

How we're making a difference....

ISSUE 2 | 2021



REUNITING FAMILIES

Newpin, our new **family reunification program for children in care**, will launch at our Smithfield site on 1 July. Newpin will involve parents and their children, aged under six and in state care, regularly attending a centre-based program for up to 18 months. They will participate in a range of activities that promote wellbeing, improve parenting capacity and develop positive relationships. Newpin is funded through Social Impact Bonds, an innovative way for the non-government sector and investors to partner to achieve improved social outcomes.



NEWPIN IS EXPECTED TO SUPPORT more than **200 FAMILIES** OVER 7 YEARS



THERE WILL BE **3 CENTRES** OPENING IN THE ADELAIDE SUBURBS WITHIN THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR

[Find out more](#)

SUPPORTING WOMEN THROUGH FAMILY LAW PROPERTY MEDIATION

Our Family Relationship Centre recently expanded its service to include **Family Law Property Mediation service**. Funded by the Federal Government, the service is designed to keep families out of court and reach agreements about splitting their property after separation. This initiative, operating until 30 June 2024, will assist older women, in particular, to avoid poverty after separation. Expensive legal fees and court delays meant that women were abandoning their property claims and losing the ability to build a secure future for their families.



WE ARE RECEIVING AROUND **10 REFERRALS** A MONTH FOR PROPERTY MEDIATION AT THIS STAGE

HEALING THROUGH ART

We've welcomed Claire Wildish as the inaugural artist for our newly established **U City Artist in Residence program**. Funded by Wellbeing SA, Claire has commenced weekly community weaving workshops and holds regular art sessions for our U City Retirement Residents. An art therapy program for our New ROADS clients supports them as they make long-term changes around their use of alcohol and other drugs. These classes are supporting the sense of community that is already thriving at U City – connecting clients and residents through a shared love of art.




A lot of people in the New ROADS program feel that their voice is not worth anything, but they have stories to tell.

Claire Wildish

DISABILITY ADVOCACY SERVICE

The Uniting Communities Law Centre was named the **service provider for SA's new Disability Advocacy Service**. The service helps South Australians to navigate the NDIS, understand their rights and resolve any issues. Our team of legal staff work alongside disability advocates, social workers, developmental educators, and speech and language pathologists to support clients. The service is for people already receiving NDIS services or those trying to access them. We can advocate on a client's behalf, provide legal representation or support them to advocate for themselves. The service is also assisting clients to have decisions reviewed at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and SACAT.



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In its first three months, the service has received more than 50 enquiries. This has included requests to help with the next steps once an NDIS request is denied, with tribunal appeals or with Guardianship applications.

[Find out more](#)

10 YEARS OF BEING GREEN

In 2021 we are proudly celebrating **10 years of Beyond Carbon Neutral (BCN)**, our organisational commitment to reducing our carbon footprint and embedding sustainable practices across all sites and operations. In 2015, we became the first registered charity in Australia and the first South Australian organisation to receive the carbon neutral certifications under the Australian Government's Carbon Neutral Program.

The impact of our work has been significant, both as a result of reducing carbon emissions and purchasing 21,800 tCO₂-e of carbon offsets.



Since 2015, we have cut carbon emissions by 30% and reduced electricity consumption by 25%

Overall we have **SAVED AROUND \$400,000 A YEAR** due to our initiatives.

[Find out more](#)

CITYSWITCH AWARD WINNERS

In March we won the **SA State Winner of the City Switch Award**. The awards showcase participants that have demonstrated outstanding environmental leadership, cut energy use, slashed carbon emissions and reduced waste to landfill. We were recognised for our 'WE month @home' project, a behaviour change initiative designed to help staff save carbon emissions whilst working at home because of COVID-19.



Over **300** homes were reached & **1,215** online engagements were recorded through this program

COMMUNICATION ACCESS PROJECT

We're proud to be working towards becoming a **Communication Accessible** accredited organisation. Over the past six months, with funding from the Department of Human Services, we have worked with specialist speech pathologists from Two Way Street to train staff in assisting people who need the help of communication aids. We're extremely excited to be able to offer this option to our clients as we work to make our services accessible for all.

We've designed resources to assist people with communication needs to seek information about our services, find where they need to go for an appointment or make other enquiries.



OVERCOMING LONELINESS REPORT LAUNCH

On 9 March we launched our **Overcoming Loneliness report** at a workshop co-hosted with Community Centres SA. Over 140 people attended as Minister Michelle Lensink launched the report, hearing from guest presenters about responses to loneliness in the South Australian community. Our research shows that more than 50% of South Australians feel lonely 'some of the time' or 'often'.



We've developed a "call to action" calling for a collective effort to overcome loneliness and strengthen connections to reduce isolation

[Find out more](#)