

# COMMUNITY CONNECT

MARCH 2026



ANGLICANFAMILYCARE



Kia ora koutou,  
As we move into Autumn, I've been reflecting on what a busy start to the year it has been for Anglican Family Care.

Our team has been busy reconnecting with whānau, strengthening relationships, and building on the momentum of the past year. It's heartening to see our teams continuing to bring compassion, professionalism, and manaakitaka to every interaction.

In this issue, we highlight the breadth of our mahi across Otago, from the mahi happening in Central Otago and Wānaka, to our Family-Centred Service team in South Otago.

As Foster Care Awareness Week approaches, we acknowledge the volunteer caregivers who open their homes and hearts providing respite care throughout the year. These small moments can create extraordinary impact for tamariki.

Our OCEANS campaign continues to gather momentum, bringing us closer to expanding grief and loss support into South Otago. It is a powerful example of what can be achieved when communities work together to ensure everyone has access to the right support at the right time.

Thank you for continuing to support Anglican Family Care as we continue to support whānau across Otago. Your support enables us to keep building strong, connected, and thriving communities.

Ngā mihi nui,  
Lynette Finnie  
General Manager



From left to right - Lynette Finnie (General Manager), Michelle Tukana (Central Otago | Queenstown Lakes Team Leader) receive the keys to our new branded Kia Niro from Craig Johnston (Dunedin Kia). This car will be based in the Central Otago | Queenstown Lakes region.

## Supporting Families Through Wanaka's Growth

Wanaka's rapid growth in recent years has brought vibrancy and opportunity to the Upper Clutha region. Yet behind the thriving town centre, some families continue to face immense challenges that growth alone cannot solve.

Anglian Family Care's Central Otago/Queenstown Lakes team, led by Team Leader Michelle Tukana and three dedicated social workers, work alongside parents and caregivers through the Home-based Family Support Service and Family Start Programme. Based at the Wānaka Community Hub on McDougall Street and Alexandra Community House on Centennial Avenue, the team offers confidential, non-judgemental support.

Their point of difference: visiting families across Central Otago | Queenstown Lakes in their own homes, providing tailored support at a pace that works best for them.

The team collaborates with schools, health providers, and other agencies to help parents manage the pressures of raising tamariki in a region where housing, heating, and food insecurity are common struggles. Many families are also grappling with parenting challenges, mental health and well-being concerns, whānau harm, and substance abuse, often made worse by isolation from natural supports such as extended family or community networks. These issues have a profound and unmistakable impact on family well-being.

"Our goal is to ensure whānau and tamariki are supported, resilient and are connected and thriving within our communities," says Michelle. "We walk alongside parents offering support, guidance and encouragement as they strengthen their families through life's challenges."

As one parent put it: ***"The local connection with the community was essential to me, making me feel that I could relate to the support being offered."***

Over the past year, the team has supported 80 whānau and their tamariki, working with families for an average of 25.8 hours each, a testament to their ongoing commitment to empower whānau.

For more information, or to make a self-referral, visit [www.anglicanfamilycare.org.nz](http://www.anglicanfamilycare.org.nz) or call 0800 FAM CARE (0800 326 227).



## Ngā Mihi Nui

Thank you to our wonderful community for supporting our mahi over the last few months, especially to

- Molly Fulton Family Fund for their loyal support of our mahi, with a \$4,000 donation,
- Grassroots Trust for their generous \$10,000 contribution towards our Dunedin Office lease costs,
- Aotearoa Gaming Trust supporting our Dunedin Counselling costs,
- Dunedin Casino Charitable Trust for our client assistance programme,
- Colin G L Jones Trust for our client assistance programme in North Otago.



Pictured are members of the Lego Users Group of Otago (LUGO), Ah-Lek Tay from Rotary Dunedin Central, our General Manager Lynette and Social Workers in Schools kaimahi Katie and Lynda  
Photo cred: Rotary Dunedin Central

In February we were pleased to connect with representatives from LUGO and Rotary Dunedin Central after being chosen as the charity partner for the 2025 Dunedin Brick Show last October.

