented at the luncheon.



**MARCHING FORWARD:**  
Dozens of supporters joined the International Women's Day community march through the heart of Mount Gambier on March 7.

## HALLOWEEN SPIRIT TAKES OVER ac.care SITES

**THE spooky season took hold at ac.care during Halloween with hundreds of children and families trick or treating at the Murray Bridge-based ac.care Murraylands Centre and Mount Gambier Community Centre.**

ac.care staff dressed up and decorated their workspaces as part of the Halloween festivities, drawing in a constant flow of community members to the agency sites throughout the evening.

It was the first time the Murraylands centre had hosted a community Halloween event and Reconnect youth support officer Lexie Kermond estimated over 700 people visited the Bridge Street premises.

"Our first Halloween at ac.care Murraylands was a huge success and our team had a lot of fun interacting with the children and families who visited during their trick or treating," Lexie said.

"ac.care is proud to offer opportunities for all country people and while this falls outside our usual services, we had a great time engaging with the community and simply having fun together."

"Everyone has a responsibility to ensure women and girls are given equal opportunity to build their capabilities and strengthen their capacity to learn, earn and lead," she said.

"We are committed to providing opportunities for all country people to thrive and proud to be part of International Women's Day, which is important to many of our staff and the people we work with."

Guest speakers included South Australian Police Limestone Coast Superintendent Cheryl Brown, along with representatives from the Women's Legal Service SA, ac.care Linker project officer Jennifer Doody, South Australian Voice to Parliament presiding member Danni Smith and Aboriginal Family Support Services representative Dawn Cardona.

Guests then enjoyed live music provided by Anne Fraser and Christy Wallace.

## COUNTRY COMMUNITY UNITES TO MARCH FORWARD FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

**DOZENS of people proudly marched through Mount Gambier's central business district to celebrate the contributions women make to our communities.**

Purple flags waved and chants of support echoed during the main street procession, which formed part of International Women's Day celebrations led by ac.care.

International Women's Day is held on March 8 each year, with the 2025 theme calling on people to march forward for all women and girls.

Members of the RSL Blue Lake Highland Pipe Band led the procession from Vansittart

Park to the Mount Gambier Community Centre where the crowd heard from community leaders while a free barbecue lunch was served by OneFortyOne.

Speaking to the crowd of supporters, ac.care Mount Gambier Community Centre community program coordinator Shauna Wood shared the history of International Women's Day while calling for continued action in accelerating gender equality around the world.

Reflecting on the event, Shauna thanked the community for its strong show of support in the commitment towards gender equality.



SCAN ME FOR THE FULL STORY

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE - OUT OF HOME CARE

The Out of Home Care (OOHC) program continues to strengthen support for children and young people, with a strong focus on those in our country communities. Central to our approach is ensuring children have options to remain connected to their families, local networks, and communities wherever possible.

We deliver trauma-informed, high-quality care tailored to the individual needs of each child, helping them to thrive while maintaining the relationships and connections that are vital to their wellbeing.

Collaboration with the Department for Child Protection and peak bodies such as Child and Family Focus SA, Create Foundation, Connecting Foster and Kinship Carers SA, and the Office of the Guardian for Children and Young People ensures that the voices of children and foster carers guide decision-making.

In regional areas, strong local relationships enable access to essential services, supports, and opportunities. By working closely with schools, health providers, community organisations, carers, and peak bodies, the program fosters a coordinated approach that ensures stability, connection, and positive outcomes. Events like SA Foster and Kinship Carer Week celebrate foster carers' dedication while reinforcing community ties. The program also engages with the National Anglicare OOHC Network; sharing ideas, driving innovation, and advocating for improvements in out-of-home care nationally.

Over the past year, refined data collection and reporting have provided critical insight into service delivery, policy, and procedures, supporting informed decision-making and guiding future growth to meet emerging needs.

Our workforce is the program's greatest strength – dedicated local people who support foster carers and provide 24/7 care for children in residential settings. Through ongoing support, training, and professional development, staff are equipped to deliver trauma-informed care that responds to the individual needs of each child. Our team is central to providing critical support, and we are fortunate to have such a skilled, resilient, and committed workforce across all our regions.

Recruitment and retention of foster carers remain a priority, with resources focused on attracting new carers while supporting and recognising existing carers. The program is also strengthening pathways to independence, equipping young people leaving care with the skills, connections, and supports needed for a successful transition. Looking ahead, the outcome of two tender processes should be known in 2026 – for residential and specialist foster care. These are anticipated to commence in mid-2026 and will further enhance our ability to meet the needs of children and young people.

Through these initiatives, the Out of Home Care program continues to deliver coordinated, high-quality services, advocate for children and foster carers, and build strong community partnerships that create lasting impact.

**Shalini McCarthy,**  
Out of Home Care executive manager

### FESTIVE FUN:

ac.care's Limestone Coast foster care team hosted a Christmas celebration for foster carers at Mount Gambier. Pictured are Nicholas Gabriel, Trish Laney, ac.care chief executive Shane Maddocks, Lisa Fry, Shalini McCarthy, Michael King, Yazmin Hepburn and Sherri Winter.



## JOY OF CHRISTMAS SHARED WITH COUNTRY FOSTER CARERS

**THE joy of Christmas was shared between foster carer families and ac.care's Out of Home Care team at regional festive celebrations in December 2024.**

Christmas-themed events held at Mount Gambier, Monarto, Victor Harbor and Barmera brought the agency's regional carer communities together to celebrate and acknowledge their significant contribution to children in care throughout 2024.

Foster carers and their families, including young people in care, were treated to a range of experiences, all aimed at providing entertainment and the opportunity to socialise in a festive atmosphere.

ac.care was generously supported by local businesses and other agencies as part of the celebrations, helping to create memorable opportunities for all.

Riverland foster carers congregated at the Barmera Club, where ac.care joined Department for Child Protection (DCP) and other agency staff to host a celebration full of fun, including activities and prizes.

ac.care also supported DCP events held in the Murraylands and Fleurieu Peninsula, with some foster carer families enjoying a day at Monarto Zoo, while others attended a pool party at Fleurieu Aquatic Centre.

In the Limestone Coast, foster carer families supported by ac.care attended a Christmas Party held at Hastings Cunningham Reserve, which included children's activities, live music and a BBQ lunch with meat supplied by OneFortyOne and cooked by South East Street Machines members.

ac.care Out of Home Care executive manager Shalini McCarthy thanked the foster carer community for their dedication throughout the year.

"You play an incredible role in the lives of children who need care, security and stability," Ms McCarthy said.

"Your commitment to supporting children in need and the way that you partner with us in your journey is greatly appreciated," she said.

"ac.care is fortunate to work alongside you and we look forward to continuing this journey together in the new year."

The regional foster carer Christmas celebrations form part of yearly calendar of events aimed at building relationships and supportive connections between our foster carer network.

This includes regular coffee mornings or other gatherings throughout the year.



