

NEWS

Bushfire Disaster
Appeal Report

FAITH TALK

Archie, the
three-legged wonder dog

MY STORY

Amplifying
unheard voices

Taking stock of social justice

A practical approach to the wellbeing, dignity, and safety of all



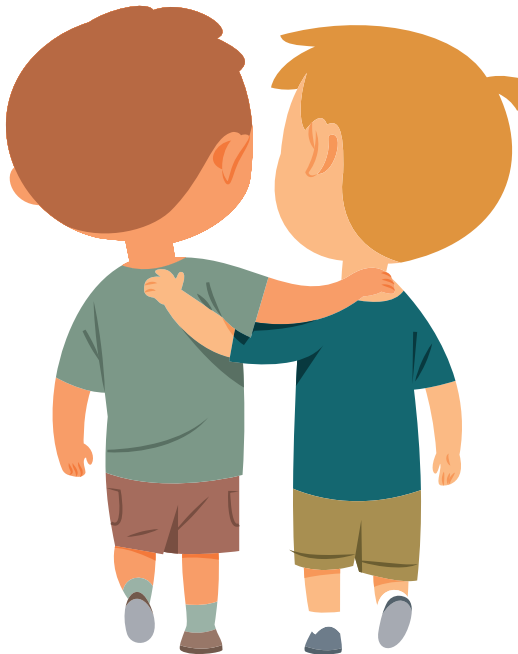
SALVOS

MAGAZINE



*“This is what the Lord Almighty said:
‘Administer true justice; show mercy
and compassion to one another.’”*

*Zechariah chapter 7, verse 9
New International Version*





The Salvation Army is about giving hope where it's needed most.

What is The Salvation Army?

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church.

Vision Statement

Wherever there is hardship or injustice, Salvos will live, love and fight alongside others to transform Australia one life at a time with the love of Jesus.

Mission Statement

The Salvation Army is a Christian movement dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus by:

- Caring for people
- Creating faith pathways
- Building healthy communities
- Working for justice

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We can all do something

As the United Nations World Day of Social Justice approaches on 20 February, the Salvos have produced their Social Justice Stocktake report – a map of social justice priorities across Australia.

One of the report's important features is that it shows that Australians are motivated to do something to address social justice issues and make a tangible difference in their communities. Many of us are just overwhelmed by the size of the issues, though, and simply don't know how we can help.

The report's introduction emphasises that we can all do something – as individuals, local communities, states or territories, and as a nation – to help combat a range of almost 20 issues, including mental health, homelessness, gender inequality, and loneliness.

Jennifer Kirkaldy, General Manager Policy and Advocacy for The Salvation Army Australia, whose team produced this report, shares in My Story what a typical day is like for her and what motivates her to work in this challenging, dynamic, and rewarding environment.

For these stories and more, go to

salvosmagazine.com.au

Simone Worthing **Assistant Editor**

Taking stock of social justice

A practical approach to the wellbeing, dignity, and safety of all

As the United Nations World Day of Social Justice approaches on 20 February, The Salvation Army Australia is giving a preview of its Social Justice Stocktake report – a map of social justice priorities across Australia.

Working for justice is at the heart of what The Salvation Army does in Australia. It is integral to our ethos, our mission, and our vision.

The pandemic experience has given us greater insight into how deeply social injustice is embedded in Australia. In this stocktake, the Salvos want to get to the heart of what people are seeing in their local communities and from there build a map of social justice priorities across Australia.

Responses have been collated from more than 15,000 Australians across every state and territory.

The findings reveal that many people feel overwhelmed, even hopeless, when asked how Australia can address the issues they see in their local communities. Some feel they need the government to act before they can do anything individually. Some despair that governments (of any level and any political persuasion) don't seem to care enough about the issues and injustices going on around them every day.

The Salvos firmly believe that every social justice issue can be addressed. So, instead of just providing findings, the stocktake report aims to help alleviate that sense of hopelessness by outlining practical solutions.