Their donation supports our Social Workers in Schools programme, helping tamariki in Dunedin feel supported, resilient, and ready to thrive.



# Can You Help Us Bring OCEANS Grief & Loss Programme To The South Otago Community?

For nearly a decade, our OCEANS Grief and Loss Programme has been a lifeline for tamariki, rangatahi, and adults in North Otago, helping them navigate the deep waters of grief and loss with compassion and support.

Now, we've identified a critical gap in South Otago, families and individuals who need this same care and connection. We're ready to launch and pilot the programme in this region, but we need your help to make it happen.

## Our Goal:

Raise \$15,000 to fund the launch and pilot of OCEANS in South Otago.

## The Good News:

The Clutha Foundation has pledged \$15,000 to support this initiative, but we need another \$15,000 to deliver it.

## Why It Matters:

Grief touches every life. OCEANS provides a safe space for healing, resilience, and hope. By supporting this campaign, you're ensuring that tamariki, rangatahi, and adults in South Otago have access to the same proven programme that has transformed lives in North Otago for nearly a decade.

## How You Can Help:

- Donate today to help us reach our goal,
- Share this campaign with friends, whānau, and colleagues. We have a toolkit available for churches, schools, and community groups,
- Share our posts on social media,
- Attend our fundraising events

Please help us raise \$15,000 so together we can bring OCEANS to South Otago.

Every wave starts with a ripple. Be that ripple.

Donate via our website  
[www.anglicanfamilycare.org.nz/donate](http://www.anglicanfamilycare.org.nz/donate)



**SERVICE  
SPOTLIGHT**



## Finding Safety, Support and New Confidence Together

This South Otago whānau faced big changes - marriage, a new baby, and supporting older children, while their teenage daughter was caught in an unhealthy relationship. Feeling overwhelmed, they were referred to Anglican Family Care. Through home visits, practical guidance, and the Circle of Security parenting framework, social worker Jasmin helped the family build trust, improve communication, and create a safer home.

As a result, their daughter left the unhealthy relationship, and the whānau gained confidence, resilience, and tools to manage future challenges. This journey shows how timely support and strong parenting strategies can transform stress into stability and hope.

In their own words, this whānau shared their journey with us, reflecting on the challenges they faced and the strength they found through support from our Family-Centred Service programme in South Otago.

*"We were referred to Anglican Family Care (AFC) at a time in our lives when a lot of change was happening. We had recently gotten married and began living together, then our baby was born two months later. This was a wonderful blessing but a huge upheaval for my two daughters.*

*Our teenage daughter started dating a boy around the same time and unfortunately that relationship quickly turned into an unhealthy, controlling and abusive one. She became completely caught up in a dangerous dynamic and was spending all her time out of the house and sneaking out at night. We were trying our best to keep her safe whilst caring for our new-born and trying to give our middle child the attention she deserved also. All whilst navigating our new marriage.*

*Thankfully, the local police saw our need when we repeatedly called them for help to keep our daughter safe, and they referred us to AFC."*

**"Jasmin was an absolute Godsend for us. She came into our home and listened. She cared and she didn't judge."**

*"The AFC social worker, Jasmin, was an absolute Godsend for us. She came into our home and listened. She cared and she didn't judge. She was extremely knowledgeable and practical in teaching us about the Circle of Security [parenting programme] and she was quickly able to make it relevant to our family, always allowing us to reflect and bring our stories into the learning.*

Each of us came from different backgrounds with different parenting styles and we hadn't yet reflected on our own experiences and how these would impact our responses to our children. We learnt to be bigger, stronger, wiser and kind and to focus on meeting our children's needs.

This was when things started to fall into place and we could see that by noticing where our children were at, what they needed, and whether we were self-regulated enough to meet that need, we were able to address the real roots of the behavioural issues and to always be a safe space for our kids.