**VALUED CONTRIBUTION:**  
OneFortyOne employees Michael Olle, Warren Egan, Jenni Kain and John Munn provide a barbecue for Fringe Berrin/Mount Gambier activities at ac.care's Mount Gambier Community Centre.

## ONEFORTYONE AND AC.CARE DEEPEN PARTNERSHIP TO SUPPORT LIMESTONE COAST COMMUNITIES

**ONEFORTYONE, one of the region's leading forestry and sawmilling companies has formalised a partnership with ac.care to deliver greater support for local people in need.**

The partnership formalises years of collaboration between OneFortyOne and ac.care, creating a written commitment to work together safely, combine resources and skills, and review progress every six months to ensure it supports shared goals.

"We know we achieve more when we work together and OneFortyOne has been a strong partner for some time – contributing in practical ways to help ensure country people have a safe home, enough money to

live on and strong, positive relationships," ac.care homelessness and community services senior manager Trish Spark said.

The partnership extends beyond financial support, with OneFortyOne staff regularly volunteering their time and expertise at ac.care's Mount Gambier Community Centre.

OneFortyOne head of capital and operational optimisation Nigel Boyd said the OneFortyOne team had embraced the opportunity to be more involved.

"Our partnership with ac.care is something we really care about and truly value," he said.

"Our teams contribute through hands-on activities like building community garden

beds, fixing donated bikes, running barbecues and supporting major events such as the Limestone Coast Support Homeless People Luncheon. We also raise funds through our partnership with Mount Gambier Pioneers basketball.

"As a major local employer, our families live here, our kids go to school here – and we want to see our community thrive. We hope our involvement inspires other businesses to look at what they can do to support vital organisations like ac.care."

OneFortyOne Safety Capex and Maintenance Program manager Andrew "Hoathy" Hoath has been at the forefront of the company's contributions.

"I first got involved helping out at barbecues for ac.care clients, then we built garden beds for the community centre and it just grew from there," he said.

"Now a few of us from the maintenance team regularly spend time repairing and upgrading bikes for people who visit the centre. We really enjoy our time there and the reactions we get from the people we help."

ac.care chief executive Shane Maddocks welcomed the formalisation of the partnership.

"Delivering services as complex as homelessness support and out-of-home care requires a whole-of-community approach," he said.

"Having the people and resources of OneFortyOne on board makes a real difference. The August Limestone Coast Support Homeless People Luncheon also strengthened support from other Mount Gambier businesses and we hope more will follow OneFortyOne's example by forming genuine partnerships that strengthen our region."



SCAN ME TO WATCH THE VIDEO

**CATERING SUPPORT:** OneFortyOne maintenance manager Kyle Summers, ac.care foster care placement support worker Nick Gabriel and OneFortyOne planning manager Warren Egan provide a barbecue for foster carers at an ac.care event



**PRACTICAL HELP:** OneFortyOne employees Andrew Burston, Andrew Hoath and Niki Collins lend their skills to maintain pushbikes for visitors to the Mount Gambier Community Centre operated by ac.care.

## RONNIE MASCOT HUNT RECONNECTS YOUNG PEOPLE TO MURRAYLANDS COMMUNITY

**A FUN mascot hunt held at Murray Bridge inspired young people to spend time outdoors and explore their community as part of South Australian Youth Week 2025.**

Where's Ronnie? The Reconnect Mascot Hunt was held in April 2025 across four days and encouraged young people aged 12 to 18 to find three plush mascots hidden at Murray Bridge businesses or public spaces each day.

Clues were posted to a Facebook event with daily prizes on offer for the young people who returned one of the mascots to ac.care Murraylands Centre at 29 Bridge Street.

ac.care Reconnect youth support worker Lexie Kermond said the activity aligned with both the Reconnect program and Youth Week objectives of encouraging youth to explore and connect with their community.

"It has been proven that being outdoors has a positive impact on young people's well-being, and can reduce levels of stress, depression and anxiety," Lexie said.

"It was clear that the young people were excited to be involved, and we did hear positive feedback around hosting activities for the 'bigger kids'.

"Parents also commented how the daily mascot hunt had engaged their children and got them excited and out of the house, which had proven challenging at times for them."

Lexie said most of the mascots were returned within the first hour of clues being posted online with young people and the broader community embracing the new initiative.

"We are grateful to the businesses and organisations that got involved and hosted Ronnie for the hunt and donated prizes for our daily winners," Lexie said.

"Their energy made this possible and it was amazing to see just how well these young people knew their community from the photo clues we provided."

While fun was the focus, Lexie hoped the activity helped increase awareness among young people and their families about ac.care and the services available to support people across the Murraylands.

"Reconnect aims to prevent homelessness and reduce its impact, particularly on families and young people, through innovative prevention and early intervention initiatives.

"A big focus of our work is providing an individualised approach to young people to support family reconciliation where possible and to improve their level of engagement with work, education, training and the community."



## COMMUNITY MAKES HOMELESSNESS ITS BUSINESS THROUGH STRONG WINTER APPEAL SUPPORT

**DONATIONS of blankets, bedding, warm clothing, food and pantry items have helped increase the impact of ac.care on vulnerable country South Australians during winter.**

Generous contributions from community groups, businesses, schools, and local people were crucial in meeting demand as people experiencing hardship received support from ac.care sites across the Limestone Coast, Murraylands and Riverland.

Among the significant contributions were donations of non-perishable food and pantry items made by customers of Drakes Murray Bridge as part of the Food for Friends campaign, which was presented by Power FM 98.7 and 5MU 96.3.

In the Limestone Coast, the annual Triple M 90.5 and SAFM 96.1FM Limestone Coast Blankets and Winter Warmer Appeal once again attracted strong community support with residents answering the call to help bring comfort to people in need during the wintry conditions. The appeal was also generously supported by Park Dry Cleaners, with the Mount Gambier business serving as a drop-off point for donations.

Riverland residents seeking support through Berri Community Centre benefited, including from the Renmark Irrigation Trust, the Loxton Shed Quilters, Berri Uniting Church craft group Refresh and Bloom, and newly formed charity Beating Heart by Bee and Lee.

ac.care homelessness and community services manager Trish Spark said the number of people seeking support continued to grow, praising the community for its contributions that helped meet demand.

"The colder, wetter and shorter days of winter can really add to the challenges of people experiencing

hardship as they try to keep warm, stay dry, manage their utility costs and access transport," Ms Spark said.

"Every donation makes an impact and can help bring immediate comfort to someone while they receive support from our dedicated team to address other challenges they may be experiencing.

"Homelessness is everybody's business and we are fortunate to live in a community that is prepared to be a part of the solution.

"It is going to take a combined approach from governments, business, and the broader community to achieve meaningful change in ending homelessness and reducing the number of disadvantaged people in our regions."

## PRISON COMMUNITY GIVES BACK AT CHRISTMAS

**A LARGE donation of non-perishable food items was made by the Mount Gambier Prison community to support local people in need over Christmas.**

Staff and prisoners continued an ongoing tradition of generously donating a variety of food items to ac.care, which was distributed to people seeking support over the festive period.

