

# Activity Report 2017-2018



National Therapeutic  
Residential Care Alliance

WE BELIEVE  
IN MAKING

A DIFFERENCE

# Activity Report 2017-2018



National Therapeutic  
Residential Care Alliance

## About the National Therapeutic Residential Care Alliance

Since its establishment in 2012, the National Therapeutic Residential Care Alliance (NTRCA) has been successful in creating a practice community where therapeutic residential care (TRC) is discussed and wisdom is shared amongst leading providers in Australia.

The NTRCA believes that everyone working in the sector must have access to resources from which to implement successful and evidence informed services and systems for the delivery of therapeutic residential care. Through advancing this approach the Alliance's goal is to improve the lives of Australian children and young people in out-of-home care.

### Our aim

We aim to promote therapeutic residential care (TRC) as a highly valued, legitimate and viable intervention for the right children and young people in out-of-home care. Our vision is to add value and engage the out-of-home care sector by sharing resources which underpin contemporary best practice in TRC.

The NTRCA aims to shape public discourse about TRC through developing a strong research agenda and by building on strategic relationships with key partners and governments in the Australian context.

## NTRCA Board and Reference Group

A group of likeminded, leading proponents of therapeutic residential care met in Brisbane in 2012 and were inspired by the passion and collective wisdom of founding members. This led to the formation of the NTRCA. The Alliance was incorporated in 2016 and registered with the Australian Charities Commission. The NTRCA is governed by a Board, chaired by Shelley Wall and a reference group which has developed over time including:

### NTRCA Board

- **Shelley Wall** (Board Chair)  
Infinity Community Solutions Ltd, formerly Mercy Community Services, QLD and Churches of Christ Care\*
- **Laurel Downey** (Board member)  
Catalyst Child & Family Services, QLD, formerly Private Practitioner\*
- **Glenys Bristow** (Board member)  
consultant, VIC\*
- **David O'Rafferty**, (Board member)  
Baptist Care, SA
- **Lyn Millett**, (Board member)  
MercyCare, WA
- **Brett Smith**, (Board member)  
Allambi Care, NSW
- **Claire Taylor**, (Executive Officer,  
NTRCA), Department for Child Protection, SA

## Reference Group

- **Dr Sara McLean**, Adjunct Fellow,  
The Australian Centre for Child Protection, University of South Australia
- **Dr Patricia McNamara**, Senior Fellow (Hon), Department of Social Work, The University of Melbourne
- **Annaley Clarke**, Infinity Community Solutions Ltd, formerly Mercy Community Services, QLD and Churches of Christ Care\*
- **Greg Wall**, Anglicare SQ, QLD, formerly Churches of Christ Care, QLD\*
- **Gerard Jones**, MacKillop Family Services, VIC\*
- **Matthew Spicer**, Possability Tas, formerly Anglicare, TAS\*
- **Edith Loch**, MacKillop Family Services, VIC
- **Janise Mitchell**, Australian Childhood Foundation
- **Terry Cleary** and **Julie Rothall**, Anglicare NT
- **Elisha Garcia**, Mercy Community Services, QLD
- **Dawn Briggs**, Junction Australia, SA
- **Bradley Van De Kamp** and **Chantelle Jones**, Catholic Care Tas
- **Luke Tempany** and **Sally Edwards**, Churches of Christ, QLD
- **Raeleen McKenzie**, Consultant, formerly of Berry Street, VIC

The NTRCA membership represents extensive experience in the delivery of TRC along with innovative, evidence-informed practice grounded in the latest research.

The Alliance is a strong presence at the 2018 ACF Trauma Conference, launching its brand and moderating a substantial body of papers within the Therapeutic Residential Care Stream.

The Alliance is building on existing partnerships and developing important new linkages within the sector and with government in Australia and internationally.

# Activity Report 2017-2018



National Therapeutic  
Residential Care Alliance

## **Our Values**

*The NTRCA has been founded upon and continues to operate from the following values and commitments:*

### **Justice:**

A commitment to promote the rights of service users to access equitable resources, advocacy and outcomes that support human dignity and to actively work to remedy injustice and promote safety within the national practice community of TRC.

### **Hope:**

A commitment to create a framework for hope where people and organisations are encouraged to create positive advancement of TRC by sharing our vision, developing future focus and operating within a shared goal of continuous improvement where ideas and practice evolve.