We found that Australians care deeply about social injustice – but don't always know what to do about it.

Every person can make a difference. Together, we can make an even greater difference.

The Salvation Army Australia is a Christian movement dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus. We do this by:

- *Caring for people* • *Creating faith pathways*
- *Building healthy communities* • *Working for justice*

Social justice in Australia

Breakdown of responses



Mental health



Housing affordability



Alcohol and drug misuse



Family violence

Mental health and housing affordability are consistently the most prevalent social justice issues across Australia, according to the Salvos' Social Justice Stocktake report.

The only exception is in the Northern Territory, where more than 75 per cent of respondents identify alcohol and drug misuse as the major social justice issue in their communities.

A striking fact is that the issues of mental health and housing affordability often appear to be identified irrespective of other factors, including geography, socio-economic disadvantage or whether respondents are in lockdown as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The impact of COVID-19 on mental health and social isolation is also pertinent. Recent statistics suggest 55 per cent of respondents have felt lonely since the start of the pandemic in 2020. Men are twice as likely to experience isolation and loneliness (males 38 per cent to females 18 per cent), and those that live alone are significantly more likely to experience loneliness.

Mental ill-health and housing stress have a strong correlation. The Salvos' experience is that 38 per cent of clients who present to homelessness services have mental ill-health.

Around 16 per cent of people with mental illness live in unsuitable accommodation, including overcrowded, low-quality housing, or are at risk of eviction. These conditions can continue to cause economic pressures, including difficulty securing employment, which also exacerbates mental ill-health.

Both housing affordability and homelessness are significant issues in Australia. There were 116,427 people experiencing homelessness in 2016 when the most recent census was carried out. It's estimated that Australia has a shortfall of 433,400 social housing properties. ▶





Respondents to the Salvos' stocktake identify that homelessness, and the kind of housing stress that could lead to homelessness, are ongoing issues in their local community.

Overwhelmingly, people feel something needs to be done and want to be part of the solution but feel disempowered around finding or implementing solutions.

Alcohol and drug misuse is an issue in all jurisdictions but is particularly prevalent in regional and remote electorates, particularly in the Northern Territory.

Family violence is also consistently prevalent across Australia. The Australian Institute of Criminology found that the pandemic coincided with the onset of physical or sexual violence or coercive control for many women. For other women, it coincided with an increase in the frequency or severity of ongoing violence or abuse.

Family violence has historically remained hidden in our society, so the prevalence of this result might reflect both an increase in the incidence of violence and the concerted efforts by governments and community groups to raise awareness around family violence.

Overwhelmingly, people feel something needs to be done and want to be part of the solution but feel disempowered around finding or implementing solutions.

Every social justice issue identified can be addressed and there are tangible steps we can take together to fight hardship and injustice.

In upcoming editions, Salvos Magazine will look at some of the main social justice issues raised in the Social Justice Stocktake report and what we can do as a nation, state or territory, community, and as individuals in response.

To download the report, go to salvationarmy.org.au/socialjusticestocktake

RESPONSES FROM AROUND THE NATION

"I would like to see the community coming together to create positive and meaningful change."

QUEENSLAND

"I would like to see the government come up with a long-term solution for this. It's not just about throwing money at people; it's about education and support, and that is lacking and under-resourced."

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

"I would love for the stigma of these issues to be removed; this would enable people affected to seek assistance more easily."

VICTORIA

"I want to participate, if I can, to help resolve these issues."

NEW SOUTH WALES

"It'd be great if the community would work together and fix the issues."

TASMANIA

"A liveable wage or government benefit should be available for everyone. Availability of rental properties for people who receive government benefits or a low income."