The donation formed part of a significant community effort to bring joy to people in need last month and ease the financial burden of the festive season through ac.care's Christmas Cheer initiative.

Mount Gambier Prison resettlement and reintegration manager Allan said the collective effort aimed to make a significant difference in the lives of many local families, including families of people which the prison cares for, during the festive season.

PARTNER WITH FIRST  
NATIONS PEOPLE



## BEING BRAVE – CREATING A DIFFERENT WAY! AC.CARE DECIDES TO MOVE AWAY FROM HAVING A RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

Since 2018 ac.care has had two Reconciliation Action Plans (RAP), each developed through collaboration of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal staff. In 2022 the organisation developed a 3-year Stretch RAP with the aim of “extending and deepening” our commitment to working in partnership with Aboriginal peoples. It was an ambitious plan, capturing a significant number of activities in the areas of relationships, respect, opportunities and governance.

ac.care’s Reconciliation Action Plans have served as documents of commitment and accountability. They have provided clear direction about priorities, accountability and resourcing for this important work.

ac.care’s RAPs have supported the organisation to progress in many areas. This has included:

- Focussed recruitment and retention of Aboriginal people and currently 10% of ac.care’s staff are Aboriginal
- Creation of a Walking Together Logo designed by Aboriginal people to sit proudly alongside other ac.care branding.
- Aboriginal cultural experiences for staff, volunteers and Board members including “on-country” activities and truth-telling tours
- Internally developed training created by Aboriginal people for all staff, volunteers and foster carers
- Regional Reconciliation In Action Groups which hold regular events, share resources and support localised learning.
- Significant support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the Voice to Parliament Campaign.

**WALKING TOGETHER:** ac.care Limestone Coast foster care service staff Kalisha Stuckey, Sherri Winter, Lisa Fry, Michael King, Stowe Scott, Nicholas Gabriel (right) were joined by ac.care community engagement manager Jason Wallace (second from right) at the annual NAIDOC Week march through the heart of Mount Gambier.



**STRENGTH, VISION AND LEGACY:**  
ac.care Riverland HIPPIY tutors Andrea Giles and Stacey Hume were a part of Riverland NAIDOC Week 2025 celebrations on the Berri riverfront.

- Commitment to using Aboriginal expertise including consultants such as Dana Shen
- Progressing partnerships with Aboriginal organisations including Moorundi and Pangula Mannamurna
- Embedding Welcome and Acknowledgement to country across the organisation as common practise
- Creating policies and guidelines that strengthen support to Aboriginal people such as a cultural leave policy, racism policy, Aboriginal Cultural Learning Plan and Aboriginal Employment Plan
- Active participation in significant events including Reconciliation and NAIDOC weeks
- Acknowledgement of innovative practice through winning awards at the 2024 Anglicare Australia Conference

In October 2023 Australia held a referendum to enshrine Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their voice into our Nation’s constitution. This was a position supported by ac.care following deep

consideration and consultation with Aboriginal staff and community leaders. The defeat of the referendum led us to consider the purpose of our RAP and to explore the best way to ensure ac.care continues a meaningful approach to reconciliation and to ensure that accountability is first to local First Nations peoples and is flexible enough to respond to local guidance.

In February 2025 the organisation officially decided not to create another RAP when its existing Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan concluded in May. This important decision was accompanied by a clear commitment, that ac.care will pursue the development of a new ‘artefact’ that captures a new set of principles and actions as an alternative to a RAP. This artefact will be simpler, more responsive and accountable to local Aboriginal people and communities. Non-Aboriginal people will have clear responsibility to put the principles into action under the guidance and wisdom of Aboriginal people working together toward a better future for all.



**Kirsty Barnett,**  
Cultural Integrity and Practice Excellence executive manager



**LIFELONG LESSONS:** ac.care HIPPY Murraylands age four tutor Jasmine Trevorrow said the home-based learning program had given her more confidence to support the development of her daughter, Leah.

## PARENTS SUPPORTED TO BECOME THEIR CHILD'S FIRST TEACHER THROUGH HIPPY HOME-BASED LEARNING

**PARENTS in the Murraylands and Riverland are being supported to become their child's first teacher through the Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY).**

The free early education and parenting program, delivered by ac.care in the Murraylands and Riverland, provides resources and fun opportunities to help young people aged three and four thrive in a home-based learning environment.

ac.care HIPPY Murraylands age four tutor Jasmine Trevorrow connects with local families to help nurture these traits, supporting parents through the HIPPY curriculum to deliver an empowering,

encouraging, and positive experience for children.

Supporting other families and seeing the benefits for children as a tutor inspired Jasmine to enrol her daughter, Leah, in the program to help her learning and school readiness.

"Before HIPPY, I knew that Leah was going to learn from me as her Mum, but I now really feel like her first teacher, and I've been able to give her that little bit of extra support, so I know that when she goes off to school, she is going to be ready," Jasmine said.

"To see her progress, like learning to count to 10 or be able to identify colours, it has

been amazing to witness, and seeing the joy on her face when she learns something new makes me happy."

HIPPY supports parents through a curriculum of activity packs over two years, with each pack providing five activities and other learning ideas that can occur anywhere, at any time.

The learning focuses on five key areas – Thinking and Exploring, Communication, Creativity, Social and Emotional, and Family and Community.

"The learning is play-based, so you are having fun while working on fine and gross motor skills, teaching maths and science concepts, recognising shapes and colours, and much more," she said.

"It is easy to forget that you are sharing in their learning, it just feels like play."

Jasmine praised the program for supporting her parenting and now enjoys the opportunity to meet with other parents, with HIPPY tutors providing support through weekly (for children aged three) or fortnightly (for children aged four) home visits.

"We also have group gatherings and Leah gets to meet all the other HIPPY kids and I get to connect with the parents as well," she said.

"It is a very diverse program, and it is great that the parents get to connect.

"I have made friends with a lot of the other HIPPY parents who go beyond the program.

"We all go around and talk about what activities we have done with our children and what ways we have changed them to suit our children's needs as well."

HIPPY tutors are typically parents who have completed or are completing their HIPPY journey with their child and are often re-entering the workforce after being a full-time parent.

The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters is funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Social Services. The Brotherhood of St Laurence holds the licence to operate HIPPY in Australia.



SCAN ME TO WATCH THE VIDEO





**UNITED EFFORT:**  
The SE Nations Netball squad brought together representatives of the Boandik, Ngarrindjeri, Kurna, Narungga and Gunditjmara nations across the players and committee.

## AGENCY SUPPORT SE NATIONS NETBALL SQUAD FOR STATE CARNIVAL

ac.care supported the SE Nations Netball squad, which competed in the Netball SA Nunga Netball Carnival at Adelaide's Netball SA Stadium in October 2024 alongside teams from across the state.

The squad brought together representatives of the Boandik, Ngarrindjeri, Kurna, Narungga and Gunditjmara nations across the players and committee.