Jasmin equipped us to parent our children in a way that suits us perfectly, aligns with our values and is so effective. She has also inspired us to continue to connect and reflect with each other on our children's changing needs and how we meet them.

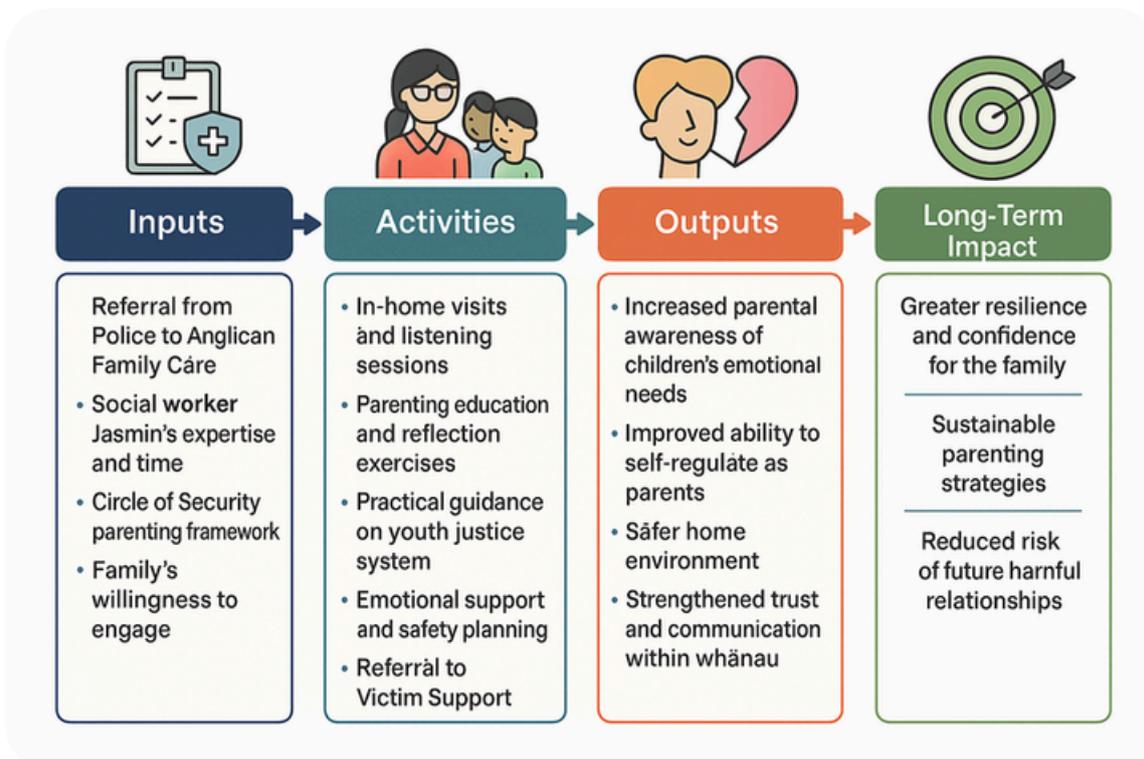
Jasmin was very practical in helping us to understand the youth justice system when it came to a point in which our daughter's ex-boyfriend was arrested, and she referred us to victim support which helped us and our daughter to feel safer. It wasn't all theory and teaching, it was relevant and practical, life-changing help.

Our teenager was able to navigate her way out of the toxic relationship and showed incredible strength and resilience in doing so, and we were able to support her and to build trust and communication so she now knows she can come to us in future.

We now have a greater understanding of being aware of our middle child's needs and we are prepared for any future challenges she may face, and we have learnt so much about baby development and how to apply the Circle of Security to our young son.

We are now looking forward to the future and feel secure, all thanks to the work we were able to do as a family with AFC and especially with Jasmin."

Their experience reflects Anglican Family Care's Theory of Change, where trusted relationships, clear parenting tools, and safe, consistent support lead to stronger whānau capability, resilience, and long-term wellbeing.