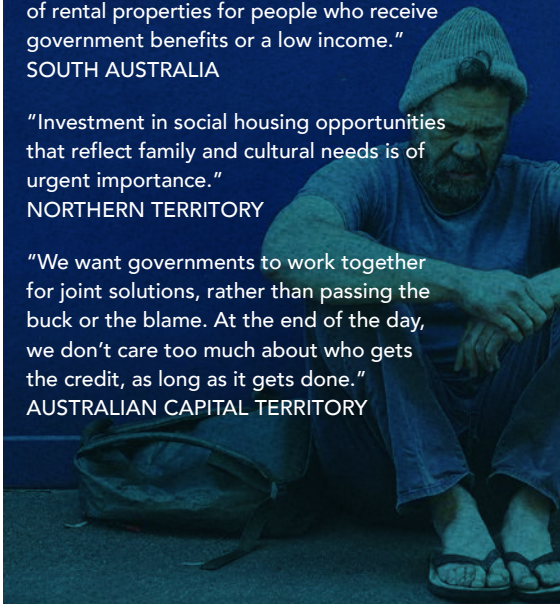
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

"Investment in social housing opportunities that reflect family and cultural needs is of urgent importance."

NORTHERN TERRITORY

"We want governments to work together for joint solutions, rather than passing the buck or the blame. At the end of the day, we don't care too much about who gets the credit, as long as it gets done."

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY



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Common Ground cafe brews hope for the future

For over three years, Salvation Army Housing Campbell Street in Hobart has equipped, empowered, and caffeinated its community. Formerly known as Common Ground, it recently celebrated the accomplishments of its coffee van, topped off with two awards from The Australasian Housing Institute.



Hobart Lord Mayor Anna Reynolds and Tasmania Salvos leader Captain Kim Haworth celebrate three years of the Common Ground coffee van.

The celebration was an encouraging close to 2021, as Campbell Street undergoes renovations. The Coffee Ground café, situated out the front of the Campbell Street facility, has been a vital tool in making tenants employment-ready, providing 6500 hours of vocational education, training, and employment to 11 people and selling more than 50,000 coffees. Hobart Lord Mayor Anna Reynolds celebrated this achievement with Kim Haworth, Salvos leader in Tasmania, with, of course – a cup of coffee!

SHARON'S STORY

Employees were also present to celebrate, including barista Sharon. After receiving an unexpected medical diagnosis, Sharon found herself homeless in the country she had called home for over 40 years with nowhere to turn.

"I had always had a home and a place to sleep but after returning unwell from

overseas, I struggled to find employment and consequently found myself homeless," she said.

Sharon had never worked in hospitality before, but with some encouragement from the Social Housing team, she completed a barista course at TAFE. Within a week, Sharon was contacted by Campbell Street Housing who were looking for employees for their newly established coffee van.

"I got all of my confidence back and found myself really enjoying this new chapter," she said.

These are the stories that define the success of Coffee Ground. And while the future of Coffee Ground café is currently in flux due to renovations, there's no doubt it is beloved by patrons and the business industry alike.



(L-R) Housing Coordinator Anthony Fagan celebrates the cafe's success with barista Sharon, and Neal Phillips, Business Development Consultant with not-for-profit employment service CVGT.

The Australasian Housing Institute awarded the Campbell Street facility with Excellence in Social Housing for direct and indirect benefits of the Coffee Ground café. Meanwhile, Tenancy Officer Jade Munnings also received an award for outstanding achievement.

– Jessica Morris

Salvos publish Bushfire Disaster Appeal Report

The Salvation Army has released its second 12-month Bushfire Disaster Appeal Report, detailing its work between November 2020 to November 2021.



The report focuses on people impacted by the fires, from the early stages of recovery to the later stages of rebuilds and re-establishing lives. There is also a comprehensive breakdown of how funds donated to the national Bushfire Disaster Appeal have been distributed to people in affected communities.

As of 10 November 2021, \$60.62m in direct financial assistance had been distributed by the Salvos to assist more than 13,000 people impacted by the fires. About 29,650 grants had been provided to those who experienced extreme hardship or loss of residence, and 8559 Moneycare financial counselling sessions were given to help people and communities manage their money during recovery and beyond. In addition, \$180,000 from the Salvos (non-appeal money) also contributed directly to response and recovery efforts.