### **Collaboration:**

A commitment to harness the power of groups to share and build knowledge, ideas and resources. We pursue this through group and individual effort to form a strong community to advance the practice of TRC.

### **Respect:**

A commitment to creating an environment in which our words and actions are lived out in the pursuit of best practice in TRC which celebrates the value of ourselves and others.

### **Integrity:**

A commitment to promote a spirit of generosity in the pursuit of best practice of TRC nationally.

# Activity Report 2017-2018



National Therapeutic  
Residential Care Alliance

## Our future strategic priorities

1. The development of essential service design elements for TRC service delivery and an accreditation framework.
2. Positioning therapeutic residential care as a valued and respected approach to care provision through engagement with the sector and government.
3. Promotion of the NTRCA through national and international meetings as an authoritative voice at forums and conferences in partnership with the sector and government.
4. Ongoing development of a strategic research agenda and promotion of findings for the advancement of best practice in therapeutic residential care.

## Research agenda

Research is a core activity of the NTRCA. The Alliance has two Research Associates within its Reference Group—Dr Sara McLean, University of South Australia and Dr Patricia McNamara, University of Melbourne. Other Alliance members are also research active in the TRC domain. Over recent years, the Alliance has developed a research agenda and established key priorities. Current areas of focus include: identification of core programmatic elements in TRC, best practice in professional development and family partnering. Scoping studies and literature reviews have been conducted with a view to establishing larger scale national research, including outcome studies. The Alliance is also active in international TRC research circles, including the International Work Group on Therapeutic Residential Care convened by Professor James Whittaker (USA), Dr Lisa Holmes (UK) and Professor Jorge Dal Valle (Spain). Recent and forthcoming presentations and publications auspiced by the NTRCA are listed here:

## Recent/forthcoming publications and presentations

### NTRCA Reference Group (2018)

*Therapeutic Residential Care: Australian Consensus Definition and Research Agenda study.* Australian Child Foundation Conference Melbourne, Australia, August 1.

### McLean, S (2018)

*Therapeutic Residential Care: An update on Current Issues and Service characteristics in Australia.* Melbourne, Australia: Australian Institute of Family Studies.

### McLean, S, Taylor, C & Wall, S (2018)

*Developing a Therapeutic Residential Care Framework in South Australia.* Australian Child Foundation Conference Melbourne, Australia, August 1.

### McNamara P & McLean, S (2018)

*Partnering with families in therapeutic residential care: An Australian scoping study.* Australian Child Foundation Conference Melbourne, Australia, August 1.

### McNamara P & McLean, S (2018)

*A joint effort: Effective partnering with families in Australian Therapeutic Residential Care.* Eusarf Conference Porto, Portugal, October 2-5.

### McNamara P & McLean, S (2017)

*Partnering with families in therapeutic residential care: An Australian scoping study* In C Canali, J Ma, J & T Vecchiato (Eds) *New perspectives for outcome-based evaluation and research on family and children's services.* Fondazione Zancan Onlus; Department of Social Work, Chinese University of Hong Kong and International Association for Outcome Based Research in Family and Children's Services (iaOBERfcs) pp. 63-66.

### McNamara P (2017)

*Therapeutic residential care in Australia: A contemporary overview.* International Therapeutic Residential Care Working Group Meeting, Malosco ITALY June 5-7.

### McNamara P (2017)

*Therapeutic residential care: Toward healing trauma in Australian children and families.* Colloquium, National University of Galway, Eire, May 28.

### McNamara P, Downey L, II I,

### McKenzie R & Somers K (2016)

*Professional development for therapeutic residential care.* Australian Child Welfare Agencies Conference, Darling Harbour NSW, Australia, August 12.

### McNamara P, Ramsay S and

### Small R (2016)

*Family partnering in therapeutic residential care: A contemporary overview* International Therapeutic Residential Care Working Group Meeting, University of Loughborough, UK, April 18.

### McNamara P (2015)

*A new era in the development of therapeutic residential care in the State of Victoria* In Whittaker, J.K., del valle, J. & Holmes, L. (Eds.) *Therapeutic residential care with children and youth: identifying promising pathways to evidence-based international practice* pp.126-139 London and Philadelphia: Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

# Activity Report 2017-2018



ALLAMBI CARE



Possability  
Nurturing potential.



Proudly sponsored by



Website: [www.ntrca.com.au](http://www.ntrca.com.au)

Email: [ntrca123@gmail.com](mailto:ntrca123@gmail.com)