## Foster Care Awareness Week

Every March, Foster Care Awareness Week gives us a moment to acknowledge the incredible caregivers who open their homes and hearts to tamariki and rangatahi needing short-term respite. In Dunedin, our voluntary caregivers offer planned, temporary care that can be as little as a few days at a time, or one or two weekends each month. Even these brief stays can make a profound difference. They create moments of stability, rest, and comfort that tamariki remember long after.

Our theme this year, “Turning ordinary moments into extraordinary memories,” reflects the everyday impact of respite care. Caregivers often tell us that the most meaningful experiences aren’t the big milestones, but the simple, nurturing moments: sharing kai, reading a story, watching a child’s laughter. With steady support from our Caregiving team, these ordinary interactions become powerful building blocks for healing, belonging, and growth.

At Anglican Family Care, *mahi tahi (working together with shared commitment, skills and knowledge)* sits at the heart of how we work. We walk alongside caregivers with empathy, guidance, and 24/7 support so they feel confident and connected throughout their journey. As we celebrate Foster Care Awareness Week, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all who partner with us. Your aroha helps create strong, connected, and thriving whānau across our community.

If you or someone you know has ever wondered about becoming a short-term volunteer respite caregiver in Dunedin, this is a great time to learn more. You do not need full-time availability. You simply need a safe, caring home and the desire to support tamariki through ordinary moments that truly matter.

Together, we can continue creating extraordinary memories for tamariki in Dunedin, one ordinary moment at a time.

To learn more about becoming a volunteer respite caregiver with Anglican Family Care, visit our website or contact our Caregiving team.

I’m interested in becoming a volunteer Caregiver  
[www.anglicanfamilycare.org.nz/caregiving](http://www.anglicanfamilycare.org.nz/caregiving)

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

You're invited to join us for a light lunch for our valued supporters



**LEARN MORE**  
about Restorative Justice  
from our team



24 APRIL 2026



**ANGLICAN FAMILY CARE**  
266 Hanover Street,  
Dunedin



12PM - 1.30PM



**LIGHT LUNCH  
PROVIDED**



**RSVP BY 20 APRIL TO:**

[www.anglicanfamilycare.org.nz/thankyou](http://www.anglicanfamilycare.org.nz/thankyou) or 0800 FAMCARE (0800 326 2273)



**STRONG, CONNECTED AND  
THRIVING WHĀNAU AND TAMARIKI**

## Supporters' Lunch

We truly appreciate all those who support our mahi and invite you to join us at our supporters' lunch in Dunedin on 24 April.

Light refreshments will be served with the opportunity to hear from our Restorative Justice team. For catering purposes, please RSVP to the Fundraising Team by 20 April.

[RSVP to Communication@FamilyCare.org.nz](mailto:RSVP to Communication@FamilyCare.org.nz)



Our team will be taking a break over Easter from Friday 3 April to Monday 6 April.

We hope the long weekend brings you some space to rest and recharge.

We reopen Tuesday 7 April.

# SUPPORTING WHĀNAU

across Otago since 1970



## WHERE TO FIND US

### Dunedin Office

📍 266 Hanover Street, Central Dunedin  
☎ 03 477 0801

### South Otago Office

📍 Te Pou Ō Mata-Au, 6 Clyde Street  
☎ 03 418 2530

### North Otago Office

📍 23 Coquet Street, Oamaru  
☎ 0800 FAM CARE ☎ 03 434 1011

### Central Otago | Queenstown Lakes Office

📍 Alexandra Community House  
14-20 Centennial Ave, Alexandra  
📍 Wanaka Community Hub,  
34 McDougall Street, Wanaka  
☎ 03 448 8228 (Alexandra)  
☎ 03 443 6623 (Wanaka)

## Where To Find Us

We have offices across Otago, from Ōamaru in North Otago to Balclutha in South Otago. You can also find us in Wānaka, Alexandra and Dunedin, or you can visit our digital home at [www.anglicanfamilycare.org.nz](http://www.anglicanfamilycare.org.nz)