

## ANGLICARE LEAPS FORWARD ON NATIONAL RECONCILIATION

Sat 23 February 2013



A landmark meeting took place in Adelaide on February 15, with agreement that Reconciliation should be implemented across the national Anglicare network.

Anglicare Australia's new National Reconciliation Network (NRN) - of which I have been appointed chair - agreed that the network should prioritise more effective services for Aboriginal people and communities. At the present time, only a small percentage of its members have committed to such work.

A key task of the Network will be to equip and support CEO's and others in the implementation process. It was agreed that Reconciliation needed to become part of the core business of Anglicare and that this would require a 'cultural shift' within the organisation. It is only by journeying together, that real change will occur.

Indeed, Anglicare has the potential to play a key role in advocacy along with Aboriginal Australians. It is in monitoring international and national conventions and campaigns (such as Closing the Gap) that we can ensure governments continue to honour these commitments amidst political change. In addition, the development of resources including the provision of research and other forms of information will assist in raising the Cultural Competency of Anglicare and its members.

I led the Cultural Competency training for Anglicare's national HR Network in 2012. Such training needs to be 'rolled out' across the organisation.

Similarly, Phil Coller, from Anglicare Sydney and Co-Chair of the Network, provided recommendations on the way in which Aboriginal Australians can be represented at the Anglicare Conferences.

Another objective of the NRN is to develop a closer partnership with the Anglican Church, not merely the dioceses, but the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council (NATSIAC). A guest at the Adelaide meeting was Bishop John Stead (Diocese of Willochra) who spoke of his diocese and ways in which the NRN can assist its work.

Finally it was resolved to develop links on the Anglicare Australia website that will provide resources and support, as well as keep all members of the Network informed on these and future developments.

By **Archdeacon Karen Kime**