Participants were proud to represent Aboriginal nations from across the region, with the initiative bringing people together to proudly unite on the netball court and during activities associated with the trip to Adelaide, aimed at building lifelong connections and strengthening community.

The SE Nations squad fielded Under-15, Under-11 and Under-9 mixed teams.

ac.care, I&D Traffic Management and forestry and sawmilling company OneFortyOne are major sponsors, with

many other stakeholders from across the community supporting the squad.

ac.care was privileged to visit a training session and put together a video celebrating the squad, explaining its purpose and acknowledging our support.

It was wonderful to see the proud spirit of the players training to represent the region.

Congratulations to all participants from across the state. Follow SE Nations Netball on Facebook to get involved or show your support.



SCAN ME TO WATCH THE VIDEO

## COMMUNITY VOICE HELPS SHAPE UNDERSTANDING OF LOCAL NEED

**IT WAS** a transformative year for Communities for Children (CfC) Murraylands in the 2024-25 financial year as the program started two significant community consultation projects designed to build and strengthen partnerships and better understand community needs.

With Ngarrindjeri consultant Dana Shen leading the way, CfC Murraylands commenced a process of healing and rebuilding trust, yarning, laughing and deep listening with Elders, families, children, and allies to better understand how to work alongside Aboriginal families and organisations.

From those conversations a framework for Aboriginal community co-design and consultation is being developed, and learnings continue to shape how CfC Murraylands works with community.

This includes helping to inform the program's Community Needs Assessment.

The assessment aims to create a comprehensive picture of the needs and strengths of Murraylands families and children, improve understanding of gaps and barriers to service, and highlight programs and approaches that are already working well.

Initial work has included interviews and focus group sessions aimed at tapping into the collective wisdom of the teams working around CfC Murraylands at ac.care, then connecting with services in the wider regions.

The next phase includes interviewing families across the community and speaking to a broad range of demographics and backgrounds to ensure the voice of regional communities is captured.

CfC Murraylands intends to take learnings from both community consultation projects to develop tools and resources to guide better service delivery and partnerships, support advocacy and funding submissions, and identify opportunities to build on the strength and resilience that exists within Murraylands families and children.

Outside of these key pieces of work, CfC Murraylands also supported three community partners to deliver child-focused and family programs that benefited over 1200 country people.

Playgroup SA, Taillem Bend Community Centre and Centacare delivered the opportunities across 12 rural communities through funding from CfC Murraylands.

The CfC Murraylands team also supported local events and initiatives, including Murray Bridge NAIDOC week activities, Aboriginal Health Fair Day and joined Po:lar Ka:ngkun Tainkuwalun to provide children's activities at the Mobilong prison for incarcerated fathers to spend quality time with their families.

Time was also invested in improving the governance structure of CfC Murraylands, which is governed by a volunteer committee of community members to ensure the program's work remains transparent and reflective of the community's diverse needs



# DEVELOP A DEDICATED TEAM LEADING CHANGE



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE - DEVELOPING A DEDICATED TEAM LEADING CHANGE

At ac.care, our people are our most important asset. In a complex and often challenging human services delivery environment, our focus throughout 2024–25 has been on investing in our workforce, supporting wellbeing and strengthening a culture where employees feel valued, connected and equipped to make a difference in regional SA. Retaining great staff and ensuring they have the confidence and tools to lead change remains central to this work.

This year saw the establishment of the Growth, Service and Delivery (GSD) team, a collective of middle leaders empowered to drive consistent, high-quality human services delivery across our regions. The formation of this group represents a significant step in building leadership capability, connecting operations to strategy and strengthening accountability for impact. The work has also focused on bringing both program and corporate leaders together to ensure shared direction, alignment, and collaboration across all areas of ac.care.

Visible leadership has been a strong focus, with leaders spending more time across sites to strengthen relationships, share direction and hear directly from staff. The 2025 Employee Engagement Survey provided valuable insights, supported by face-to-face meetings across all regions to better understand and connect with our workforce. These conversations have reinforced our commitment to listening, learning and responding together.

ac.care has also continued to mature in how it collects, utilises and reports on data, creating clearer links between performance, strategy and outcomes for the people and communities we support. Regular dashboards, engagement insights and workforce reporting are helping to embed evidence-based decision-making and continuous improvement.

Together, these efforts are building a culture of openness, accountability and purpose, creating a workforce that not only adapts to change but leads it with clarity and care.

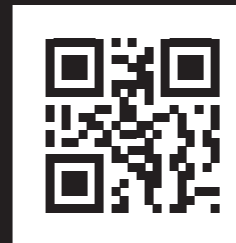
**Stephen Green, People, Strategy and Impact executive manager**



## THE AC.CARE WAY

ac.care strives to be recognised as an employer of choice that offers a fantastic work culture and workplace environment that attracts and retains the best people.

The features of our environment as an employer of choice favour the well-being of our employees, volunteers and people who use our services.



Want to know more about working with ac.care? Scan the QR code or go to [www.accare.org.au/careers](http://www.accare.org.au/careers)

## COMPASSION

- Consider how our actions and words impact others and are sensitive to others' feelings
- Demonstrate professionalism to support aculture of integrity and commitment to child safety
- Assist to navigate others by understanding their current situation and how they want it to change
- Stop, listen and never walk past a problem
- Always be kind

## ADAPTABILITY

- Leverage diverse views and perspectives to improve services
- Include the voice of people who use our services in all decision making
- Adapt to changing circumstances in a constructive, positive and flexible way
- Challenge the status quo and keep a continuous improvement mindset
- Continually seek opportunities to learn and develop

## RELATIONSHIPS

- Demonstrate inclusive practices and champion diversity
- Exchange smiles and encourage laughter and a sense of connection
- Champion and support others to be great
- Demonstrate confidence to ask questions, face challenges and accept feedback
- Be prepared to express our views and have difficult conversations in a respectful way

## EXCELLENCE

- Step out of our comfort zone and attempt new approaches to pursue excellence
- Share information ethically, consistently and transparently
- Collate data that strengthens the evidence base for interventions to meet service user and community needs
- Continually improve services to remain ahead of the expectations of people who use our services
- Make ourselves aware and follow relevant legislation, policies and procedures
- Protect our own health and safety and the health and safety of others



**CHILD FOCUS:**  
Former foster carer Niki Borchardt remains committed to ensuring children experience safety, love and stability to thrive through her role as a case worker with ac.care Foster Care Services in Murray Bridge.



Despite the reward of seeing young people develop in her care, Niki said occasions of challenging behaviour when children struggled emotionally was at times difficult, but her ac.care case worker was always a strong support.

"We love celebrating carers and the wonderful job they do," Niki said.

She encouraged people who had considered becoming foster carers to learn more and take the next step.

"With the training and support you receive along the way, it's well worth doing," she said, explaining caring opportunities could be matched with people's lifestyles, from long-term to offering respite at weekends, and with children of ages that match capacity of carer households.

