

Evolution of ARV in the Sydney Diocese

History Highlight for June 2016 (compiled by Robin Wood - ARV Historian and Archivist)

In March 1955 Archbishop Mowll asked the Church of England National emergency Fund (CENEF) Board of Management to consider Mrs Dorothy Mowll's suggestion for establishing a **Church Veterans Village**. In April 1956 he requested CENEF undertake the project, appointing a subcommittee that he chaired. Mrs Dorothy Mowll passed from this life in December 1957 and during 1958 Archbishop Mowll was keen to see her vision brought to reality. In October 1958 the subcommittee agreed that the Elwatan Estate at Castle Hill was a suitable site for development and in December that year CENEF Ordinance 29 gave consent to proceed with a **Church Veterans Village**.

In May 1959 legal negotiations connected with the purchase of the Elwatan Estate were completed. The **Mowll Memorial Village for Aged People** was opened and dedicated by Archbishop Gough on 24 October 1959, the first anniversary of Archbishop Mowll's passing. The first staff and residents moved in to the village in February 1960. In July of that year the first Executive Officer, Mr Gordon Atkins, was appointed. In December 1961 Standing Committee passed Ordinance 52 establishing the Board of Management of the **Sydney Church of England Homes for Aged Persons** and the transfer of **Mowll Memorial Village** from CENEF. The offices of the Board and Administration were transferred from the CENEF building in the city to the Village Centre at Castle Hill in February 1964.

In July 1966 the Church of England Sydney Diocese agreed the name change to **The Church of England Retirement Villages**. The following October a new administrative building was opened on Castle Hill Road. Then in December 1979 when the 'Church of England in Australia' became the 'Anglican Church of Australia' the retirement villages changed their name to **Anglican Retirement Villages**, known as **ARV**. The administrative functions (Support Centre), moved to Norwest Boulevard, Baulkham Hills in mid 2004. In the period from 1959 to June 2016 ARV grew from one village to 21 villages and 16 residential care communities within the Sydney Diocese.

On 30 May Standing Committee passed Ordinance 10/2016 amending changes to ARV's constitution, giving effect to the merger of **ARV** and **Anglicare Sydney** from 1 July 2016. The new organisation, officially known as **Anglican Community Services**, is trading as **Anglicare**.

Anglicare now comprises 3,800 staff and 2,900 volunteers across Retirement Living and Residential Aged Care; Home Care; and Community Services. **Anglicare** operates across Greater Sydney and the Illawarra region and is one of the largest aged care providers in the area. This includes:

- 22 Retirement Living Villages serving 2,530 people;
- 22 Residential Aged Care Homes serving 2,180 people;
- Home Care services to 1,500 people;
- Commonwealth Home Support Programs serving over 8,000 people in their home and through 20 day and respite centres; and
- Community Services programs including migrant and refugee services, emergency relief, counselling, foster care and adoptions, disability support services for young people as well as chaplaincy services.

While it will be 'business as usual' for Anglicare's clients and residents with no disruption to service delivery, the large scale 'back of house' merger is expected to take from 18 months to two years to complete.