

Life

Autumn 2021

Casey's courage brings her home



Casey* was pregnant, sleeping on the streets and struggling with drug addiction when she came to Baptist Care SA's Inner City Centre for help.

She was determined to turn her life around and care for her unborn child. She was immediately referred to a short term supported boarding facility and into a therapeutic support service as well as a local Aboriginal health service to support her to care for her child.

Casey reduced her drug use, and received glowing reports from the boarding house manager as she studiously saved a bond deposit. She was ready to live independently and recommended for long-term housing through the Adelaide Zero Project Housing Allocation Process.

To prepare her for her big move, big ticket items such as a washing machine, bed and fridge were brokered and Casey was assisted to connect essential services to the property.

*not her real name

As Christmas and summer heat approached, Casey was off the streets for good – safely housed in her own home and close to her support networks. She has studied hard and even recently gained her driver's license! Baptist Care SA is continuing to support her as she happily anticipates the birth of her child.

"Casey takes ownership of her story and is ready to move forward with her life. She has been wonderful and brave; her own best advocate," said Rebecca, her Case Manager.

Casey is the 50th person to be housed by Baptist Care SA through the Adelaide Zero Project. We are currently working to support and house a further 116 people who are sleeping rough.

She was determined to turn her life around for herself and her unborn child.

Life

Is Life more than a Lottery?

- Are children simply exposed to the lottery of life?
- What choice do they (or any of us) actually have?
- To what extent can individuals be the authors of their own future rather than the entrapped victims of their present or past circumstances?

The challenge to end poverty sits in the hands of compassionate, socially-responsible people and calls for collective, purposeful and well-coordinated efforts by members of a compassionate 'community of contributors'.

Clearly, governments also have a significant role to play in implementing social policies that address social inequality and Baptist Care SA is continuing to express its influential voice to effect policy development in the social service arena.

During a very compelling public lecture, Professor Glyn Davis AC recently asserted that **"the cycle of poverty needs off-ramps as there are already too many on-ramps"**.



This contemporary reality motivates the dedicated staff of Baptist Care SA. They hold onto the belief that change is possible. ... even if it's slow and the transition pathway forward is arduous.

As we tentatively step into 2021, I invite our many generous supporters and donors to consider how we might step boldly forward together to divert community traffic away from the 'On-Ramp into Poverty' and strengthen the 'Off-Ramps'. Through focused efforts and collective action, I know that many lives can be spared from the 'Lottery of Life'.

Our recently appointed Fundraising Manager, Hugh Ballantyne 0418 483 087 or hballantyne@baptistcare.sa.au, would be pleased to speak with you about how your compassion and generosity might be expressed by becoming a regular donor, making a living gift and/or by planning to make a gift in your will.

Graham Brown
Chief Executive Officer

Tumbelin Outdoor Adventure Program receives SACE accreditation.

We've had some fantastic news with the SACE board recently recognising the Tumbelin Program in the South Australian Certificate of Education. As a result, students in year 8 and above who complete the adventure-based program, can receive 20 Stage 1 credit points.

Tumbelin is an adventure therapy program for young people aged 13-18 who are keen to begin making changes to their alcohol and drug use and improve their mental health.

The program, which includes intensive group and 1-1 work, as well as a 'peak' 4 day, 3 night wilderness experience, has successfully engaged students in both mainstream and alternative education for over a decade.

The accreditation was received in October 2020, just in time for the 87 students who completed the program last year to receive the SACE credits.

Congratulations to everyone involved in this process.

Tumbelin's new accreditation status is certain to be a factor in young people's decision to take on the challenges of the program in the future.





Care Pathways Reforms make 'every effort for every child'.

There are almost 4500 children and young people in care in South Australia. This number is increasing and is higher than the national average.

The investigations of the Child Protection Systems Royal Commission uncovered a care system in urgent need of reform. Young people leaving care were found to face disadvantage in almost every major life domain. As a result, the South Australian Government launched a new strategy entitled 'Every effort for every child', to improve outcomes for children and young people in care.

In line with the new strategy, Baptist Care SA's Care Pathways service has undergone a major transformation, part of which has included the cessation of Short Term Care (STC) and the introduction of Placement and Support Packages (PaSP).

STC provided 24/7 accommodation for children and young people 0-18 years old who were assessed by the Department of Child Protection (DCP) as being at risk and were placed under Guardianship orders.

The shift from STC to PaSP will bring many benefits to young people in care. All of the young people in PaSP are traumatised and have very high needs - many live with disabilities.

PaSP focuses on stabilising young people, providing them with a therapeutic environment where they feel safe, so that their needs can be accurately assessed within 90 days, before they move into their longer term home.

Further positive changes of the new model include:

- we receive more information about the young people, enabling us to train our staff specifically to meet their needs and to match them with carers who share their interests
- each home has a House Lead who knows the children well and is solely focused on the care and wellbeing of those in their house

- our homes are large, placing us in a unique position to care for sibling groups so that there is no need for them to be separated
- we will move to purchasing our PaSP homes rather than renting them. This means we can be more responsive and flexible, e.g., we will be able to decorate, hang artwork, dig vegetable gardens and purchase specialised equipment quickly and efficiently.

Baptist Care SA currently has 12 children and young people aged 2-14 years old, settled in five PaSP houses across the Northern and Southern Adelaide suburbs.