Supporting recovery has been a collective effort, as well as an ongoing journey, and the Salvos are grateful to all those who gave generously through donations, volunteering, and compassion.

To view or download the report, go to salvationarmy.org.au/about-us/news-and-stories

Connecting kids to grandparent figures

Recognising the value of grandparents in a child's life was the philosophy behind a school holiday program run by the Salvos in the Tweedes Heads/Palm Beach/Elanora area on the Queensland/NSW border.

Salvos officer (pastor) Major Nicole Viles said the inaugural Kindness Connections Holiday Program in January was designed to link older people in the Salvos faith community with local children and families.

The three-day program was aimed at primary school-aged children who were paired with an older adult. Activities included trips to the beach, a Gold Coast wildlife sanctuary, and the movies. On the final day, the children and their 'grandparent' prepared a meal and served the child's family. "[About 35 people] had a meal together ... [which] was fantastic," Nicole said.

The Salvos posted about the philosophy of the

program on the local community social media page and sought expressions of interest.

"Within a matter of 24 hours, we had all 10 spots filled," Nicole said. "It was fabulous."



Grandparents and kids enjoy a coastal walk together.

A single mother of two children said her son had no male figures in his life and asked whether her son's 'grandparent' would continue the relationship beyond the program and be part of his life – and that of her family.

Archie, the three-legged wonder dog

Neighbourhood rescue dog a reflection of God's love

WORDS Jessica Morris

When I moved away from my family home a couple of years ago, I had a dog-sized hole in my heart. Between the size of my unit and vet bills, I knew it wasn't the right time to get my own pet.

So, I made it my mission to befriend every dog I saw in my new neighbourhood. And I mean every dog. If I walked past one or it barked at me from behind a fence, I spoke to it. And if one escaped out the front door and ran into my arms (yes, that happened – twice), I was there to catch it.

Befriending every dog in existence is a fail-safe way to increase your endorphins. But I didn't realise that one of these dogs was on the same mission to love me even more relentlessly. And, in doing so, he showed me the heart of God.

Enter Archie, the three-legged wonder dog. The two-year-old bull terrier cross white stag rescue made frequent appearances on my daily walks. I had never spoken to his owner, but every time Archie hopped past me, he planted his feet in the ground and begged me for a pat.

Archie loves quickly, and it became clear that he was determined that my sister and I would become 'his' people. We nicknamed Archie 'Champion' – such was his likeness to the *Parks and Recreation* character, but one day we decided to have a conversation with his owner (not just his dog), and everything changed.

CHANGED LIVES

Because when we found out this wonder dog was named Archie, we also learned he had just restarted his life. You see, Archie had just been rescued from abusive conditions that resulted in the loss of his leg. He and his dad became inseparable soon after, and now Archie was learning how to walk, love, and play again. Archie was learning what it meant to be loved – and, in doing so, he was pouring out his love on every person he met.



Salvos writer Jessica Morris has become fast friends with Archie, the three-legged wonder dog.



Twelve months after the surgery that removed his leg, Archie is healthier and happier than ever.

Archie changed my life. Maybe it's because I resonated with his sense of loss, which people pointed out so obnoxiously whenever they saw him on three paws. Like many of us, Archie's trauma and pain runs deep, and he bears the physical scars of his abuse. Yet, Archie is so much more than this – he has oceans of love to give, and while he has 'adopted' my sister and me as his 'godparents', he acts as the neighbourhood chaplain or mascot. Now, people see him walking, and they stop and roll down the window. The local barista gives him a pat. Once, a delivery driver even recognised him.

In his own way, Archie has shown that God sees who I truly am. Beyond any pain, scars

or fears, God seeks me out and loves me. When we first met, Archie would stop and wait for me to catch up with him. Now that we are family, he runs to meet me, just like how God runs to meet us. Every day, Archie is a reminder that I am loved. And if that's not a reflection of God's heart, I don't know what is.

