



CEO Report

Annual Report 2022

Welcome to St John's Youth Services first online annual report. In 2022 I am very proud to bring, as the current CEO, the Annual Report to you in our forty first year of service delivery. That's pretty cool, isn't it?

So, what has the year been and seen? The year kicked off with our alliancing in the north-western suburbs which Foyer is now a part of. The first twelve months have been a unique and exciting opportunity for us to really get to know each other and look at being innovative and creative to deliver services to people experiencing homelessness in the north-western suburbs in metropolitan Adelaide. And the next twelve months will also be doing the same but getting bolder and brighter about that moving forward.

What else has happened? We had Credit Union SA provide to us, as they have for many years, maybe ten years, Christmas gifts for the young people at St John's Youth Services. A big thank you and shout out for this. It makes every young person's Christmas feel special, that someone does care for them, and keep an eye out for our campaign that will commence in the next few weeks where we are going to be starting a campaign to fund young people receiving birthday gifts and graduation gifts.

We strongly feel, just because they're experiencing homelessness and disadvantage and poverty right at this timeline in their life, they still deserve, as we all do, to feel special and cared for. So, keep an eye out for that new campaign.

What else has happened? We held out High Tea where many of you joined me for a lovely afternoon and from that I have also held Board lunches where one of the Board Members have joined me to have a yarn, have a chat, get to know people that have been long term, short term or new supporters of St John's Youth Services. They have been a great opportunity. If you would like to come and have lunch with me, to be a part of those lunches, please just give the office a call. I would love to have you join us.

What else has happened? I want to do a bit of a focus on culture. Our LGBTIQ+ action plan is at any minute about to be updated and released, together with our multicultural action plan which is also under review and will be updated and released shortly. Our reconciliation action plan has gone through the rigorous process with Reconciliation Australia, and we will be launching that in December 2022, so keep an eye out for an invite to that and if you don't get an invite, again give us a call and we will make sure you get one if you're interested in attending and I forgot to put you on the list. Sorry, in advance.

So that's very exciting! The other cultural piece of work we're doing is with the other Anglican organisations in South Australia that are Anglicare Australia members and looking at a cultural capability framework that will support our First Nation's workers, but also, of course support our First Nation's communities. And, in saying that, a big thank you to the Granny's Group in the western suburbs. They have been integral in supporting our Reconciliation Action Plan, but also in building us a great foundation to actually move forward and ensure our cultural capability is as strong as it can be in this moment.

So, we've had a great year culturally, but of course that journey builds on itself and continues to grow as we who are white privileged continue to grow. So, that is fabulous! A little bit of a focus on young people, because let's face it, that's why we're here. What have been their successes this year?

I think if you asked young people, their successes would be is that they got to be involved in lots of great activities and that is very much due to the work and generosity of some of our supporters around recognising that their mental health is important, and some of that mental health can be addressed by just connections with the community and with positive people, so we have had a range of activities including activities that Adventure Connect provide but also Fay Fuller Family Foundation support to deliver activities to young people for them to be connected and feel safe in their community. So, that is a great outcome for young people.

We implemented a new feedback process this year where we give a young person a pretty groovy postcard and the idea being that they write a message on that postcard for a young person that will be entering the service on their departure. This has proven to be a fabulous initiative. It's not just given our workers great feelings of satisfaction and wonderment at what young people have achieved and what they think about the service and the team and what they want to share with the young person coming behind them, it's also been a great process for the young people writing those notes, but of course, most importantly, for young people receiving those notes of encouragement from other young people. It is certainly something we will continue, and I'm pretty sure you will find quotes from those postcards throughout our annual report. So very exciting!

I think that might be it. The final thing I need to talk about is a big thank you to our Board, our volunteer Board for their diligence, their creativity, their innovation and their support of both me and St John's Youth Services. I want to thank the teams, because, you know, with their passion, compassion, creativity, innovation and fun as always, they deliver great services to young people and community!

And finally, to young people- we believe in you, we are here to support you in whatever you want to do! We truly believe we're a strength-based organisation and what we want to do is to help you find a place you can call home!

So, thank you. I am looking forward to your feedback. If you think that we've gotten something wrong in the annual report let us know but have fun reading. There's some great facts and infographics and also some stories from our teams in the annual report.

Talk soon, bye.