

# ON THE SQUARE

## APRIL 2016



Hello to everyone,

As this is my first newsletter, I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for the warm welcome into the Care and Share family. It has been lovely getting to know you all. I am really looking forward to the future growth of Care and Share and how we can integrate further with our local community.

It has certainly been a season of change over the last few months for both the Church and Care and Share.

With Raelene and Kevin both retiring, and Scott and I commencing, there has certainly been a change in the guard. At this point I would like to thank both Raelene and Kevin for all their efforts and commitment to both the Church and Care & Share and providing very valuable support to Scott and myself as we assume their respective roles.



We also said goodbye to Natasha in March as she is moving to Victoria. She will be sadly missed by everyone at Care and Share, but she has promised to visit whenever she comes back to Adelaide. There has been some discussion about contacting her via Skype in the not too distant future.



We also said officially goodbye to Brad and Darrin. The boys became a real part of the team while they filled out their requirements in the Work for the Dole Scheme. It was wonderful to see the interactions and friendships they built up during their stay. I am so glad that the story of their time with us was used on the government employment website.

<https://www.employment.gov.au/news/care-and-share-programme-community-action>

All too often the media portrays the unemployed in an unfavourable light (and justifiably so in some cases), but our experience has been very positive so it was great to have our story gain such valuable exposure.

Since Brad and Darrin have left we now have Marijana volunteering with us on Mondays and Thursdays as part of the Work for the Dole Scheme. She is a lovely girl and I am sure that all those who have had the opportunity to get to know her will agree that she is a blessing to Care and Share.

Not everyone has had the opportunity to get to know Yolanda who has been volunteering with Care and Share recently. She too is a lovely girl and has made a valuable contribution in the life of Care and Share. Unfortunately she will be moving to Melbourne in mid-April as her husband has secured work there. She also will be sadly missed. I

certainly hope this is not a new trend of losing great people over the state border!!!



Just to keep you in the loop of what I have been doing:

I have spent some time learning what Care and Share is all about. I have worked in the aged Care sector for a long time but in a slightly different area so I am enjoying the change and especially being able to spend more time with people.

At this point I would like to thank Chris for her support and putting up with my many questions. I really have appreciated her assistance. I am sure you have noticed that we have reconfigured the office. The extra space is great and allows me to have meetings with potential new participants without asking them to sit at Chris's desk due to the limited space. Air-conditioning has been installed in Chris's area to make it more comfortable in the summer months and the pink theme (Chris's favourite colour) is certainly taking over her desk.

Referrals have still been slow from myagedcare but I am hopeful we will be enjoying the company of some new participants in the not too distant future. Word of mouth is a great form of advertisement, so if you have any friends or neighbours that you think may enjoy attending Care and Share, please invite them along for a day just to see what we are all about. They may even make new friends and have a good day out!

I have been busy drafting a new participant assessment, care plan and a review schedule. I hope to update our files over to the new format by the end of the year. I am sure that Raelene in the past made time to speak

with you individually to and I will be doing the same. Actually a review is a good opportunity for me to get to know you better and ensure that your details that we hold on file are correct. We can also talk about the program or any other relevant issues. I am more than happy to answer any questions that you may have regarding myagedcare or how to access in home support. I will also be giving out copies of the updated Care and Share handbook to everyone.



We will be rolling out our annual survey shortly which will be a little different from previous years. This year we have used Survey Monkey (yes weird name I know) which is a web site on the internet that allows the user to construct a survey and distribute it via the internet. It also collates the results which is wonderful. What it means for us is that you as the participant can use the iPad to complete the survey. It is just a new way of doing an old thing really. As part of Marijana's work placement duties at Care and Share, she needs to support/teach participants how to use an iPad. Having her support each participant while doing the survey is a great example of a practical use of such technology. I am aware that everyone has differing levels of skill and interest in computers/iPad, but please be assured that the support will be there, it will be easy to do and the questions are not too hard. On the days where Marijana does not attend we may be asking some of the volunteers or staff to assist. Be assured that there is no pressure to use the iPad, but it is a practical opportunity to learn and provide the program with valuable and much appreciated feedback. A paper copy of the survey can be made available if you choose not try the electronic version.

### **JUST A LITTLE REMINDER.**

Sometimes it is easy to overlook things when we are busy, but we ask that if a participant is unable to come to Care & Share that they please contact the office so that the booked taxi can be cancelled.

Please ring office and leave a message as soon as possible. The answering machine is always on.

PH: 8276 1144

Words to live by:

“Live in such a way that if someone spoke badly of you, no one would believe it”. Author unknown

“If you want to fly, give up everything that weighs you down”.

Author: Toni Morrison

“Wanting to be someone else is a waste of the person you are”

Author: Marilyn Monroe

Kind regards

Janine

Program Manager

Care and Share at Trinity