Follow Archie's adventures on Instagram: @archiefrombelmont.



Scan here for more on the need for community.

A day in the life of ...

Amplifying the voices of those experiencing hardship and injustice

Over the coming months, *Salvos Magazine* will feature different people from all walks of life who are part of the varied work of the Salvos across the country. We begin with Jennifer Kirkaldy, General Manager Policy and Advocacy, whose team produced the Social Justice Stocktake report featured on pages 4-6.

Salvos Magazine: Can you give us an overview of your job?

Jennifer Kirkaldy: I lead and look after the Policy and Advocacy team. We have three broad functions:

- Social justice education and empowerment – providing the tools and information to empower Salvos and the community to work for justice.
- Social Policy development – using the data and insights of The Salvation Army to identify social injustice and then finding solutions that will address the structural and societal drivers of that injustice.
- Advocacy – engaging with decision makers to implement the solutions we have found. It is all about changing how things are done.

SM: What's the first thing you do when you arrive at work (even if that's at home!)?

JK: Before I sit down at my desk, I check that no urgent emails have come in overnight. If something urgent has come in, that is how I will start my day. Otherwise, I spend a little while checking the news – this is a good way to see if any new announcements have been made or reports released.

SM: What can a typical day involve for you?

JK: Every day is different – but they almost all involve lots of meetings! On any given day I might meet with a member of parliament or

other decision makers, which is an opportunity to further The Salvation Army's advocacy goals. If we have a big submission due (in response to the government inquiring into a matter the Salvos focus on), then I'll spend time meeting with the subject matter experts around the Salvos, workshoping with the team to develop our main arguments, or actually writing the submission.

Sometimes we are called to give evidence to a parliamentary committee, and on those days, I spend a lot of time preparing for that. Some days we have more time to be strategic and plan who we need to engage with and what arguments will be most convincing to achieve our advocacy goals.

SM: What's the most challenging part of your work?

JK: Often it feels like we just aren't making progress. We might spend hundreds of hours researching, writing thousands of words on an issue, having countless meetings, and then ... nothing.

Of course, that is not actually the case; it is just that changing social policy is a slow process. Even when it feels like no one is listening, the wheels are turning in the background. We just need to keep at it, but sometimes in the middle of the process, it can be disheartening.

SM: What's the most rewarding?

JK: When you get it right, you really can make a huge difference. For example, in the family



violence space, we traced a comment made by a frontline worker to an extensive argument we made in our submission. That then became a recommendation the Parliamentary Committee made to the Minister, which turned into a fully funded line item in the budget. Now a program is getting much-needed funds into the hands of people escaping family violence. That was many hours of work that for a long time felt like it was going nowhere, but now 9000 victim-survivors are better off in part because of The Salvation Army's advocacy. That makes it worthwhile.

SM: How has COVID-19 affected your work?

JK: We have been very fortunate that COVID-19 has not affected us as much as many other teams, but we have certainly had to adapt! In some ways it is easier to organise a meeting with an MP or senator when no one is travelling, but it takes more work to build rapport when you aren't in the same room. As a team, we have not gathered for over two years now, and I'd be lying if I said I didn't miss being able to pull out a whiteboard and brainstorm a problem.

SM: What drives/motivates you to get up each day and go to work?

JK: It sounds trite, but the knowledge that my work can make a difference. It is a great privilege to have a voice and be listened to when you speak. Not everyone enjoys that privilege. The Salvation Army has the opportunity and ability to amplify the voices of those who are experiencing hardship and injustice and have those voices heard by decision makers. That is something really special.

The work our team was created to focus on is a natural and necessary part of the mission of the Salvos which is about transforming Australia one life at a time [with the love of Jesus].



Scan here for more on the need for community.