"Your heart breaks for the children when that's happening, but our case worker at the time was just amazing and made such a difference to our journey, particularly when there were tricky times," Niki said.

"It's absolutely worth doing and makes such a difference for children," she said.

"She could help me to advocate for the child's needs and be a sounding board as someone who understood children who have experienced trauma."

"We need lots more foster carers so children can experience family-based care in loving homes with lots of support around them – it's enriching and rewarding no matter which type of care you provide."

Niki said training she received as a carer helped her understand the impact of trauma and other factors on children's lives and she welcomed the opportunity to empower other foster carers today.

"You might not understand at the time how the learning as a foster carer is going to help you, but then a situation will come up and you realise you have the tool you need," she said.



SCAN ME TO WATCH THE VIDEO

As the needs of Niki's family changed, she moved from providing foster care to supporting those who do, joining ac.care's team at Murray Bridge as a case worker.

"I still wanted to be a part of the system of supporting children in care to be able to support carers in the way I was supported," she said.

"There are all sorts of ways that we support our carers and different carers have different needs."

This support ranges from direct assistance to individuals, including a 24/7 helpline, to arranging trainings and coordinating networking opportunities, such as coffee gathering and events at Easter and Christmas to bring carers together to support one another.



## NIKI'S FOSTER CARE EXPERIENCE EMPOWERS OTHERS

**ENSURING children experience safety, love and stability to thrive has been a lifelong commitment for Murraylands mother Niki Borchardt.**

In addition to raising her own children, she has provided a foster home with her husband for young people in need of care before joining the ac.care staff team as a key support worker for other carers.

"The rewards have always absolutely outweighed the challenges, knowing that even if you only cared for a child for a week, you were making a difference," she said.

"I had one little boy with me who couldn't sleep in a bed and couldn't listen to a story, but within a week of good routine, support, love and care was happy to go to bed and could actually sit and enjoy a story."

The Borchardts first became foster carers when they decided to welcome children into their Murraylands home in addition to their five sons.

"There were three main children we had for longer periods and then lots of other kids coming and going," Niki said, explaining children loved the freedom of their farm environment, collecting eggs from the chickens and checking on cows and sheep on the property.

"Overall, it was just like having extra siblings in the house," Niki explained.

"We were already used to footy on the weekends – it's just what we all did – and it was just another child to tag along – there's just so many children out there that need that ... just love and support."



## COMMUNITY CENTRE BUILDS CONNECTIONS BEYOND BRICKS AND MORTAR IN RIVERLAND

**BUILDING connections and community beyond the bricks and mortar of Berri Community Centre is at the heart of ac.care's Riverland services hub.**

Dozens of people gathered at the Kealley Street centre on June 4 to officially celebrate the site's status as Berri Community Centre, which was made possible through long-term Department of Human Services funding.

Additional resources have now flowed into combating social isolation and promoting a strong sense of belonging for people at the centre, which is home to ac.care's Riverland services, including foster care, homelessness, emergency relief, financial counselling, Aboriginal services, family and youth support and more.

ac.care Berri Community Centre community program coordinator Sue Dayman encouraged people from all walks of life to connect with the centre to support their needs, as well as create connections and strengthen community with others.

"People may come in to access a particular service or support, but we just take you under our wing and we look after you," Sue said.

"We want the centre to be a place where people feel they belong, where they can just come along and be part of a community," she said.

"This is also a space that can be shared by our community, such as other groups or organisations who may want to use our outdoor kitchen, our conference room or some of our other facilities."

ac.care Cultural Integrity and Practice Excellence executive manager Kirsty Barnett said Berri Community Centre was more than bricks and mortar and was a symbol against the quietest epidemic facing humanity – loneliness.

"Despite increasing populations of people and all those technological solutions that claim to create community, many, many people feel invisible or isolated," Kirsty said.



"Beyond the obvious individual health impacts, loneliness can impact our sense of purpose and self-worth in a world which emphasises independence and encourage virtual interactions.

"Many people lack deep, consistent connections. It is not a personal issue, it is a public issue affecting communities.

"That's why spaces like this centre matter so much.

"We want this place to demonstrate what is possible when care is put into action somewhere, where we genuinely invest in people, where we encourage friendships to form, for stories to be shared, for help to be offered and received, and for people to be truly valued.

"Let this be your place where you find your people and where community is more than a word."

Berri Community Centre is part of the Department of Human Services-funded Community and Neighbourhood Development program.

Drop by the Berri Community Centre at 5 Kealley Street, Berri or call 8580 5300 to learn more about ac.care's services.

**Follow the Berri Community Centre noticeboard – ac.care on Facebook to stay connected to the latest news, events and opportunities at the centre.**

**BUILDING CONNECTIONS:** ac.care Community Connections Riverland support worker Kirbie Giles, Department of Human Services (DHS) project support officer Kyra Taylor, DHS community centre program manager Eva Purdis, DHS Community Connections Program manager Michael Hill, ac.care Community Connections Murraylands support worker Sheila Millington and ac.care Berri Community Centre community program coordinator Sue Dayman at the Berri Community Centre opening on June 4.



## BOARD MEMBERS

**Chairperson:** Rick Fisher.

**Deputy chairperson/non-executive director:** Brittany Shelton.

**Treasurer/non-executive director:** Paul Duka.

**Non-executive directors:** Tony Wright, Ruth Daws, Ken Pidgeon, Louise Nobes, Billie-Jo Barbara, Emma-Kate Griffiths.

**Committee members:** Erika Vickery, Gillian McGinty, Michael Bleby, David Hill.

## STAFF MILESTONES JULY 2024-JUNE 2025

**15 years:** Connie Leckie, Amanda Schellen, Meredith Nelson, Michael Allen, Amanda McKinnon.

**10 years:** Katisha Jackson, Rosemary Pilven, Kristie Couzens, Linda Noble.

**5 years:** Kym Clerke, Michelle George, Angela Drury, Danielle Vardon, David Adams, Jacqueline Charity, Amelia Walters, Jessica Soper-Cook, Nicole Childs, Carmel Grosvenor, Larrissa Taylor, Tenesha Pickering, Shannanne Haynes, Samantha Owen, Alexandra Kermond, Haley Wearing.



**HERE TO HELP:** Mark Collins provided daily support for people in need at the Mount Gambier Community Centre, including helping people to access support at the annual Christmas Cheer initiative.

## FORMER HOMELESSNESS CLIENT MAKES THEIR MARK AT MOUNT GAMBIER COMMUNITY CENTRE

**LIMESTONE Coast trans man Mark Collins worked to help people in need at ac.care's Mount Gambier Community Centre, which sits in stark contrast to his first visit to the Ferrers Street site several years ago on the brink of homelessness.**

It has been a challenging journey for Mark, made more difficult by managing a chronic illness, but his lived experience helped him give back to others over two years at the centre.

Working as a client service officer at the

community centre was a far cry from Mark's last full-time job in 2016 when, after years of working in manual labour roles, he started to experience constant pain and became unwell.