**baptist
care sa**

Visit: baptistcaresa.org.au/get-involved/volunteer to learn more or call us on 8273 7140.

We look forward to meeting you!

Give back. Be Inspired. Make friends and learn new things.

Be part of a community organisation that touches the lives of thousands of South Australians doing it tough. Relish the opportunity to use your skills and talents to find ways to make people's lives better.

If you have time to give regularly (daily, weekly, fortnightly, monthly), we'd like to chat!



FLO

Flexible Learning Options. Reconnecting 500 young people with their education.

Young people who struggle with traditional learning environments are at risk of early disengagement from education and are more likely to experience social, emotional and economic disadvantage.

Our Flexible Learning Options (FLO) program works with more than 500 at-risk young people across Adelaide; offering small class sizes, flexible, individualised support and a range of other initiatives to overcome learning barriers.

Flexibility and responsiveness are a hallmark of the program. When 41% of FLO participants identified family issues as a barrier to their learning, a new parent engagement model was put in place, empowering them to be co-decision makers in the design of their child's program. This resulted in an improvement of 60%!

This trait achieved further gains during 2020. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic meant that it was a particularly stressful academic year. At any given time 20-35% of participants indicated they were experiencing anxiety and depression.

To help support them, FLO increased connections with Baptist Care SA's Family Mental Health Support Services to offer free onsite counselling.

Despite the challenges of the year, FLO participants successfully:

- completed SACE
- recommenced mainstream schooling
- engaged with community learning centres
- completed Vocation Education and Training (VET) courses
- and gained employment.



We're delighted that our new FLO Eastern site has just launched at 134 Rose Terrace, Wayville - for more information, please contact 8209 5040 or visit www.baptistcaresa.org.au

Prayer Points March 2021

- Celebrate over 100 years of faithful service and stewardship that underpins the WestCare Centre and provides the firm foundation upon which Baptist Care SA is planning for future development of the Wright Street site
- Pray that vulnerable children will respond to the care and encouragement and home-like environments provided by Baptist Care SA
- Give thanks that Baptist Care SA's refreshed 'Innovate' Reconciliation Action Plan will lead to increased capacity to 'walk alongside Aboriginal people and communities on their transition pathways'
- Pray that people living with disabilities will be embraced and included in our churches and communities.

DEDICATED. DETERMINED.

Together, we'll find ways to make people's lives better.

In the wake of a community ravaged by COVID-19, 2021 brings further challenges for South Australians doing it tough.

Every day is busy at the WestCare Centre. The queue forms early for Emergency Relief food parcels, breakfast, lunch and low cost groceries at the Community Food Hub.

"We are a family of five, so it's been really hard for us to find accommodation. Since Malcolm lost his job, we have been relying on JobSeeker, but with it being cut back we couldn't afford to stay where we were, so we came to Baptist Care SA for help.

I just hope we can find something near the kids' school so we don't have to move them again." Sue¹

There are almost 20,000 people on the waiting list for public housing in South Australia.²

Baptist Care SA's WestCare Centre is open six days a week and receives no government funding. We depend on the generosity of our donors to continue our vital services.

¹ Not her real name

² Infrastructure SA State Infrastructure Strategy May 220

DONATE NOW

by visiting www.baptistcaresa.org.au or complete the response form below and return it to us today.



\$45 Nutritious breakfast and lunch for 2 weeks

\$60 Family food parcel

\$105 Pastoral care – dedicated one on one time with a support worker

\$250 Specialised support including housing assistance, legal counsel & health support

\$25 COVID Care Supplement – helping bridge the gap incurred through the loss of our volunteers

Yes, I'm dedicated to finding ways to make people's lives better.

Name: _____

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

My Gift is: Monthly Once off I'm interested in leaving a gift in my will.

Amount \$45 \$60 \$105 \$250 **Other Amount** \$

Payment type: VISA Mastercard Cheque **PLUS** \$25 COVID Care Supplement

Card Number:

Expiry Date: / **CCV:**

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

Cheque:

Please make cheques payable to: **Baptist Care SA**

Thank you for your gift. A tax deductible receipt will be sent to you promptly.

Mail to:

Fundraising Team
130 Rose Terrace,
Wayville SA 5034

baptistcaresa.org.au

Please do not send any further appeal material.

Christmas Campaign 2020 Results Thank you ALL for your support!

After a year filled with uncertainty and challenges, more than \$30,000 was raised through our Christmas activities providing gifts for children, food parcels, takeaway Christmas meals – and more!



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1

More than 175 guests at our WestCare Centre enjoyed a takeaway meal of home-cooked chicken, turkey (with all the trimmings) and Christmas pudding with custard.

2

The parents of more than 240 children known to our WestCare Centre were able to select from the 'treasure trove' of donated gifts. A further 130 clients in our Care Pathways and Disability Pathways services also received a Christmas gift.

3

Baptist Care SA's Limestone Coast Toy Run took place, despite the odds. The community rallied together to raise close to \$10,000 for struggling families. 352 children and young people received gifts distributed through 12 schools and community organisations.

4

The wonderful LIFE FM Roadies team and their 'December to Remember' campaign provided more than 160 'present bundles' for our WestCare clients on Christmas Day – filled with essentials including a water bottle, dental kit and some Christmas goodies.



3

4

Thank you to our donors and supporters, staff and volunteers, churches, businesses, clubs and community groups who responded so generously!