Extreme Brownies



PHOTO: STOCK / GETTY IMAGES

Ingredients

225g unsalted butter, pinch salt, $\frac{2}{3}$ cup plain flour, 1 tsp baking powder, $\frac{2}{3}$ cup Dutch (unsweetened) cocoa, 2 cups caster sugar, 4 eggs, 200g 55% cocoa dark chocolate, 1 tbs vanilla extract.

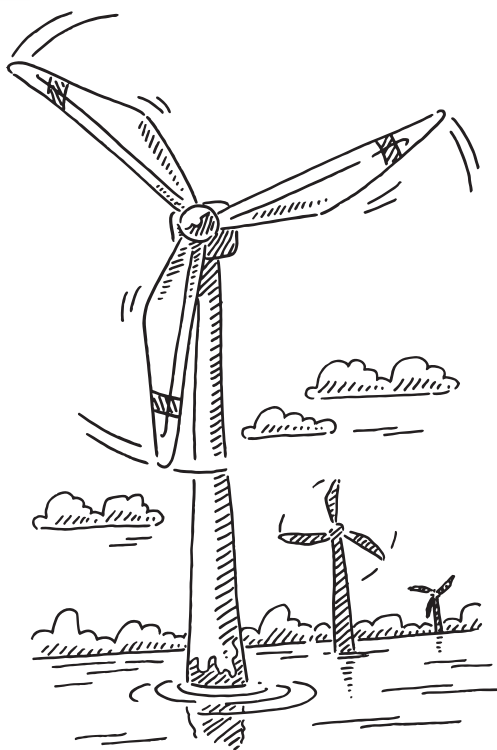
Method

- Melt butter and salt in small saucepan. Set aside to cool slightly.
- Mix flour, baking powder, cocoa, and sugar in a large bowl. Add the lightly beaten eggs and melted butter a little at a time, stirring well after each addition.
- Stir in the chopped chocolate and vanilla.
- Place mixture in a lined baking pan. Cook in moderate oven (180°C) for one hour, until soft. Cool completely in pan.
- Lift out with baking paper and dust with extra cocoa. Chop into 5cm squares. Enjoy!

HAVE A LAUGH

I entered ten puns in a contest to see which would win.
No pun in ten did.

Two windmills are standing on a wind farm.
One asks, "What's your favourite kind of music?"
The other replies, "I'm a big metal fan."



Need an ark to save two of every animal?
I noah guy.

How does a dog stop a video?
By hitting the paws button!

Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

	7							
	9			2			3	7
	5				4	1	6	
6		1			9		7	
	2					6		
7				3	2			6
		8	4		1			
2		3		8				

Tum-Tum

On which page of this week's *Salvos Magazine* is Tum-Tum hiding?



Bible byte

"God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble."
Psalm chapter 46, verse 1
New Living Translation

Quiz answers: 1. 4-20 February; 2. 4-13 March; 3. Bing Dwen Dwen; 4. 15 disciplines across 7 sports; 5. Norway; 1924 in Chamoniix, France.
Tum-Tum: is steering the bobsled on page 15.



Quick quiz

- When did the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games take place?
- When will the Paralympic Games be held?
- What is the name of the official mascot of the Games?
- The Games featured events in how many disciplines across how many sports?
- In Winter Olympic history, which country has won the most medals?
- When and where was the first Winter Olympics held?

DID YOU KNOW?

Sudan has more pyramids than any country in the world.

German chocolate cake was invented in Texas.

The Philippines consists of 7641 islands.

1	7	4	8	6	2	5	9
2	1	3	6	9	7	4	8
3	6	4	5	1	2	3	7
4	5	9	3	2	7	1	6
5	2	8	3	7	4	6	1
6	8	1	5	4	9	7	2
7	3	7	2	1	6	5	4
8	5	7	9	1	3	4	2
9	6	1	2	4	3	7	5
1	7	4	8	6	2	5	9



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- CHC51115 Diploma of Financial Counselling
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- CHCSS00111 Problem Gambling Skill Set
- Rural Financial Counselling Specialisation



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