The following year he was diagnosed with fibromyalgia, a chronic illness that causes pain, tenderness and fatigue throughout the body.

Mark's challenges were compounded when he was informed that the house he was renting had been sold.

"Unfortunately, I didn't have the friends or family options to stay with people, but I really didn't want to be a burden on anyone – I wanted to try and do it myself."

On the brink of homelessness, Mark made his first visit to ac.care's Mount Gambier Community Centre where current Limestone Coast homelessness service regional manager Kelly McGuinness offered support to determine a path forward.

Mark attended weekly appointments with the Limestone Coast Homelessness Service team, welcoming the opportunity to also pick up donated food and other supplies while at the centre to help extend his budget.

"It made a big difference, especially when you've been eating a couple of loaves of bread a fortnight with margarine and cheese because that's all you could really afford," he said.

After several weeks of support, Mark was able to secure public housing and avoided becoming homeless with the stability of a safe home and growing connections in the community supporting a positive shift in his life that has continued to this day.

Inspired by lived experience of the impact the Mount Gambier Community Centre can make, Mark turned his hand to volunteering and joined ac.care in September 2023 where he helped prepare meals and supported the centre's daily operations.

"It was wonderful to give back knowing what it is like to be on both sides of the bench," he said.

"Every person has value and worth and it's wonderful to see clients achieving their goals, securing housing and their smiling faces.

"I like to remind myself that we all have the potential to achieve our goals and be successful and sometimes it takes an encouraging word and support to see others reach success."

## WHY VOLUNTEER FOR ac.care?

**COUNTRY people are being encouraged to join a fun and valued network of volunteers increasing the impact of local charity ac.care and directly supporting vulnerable people.**

Volunteers are being sought to support ac.care's service delivery at its community centres in Berri, Mount Gambier and Millicent, which provide valuable day-to-day opportunities for vulnerable people.

Duties include preparing food and drinks for community members, managing collection and display of donations, supporting the upkeep of gardens and surrounds, as well as end-of-stay cleaning of emergency accommodation homes.

Hear directly from our wonderful volunteers and why these everyday people stepped up to make an extraordinary contribution to their communities



SCAN ME TO WATCH THE VIDEO

# BUILDING FOUNDATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE CHANGE



## NEW CHAPTER FOR AC.CARE SERVICES IN HEART OF MOUNT GAMBIER

**ac.care is preparing for the next exciting chapter in its history with a long-term move to Mount Gambier's central business district that provides space for growth, evolution and greater impact to our community.**

The youth and child out of home care team and corporate services staff working from ac.care's White Avenue head office at Mount Gambier, together with Helen Street Mount Gambier Family Relationship Centre staff, will shift to 5 Percy Street, formerly occupied by Centrelink.

"It is a significant opportunity to bring areas of our organisation together under one roof to achieve efficiencies, boost collaboration both internally and with the surrounding community and enhance our services," ac.care Board Chair Rick Fisher said.

"This is a very exciting time for ac.care as we look to increase our presence in the Limestone Coast and take further proactive steps to create a whole of community approach to create sustainable, long lasting social change," he said.

It is a landmark development for the country agency as it continues to grow to meet community needs after forming in Mount Gambier in 1986 when a small group of local people at the Anglican church identified a gap in care for teenagers unable to live at home with their parents and employed a social worker.

"The history of ac.care is steeped in Mount Gambier and its people, so we are proud to strengthen our footprint in the region and provide the platform for our organisation to continue supporting vulnerable country South Australians well into the future," Mr Fisher said.

"Very rarely do opportunities present themselves of this nature and we are pleased that we have been able to secure the lease on the former Centrelink building, with plans to be operating from this site in 2025."

The new Percy Street address will also serve

as the head office for the organisation, which has grown from its Mount Gambier foundations to now employ 240 staff serving communities across the Limestone Coast, Riverland, Murraylands, Adelaide Hills and Fleurieu Peninsula as a country specialist agency.

ac.care chief executive Shane Maddocks said the relocation would help modernise the agency and provide scope to continue to grow and evolve to meet the needs of the Limestone Coast community and beyond.

"This is a significant step forward for ac.care as we improve our Mount Gambier facilities to provide an appropriate workplace for staff to meet modern standards and better serve the people we support through combining services at a central location," Mr Maddocks said.

"Bringing people together in the same space will create new opportunities for collaboration, connection and bring about efficiencies to bring down costs over the long-term," he said.

"The central location of the site will also provide greater accessibility for staff and visitors, along with greater discretion for clients than the current family relationship centre location provides."

ac.care's Mount Gambier Community Centre, which is the base for the Limestone Coast Homelessness Service, will be unaffected by the move and continue to offer a range of services at 22-24 Ferrers Street.

The Mount Gambier Children's Contact Service will continue to operate from the 70-72 White Avenue premises.

It is expected the move to Percy Street, which is due to be completed December 2025, will create minimal disruptions for people accessing ac.care services during the transition period, with any impacts to be communicated in advance.

## COUNTRY AGENCY REACHES NEW MILESTONE IN PROUD HISTORY

**ac.care has reached a new milestone in its near-40-year history as it officially transitioned to a nationally recognised Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG).**

This significant step has been carefully managed by the ac.care Board to align the agency with best practice governance standards and ensures its structure reflects the scale and responsibility of the community services it provides.

Importantly, the support ac.care provides to country South Australians and the agency's skilled, passionate workforce have not been affected by

this transition, which changes the organisation's legal name to Anglican Community Care Limited, trading as ac.care.

With the transition from Association to Company in effect from October 1, 2025, ac.care Board Chair Rick Fisher said it was a positive step that reflected ac.care's growth and maturity as an organisation.

"The CLG structure is the standard for larger charities and not-for-profits in Australia and this change positions ac.care to continue expanding services, partnerships, and funding opportunities," Mr Fisher said.

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE - BUILDING FOUNDATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE CHANGE

**The recent implementations of UKG (HR/Payroll) and Technology One (Finance/Procurement) systems has strengthened the foundations upon which our organisation operates, driving greater consistency, accountability, and transparency across our back-office support functions.**

These systems have modernised how we manage people, finance, and operations—providing a platform that supports sustainable growth and long-term change.

Through UKG, we continue to establish a more reliable and efficient workforce and payroll process. The next step in our journey will be enabling staff to manage their own information through self-service tools.

Technology One has brought similar transformation to our financial and operational environment, unifying data and enabling faster, more informed decisions. Together, these systems will reduce duplication, enhance reporting capability, and continue to build more confidence in the integrity of our systems and information.

While these implementations have already delivered significant benefits, they represent only the beginning of our digital transformation journey. Over the next 12 months, both platforms will continue to be significantly enhanced, with more processed automated, user

experience improvements, and deepening the insights available to leaders and teams.

These enhancements will ensure that our systems continue to evolve alongside our organisational needs and strategic priorities.

Our focus now turns to the next phase of building sustainable capability: the procurement of a new client management system (CMS) and a full overhaul of our IT infrastructure.

