



Community Connect

Supporting Otago Families

AUTUMN
2018

Jo and her husband, who are raising two of their grandchildren and an adopted child in South Otago, were recently referred to Anglican Family Care for support.

Both in their 60s, Jo* and her husband are kept very busy looking after the three children, which has become more difficult recently because Jo's husband had a serious accident in the bush, resulting in numerous health problems.

Over the last 12 months, Jo began to feel that the home situation was crumbling. "I just felt overwhelmed by the pressure of working, raising the children and having a husband whose situation was deteriorating. I felt as though I couldn't cope with what was happening any longer."

Jo felt that they had nobody to support them, just each other. There were no other family members who could step in to help with the children. "I felt that the situation was getting worse and I realised I wasn't coping. I was crying a lot and worried about the future."

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That's where Anglican Family Care (AFC) came in. Jo's family was referred to our services by the local ACC office who suggested AFC might be able to help with some respite care.

Jo felt this changed everything. A social worker met with Jo and her husband at their house.

"I was so moved by the help and the support, and we found out about assistance that we never knew that we were entitled to. I can't speak highly enough of Anglican Family Care – I just can't. They really listened to us."

The social worker was able to arrange respite care for the two youngest children at a camp in the Christmas holidays. "This would normally be out of our financial reach," said Jo, "so the kids were just delighted and they had the most wonderful time." The social worker arranged a meeting for Jo with Work and Income NZ. "I never knew

*name changed to protect client privacy

we were entitled to financial help for the two grandchildren, so the monetary burden of their education has been lifted." Jo's granddaughter is a high achiever at school and Jo had been very worried about how she could move forward with her education. But now that Work and Income NZ has come on board she is much more positive.

AFC also arranged for ACC to be at the meeting and they were able to offer practical help to Jo's husband, who had been falling often. ACC agreed to fit rails in the bathroom so that Jo's husband would no longer fall getting in and out of the bath. They also provided him with an alarm so that no matter where he is, he can call for help. "This has given me a lot of peace of mind," said Jo. "Before, I just couldn't sleep, I was so worried about how I was going to get through, but the

meeting that Anglican Family Care organised brought everyone together and has given me all the answers. I feel a lot more settled. I just can't say enough about how I feel and the family feels."

Jo also said it was wonderful how the social worker made sure that everything that had been agreed with ACC was actioned, and that she felt she could pick up the phone and ring her social worker if she needed to.

"I just think there should be extra funding for the likes of your agency, so you can reach more people. When things are crumbling around them, people should know that there is somewhere they can go for help. Otherwise, you just plod on, get up and carry on. Sometimes you just need to know where to start; where to go to for help. The help we had from AFC was just a real blessing."



Anglican Family Care offers free home-based support for pregnant mums and parents or caregivers of babies and children aged up to 17 years. We connect clients with a range of community supports, and provide information on all aspects of parenting, including what to expect at different ages and stages of development, health, nutrition, education and safety issues.

Contact us on 0800 FAM CARE
(0800 326 2273)
or enquiries@familycare.org.nz

Have you considered leaving Anglican Family Care a gift in your will?

Anglican Family Care was very grateful to receive a bequest in the will of Dunedin woman Josephine Weipers earlier this year. Josephine was an active member of St Peter's Church in Caversham.

Is Anglican Family Care in your will? Please let us know by calling or emailing us about your plans because it helps us plan for the future. Your gift can remain anonymous if you wish.

If you don't have a will you are not alone. Now is a great time to start planning – please consider including a bequest to Anglican Family Care. Adding a gift to us in your will is one of the most important contributions you can make to the Otago community and to future generations.

Your gift, small or large, will make a tangible difference and will help ensure all Otago children can live safe, healthy and happy lives.

Email enquiries@familycare.org.nz or call 0800 FAM CARE (0800 326 2273) for more information.



Support Otago children. Join us for a...

WINTER WARMER MUSIC CONCERT

7pm,
Thursday,
14 June

St Matthew's
Church,
30 Hope St,
Dunedin

Featuring...

- ▶ Dunedin Harmony Chorus
- ▶ Sings Hilda (St Hilda's Choir)
- ▶ Sing Out! (St Clair School Choir)
- ▶ St Matt's Band

Tickets
\$20

To book call 03 477 0801 or email communication@familycare.org.nz

Interview with Vicki McDermott, Team Leader for Central Otago and Queenstown Lakes.

How long have you worked at Anglican Family Care?

I began my work here late in September 2017.

How did you get in to social work?

In my first role, I was a residential social worker at what is now Puketai Care and Protection residence in Dunedin. From there I worked at Otago Youth Wellness Trust for 17 years, formerly as a caseworker and then as practice manager of a multi-disciplinary team working with adolescents and their families.

What do you like most about your job?

What I like most about my job is being a witness to incredible stories of change and hope. While my role is mainly to support the work of staff and the smooth running of the service for families, I get satisfaction from knowing a family has received an intervention that has been appropriate and empowering for them. I am a strong believer in "partnering". Whether that be with a family, or another organisation or a colleague, I think that in this line of work it is always beneficial to share a problem, and that the best ideas come from collaboration.

What are the challenges?

For me, challenges are usually about things that block collaboration such as funding issues, silo thinking or how to fit my role into part time work! It is new for me to understand the geographical nature of providing a service in a large rural area.

And that can be difficult as I need to balance and consider correct client/worker "fit" with where clients are located. By "fit" I mean the best skill match for the client.

What is your typical day?

I am generally responding to referrals, supporting staff, attending meetings and working on service development needs with new contracts. The geographical area is large but I am mainly in Alexandra or Wanaka 20 hours each week.

When you aren't working, what do you like to do?

I am usually outside, often walking or gardening. The environment is very conducive to making me feel good.



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Thank you!

A special thank you to everyone who has donated money to support AFC's work in the last three months. 100% of your donation will go towards supporting Otago families living in difficult circumstances.

We are also very grateful to those who have given knitting, toys or clothing for the children and families we support. You have brought smiles to their faces!

We would also like to thank the following trusts and foundations for their support in the last three months:

- The Trusts Community Foundation for a grant towards our South Otago services for families.
- The Working Together More Fund to explore strengthening relationships in the community.
- Anglican Diocese of Dunedin Child Care Fund towards Oceans, our grief and loss programme for children in North Otago.



Yes! *I would like to make a difference to Otago families*

My gift is \$

Please return this form to:

Anglican Family Care
266 Hanover Street
Dunedin 9016

OR

Internet Banking:

Anglican Family Care, BNZ 02 0912 0018828 07

Please put your name and "Autumn 2018" in the particulars field and your address in the reference field.

OR

Make a donation online at:

AnglicanFamilyCare.org.nz/donate

Donations over \$5.00 are tax deductible.
Our Charities Commissions Number is CC 24152.

Please tick as applies:

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I require a receipt for my donation.

☐

Please send me more information about your services and programmes.

☐

Please add me to your mailing list.

☐

Please send me more information about including Anglican Family Care in my will.

My contact details are:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

0800 FAM CARE or 0800 326 2273
AnglicanFamilyCare.org.nz
enquiries@FamilyCare.org.nz