These initiatives will enable secure, anytime-anywhere connectivity, ensuring our staff can access the systems and information they need, whether in the office, in the field, or working remotely. Ultimately, benefiting the people who need and engage with our services.

Together, these investments will create a fully integrated, modern digital ecosystem that supports our staff to deliver better outcomes for clients, enhances organisational resilience, and strengthens our foundation for long-term, sustainable change.

**Finance and Business Services executive manager,  
Leigh Barry**

**Chief Information and Communications Technology  
Transformation Officer, Dave Brown**



**CENTRE SPACE GROWS:** ac.care Millicent Community Centre volunteer Barry Leigh and centre coordinator Evonne Lambert dig in at the launch of the community garden space at the George Street site.

## COMMUNITY AT HEART OF NEW MILLICENT GARDEN SPACE

**A COMMUNITY garden and outdoor space has been created at the ac.care Millicent Community Centre to support social connection and new opportunities in the heart of the township.**

Raised garden beds and outdoor seating have beautified the centre's George Street grounds, creating an attractive and functional space for people to meet, learn and connect.

ac.care officially unveiled the new garden area in August 2024 with a community celebration, ushering in a new era of opportunity for the important services hub.

A Community Connections flexible funding grant from the Department of Human Services has transformed the previously

under-utilised space, which ac.care hopes will develop into a vibrant edible garden that provides free, healthy produce for centre visitors.

"The community garden project realises a vision for us here at Millicent Community Centre to create a community space for everyone where people can meet, relax, chat and participate in activities," ac.care Millicent Community Centre coordinator Evonne Lambert said.

"We are excited to work with the community to plant, grow and maintain the garden, with the produce to also be shared by visitors, helping provide access to fresh food and lower grocery bills.

"The benefits this space provides go well beyond the food it can produce and it is our hope that these garden beds also grow connections between people while providing physical activity."

Ms Lambert encouraged the local community to embrace the new space and find ways to use it to support social connection and building a sense of community.

"We have a range of community programs that will benefit from this space, but we are always looking to partner with our community to the benefit of all," Ms Lambert said.

"This will be a great place to take a break from your shopping on a nice day or meet up with a colleague for an outdoor meeting.

"We would love to reach a point where local businesses and community groups are involved in activities and other opportunities, such as hosting a barbecue lunch for centre visitors."

Ms Lambert said while the country agency had developed the community garden and outdoor space, it was important interested residents played a role in leading the area's development.

"We want the community garden to be a meaningful and interactive space so we encourage anyone with the willingness to be involved to visit the centre and discuss how we can grow this space together," Ms Lambert said.

The Millicent Community Centre is a multi-function office with a range of ac.care services, a Service SA Rural Agent/Service Agent, Services Australia Agency and a location for other organisations to provide outreach services for the community.

Visit the centre at 57-59 George Street or call (08) 8735 5700 for more information on how ac.care can support you or to contribute to the supports available.



# FINANCIAL SUMMARY



## AC.CARE FUNDING PARTNERS

Brotherhood of St Laurence

Department for Child Protection SA

Department of Human Services SA

Department for Infrastructure and Transport

Department of Social Services

Legal Services Commission

Wyatt Benevolent Institution

Services Australia

## YOU CAN HELP INCREASE AC.CARE'S IMPACT

**DONATIONS to ac.care help increase our impact in ensuring country South Australians have safe homes, enough money to live on and strong, positive relationships.**

While many of our core services are funded by government, we deliver other initiatives from our own fundraising to provide further support for vulnerable people.

Our diverse team is uniquely placed to support people when they need your help and can ensure donated funds assist country South Australians to overcome crises and build hope for a better future.

Your donations increase our impact to make a greater difference in the lives of country people.

### This can include:

- Support services for people who are homeless

or at risk of homelessness, including meals and other basic necessities through to special programs in our community centres.

- Youth Resilience Scholarship grants to support young people to pursue education and development opportunities.

- Support for young people to avoid or overcome homelessness and build a more hopeful and independent future.

- Other initiatives to help meet gaps in services identified by our staff and clients.

ac.care projects have been started with generous donations from the community and your support can help ensure they continue.

electronic funds transfer.

- Nominate ac.care for a bequest in your will so that your legacy supports our work with vulnerable country people.

- Donate by making a cheque payable to "Anglican Community Care Limited" and sending to ac.care, PO Box 1842, Mount Gambier, SA, 5290. Please include your name, email and postal address so we can send a tax receipt and thank you.

**You can make a one-off or ongoing tax deductible donation by visiting [accare.org.au/donate](https://accare.org.au/donate)**

- Call (08) 8724 5400 from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday to donate by phone for credit card or

## TREASURER'S REPORT

**The 2024–25 financial year was a pivotal period for ac.care, characterised by strategic transformation and solidification of its financial position. During this year, ac.care advanced key initiatives designed to strengthen governance, modernise operations and build the foundations for long-term sustainability.**

Despite significant investment in key strategic initiatives, ac.care delivered another positive financial result, recording a surplus of \$284,000. While this result is lower than the \$1.25m surplus achieved in 2023–24, the reduction reflects deliberate investment in the strategic priority to "build foundations for sustainable change".

### Key initiatives progressed during the year included:

- Finalising the legal and structural requirements to transition ac.care to a Company Limited by Guarantee.
- Deploying the TechnologyOne finance enterprise resource planning system and UKG payroll software.
- Commencing a long-term lease for the new head office at Percy Street, Mount Gambier.
- Developing and initiating the Information Technology Transformation Strategy.

As a result of these strategic initiatives, total expenditure for 2024–25 increased to \$28.7m, up \$2.1m from the previous year. The rise was primarily driven by higher employee costs, staff entitlements and direct expenses associated with the transformation program.

Total income for the year reached \$29m, representing an increase of \$1.18m compared with 2023–24. This increase was attributable to higher grant funding received and improved returns from the investment strategy.

ac.care continued to strengthen its treasury management and investment strategy, achieving a 9.5% return over the past 12 months. To reinforce this strategy, ac.care commenced reinvestment of dividend funds into the investment portfolio managed by Ord Minnett throughout the year.

Total assets grew by \$2.3m over the year, supported by the recognition of right-of-use assets related to the Percy Street lease and continued investment growth. Borrowing levels remained stable with no new loans required during the financial year. However, total liabilities increased due to the prepayment of grant funds and the recognition of new lease liabilities associated with the Percy Street premises.

Supporting the Treasurer's role, the Audit and Risk Committee continues to play a vital role in the corporate governance of ac.care, providing oversight, assessment and recommendations to strengthen the organisation's financial and risk management strategies.

Throughout 2024–25, the committee provided critical oversight of ac.care's evolving and increasingly complex operational and systems environment. The committee's key focus areas included reviewing the organisation's risk control framework, endorsing a new cyber security framework and reviewing the assumptions underpinning the long-term financial plan.

In light of the significant organisational transformation undertaken, the 2024–25 financial performance exceeded budget expectations, and many of ac.care's key financial performance targets were successfully achieved despite the changing expenditure profile.

Overall, ac.care's financial position remains strong and sustainable. The actions and strategies implemented during the year have not only strengthened the organisation's governance and risk management but will also continue to transform and modernise ac.care's financial operations into the future.

**Paul Duka,  
ac.care Treasurer and non-executive director**

## HOW TO DONATE

# ANGLICAN COMMUNITY CARE INCORPORATED

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME - AS AT 30 JUNE 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
<b>INCOME</b>			
Revenues from fees and charges	3	625,222	388,908
Grants and contributions	4	26,941,263	25,758,665
Interest income	5	321,781	278,057
Investment income	6	205,712	215,271
Net gain from the disposal of non-current assets	7	-	1,325
Other income	8	451,862	742,915
Fair value gain / (loss) from financial assets	13	517,155	500,323
<b>Total income</b>		<b>29,062,995</b>	<b>27,885,464</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Staff benefit expenses	9	21,848,937	20,471,997
Supplies and services	10	5,347,307	4,891,648
Depreciation and amortisation	11	1,236,277	1,024,791
Finance costs	12	326,781	219,090
Net loss from the disposal of non-current assets	7	249	-
Other expenses	14	18,784	25,368
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>28,778,335</b>	<b>26,632,894</b>
<b>NET RESULT</b>		<b>284,660</b>	<b>1,252,570</b>
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE RESULT</b>		<b>284,660</b>	<b>1,252,570</b>

# ANGLICAN COMMUNITY CARE INCORPORATED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION - AS AT 30 JUNE 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	15	5,777,803	5,782,815
Receivables	16	106,086	93,479
Other current assets	17	427,589	485,064
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>6,311,478</b>	<b>6,361,358</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Financial assets	18	6,062,870	5,411,383
Property, plant and equipment	19	2,541,339	2,445,630
Right of use assets	23	3,693,330	2,142,919
Intangible assets	20	66,264	44,496
Other non-current assets	21	70,870	8,370
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>12,434,673</b>	<b>10,052,798</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>18,746,151</b>	<b>16,414,156</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Payables	22	433,072	802,586
Lease liabilities	23	707,214	558,208
Loan borrowings	24	44,419	41,319
Staff benefits	25	3,143,435	2,613,367
Other current liabilities	26	672,371	200,077
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>5,000,511</b>	<b>4,215,557</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Lease liabilities	23	3,256,580	1,838,929
Loan borrowings	24	1,413,594	1,459,343
Staff benefits	25	504,716	507,758
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>5,174,890</b>	<b>3,806,030</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>10,175,401</b>	<b>8,021,587</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>8,570,750</b>	<b>8,392,569</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Other reserves		855,170	1,332,068
Retained earnings		7,715,584	7,060,501
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>8,570,754</b>	<b>8,392,569</b>

# ANGLICAN COMMUNITY CARE INCORPORATED

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY - AS AT 30 JUNE 2025

	Other reserves \$	Retained earnings \$	Total \$
<b>Balance at 30 June 2023</b>	<b>1,345,499</b>	<b>5,794,500</b>	<b>7,139,999</b>
Net result for 2023-24	-	1,252,570	1,252,570
Transfer to / (from) reserves	(13,431)	13,431	-
<b>Total comprehensive result for 2023-24</b>	<b>(13,431)</b>	<b>1,266,001</b>	<b>1,252,570</b>
<b>Balance at 30 June 2024</b>	<b>1,332,068</b>	<b>7,060,501</b>	<b>8,392,569</b>
Net result for 2024-25	-	284,660	284,660
Transfer to / (from) reserves	(476,898)	370,423	(106,475)
<b>Total comprehensive result for 2024-25</b>	<b>(476,898)</b>	<b>655,083</b>	<b>178,185</b>
<b>Balance at 30 June 2025</b>	<b>855,170</b>	<b>7,715,584</b>	<b>8,570,754</b>

# ANGLICAN COMMUNITY CARE INCORPORATED

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS - AS AT 30 JUNE 2025

	2025 \$	2024 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Receipts from fees, charges and grants	31,849,168	29,408,442
GST recovered from the ATO	684,534	704,367
Interest received	321,781	273,138
Payments to suppliers and employees	(28,524,672)	(26,516,926)
GST remitted to ATO	(2,814,598)	(2,733,450)
<b>Net cash provided by / (used in) from operating activities</b>	<b>1,516,213</b>	<b>1,135,571</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	-	1,352
Investment income	205,713	210,352
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(458,111)	(770,259)
Purchase of financial assets	-	219,090
<b>Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities</b>	<b>(252,399)</b>	<b>(558,582)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Loan borrowings	-	600,000
Payment of lease liabilities	(1,126,144)	(900,367)
Repayment of borrowings	(142,682)	(110,000)
<b>Net cash provided by / (used in) financing activities</b>	<b>(1,268,826)</b>	<b>(410,367)</b>
<b>Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>(5,012)</b>	<b>166,622</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	5,782,815	5,616,193
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period</b>	<b>5,777,803</b>	<b>5,782,815</b>

A commitment to diversity, inclusion and respect is fundamental to ac.care's dedication to supporting all people living in country South Australia.

Anglican Community Care Inc

ABN 53 440 436 445

Charity Licence CCP2565

DGR 900 153 951

A member of the Anglicare Australia network

All information contained herein was accepted in good faith and was correct at the time of printing.

Design: Dynamic Media Creation - dmcreation.com.au

Environmental Commitment:

ac.care is committed to reducing our ecological footprint and this publication has been printed on 99% recycled FSC certified paper and in reduced print quantities.

This report is available electronically at accare.org.au

# ac.care

*opportunities for life ... for country people*  
est. 1986



## LIMESTONE COAST

### Mount Gambier Head Office

Phone (08) 8724 5400

70-72 White Avenue, Mount Gambier SA 5290

PO Box 1842, Mount Gambier SA 5290

### Mount Gambier Community Centre

Phone (08) 7725 3000

22-24 Ferrers Street, Mount Gambier SA 5290

### Mount Gambier Family Relationship Centre

Ph 1800 880 913 or (08) 8721 3500

1 Helen Street, Mount Gambier SA 5290

(Cnr Helen Street and Bay Road)

### Millicent Community Centre

Phone (08) 8735 5700

57-59 George Street Millicent SA 5280

PO Box 378, Millicent SA 5280

## MURRAY MALLEE AND ADELAIDE HILLS

### ac.care Murraylands Centre

Phone (08) 8531 4900

29 Bridge Street, Murray Bridge SA 5253

PO Box 2090, Murray Bridge SA 5253

## RIVERLAND

### Berri Community Centre

Phone (08) 8580 5300

5 Kealley Street, Berri SA 5343

PO Box 1345, Berri SA 5343

[accare.org.au](http://accare.org.au)

[care@accare.org.au](mailto:care@accare.org.au)

**1300 accare**  
**(1300 222 273)**