



Forbes, NSW

www.centacarewf.org.au

Purpose

To empower individuals, families and communities in western NSW, by enhancing social and emotional well-being and strengthening networks of support.

Rationale for SVA Investment

Many areas of western NSW are now suffering severe decline. The ongoing drought, lack of public transport and increasing isolation and poverty, has led to a loss of hope and possibility in many communities. Of particular concern is the alarming numbers of early school leavers, teenage pregnancies, prison admissions, high levels of domestic violence and generational unemployment, lack of qualifications and limited computer access.

Centacare Wilcannia-Forbes is based in western NSW and offers over 20 services across the western half of the State to address these critical issues. Its services fall into three suites of programs: *Foundation for Life* works with young parents to increase parenting skills and opportunities for their children; *Dream the Pathways* encourages disadvantaged young people to stay at school and those who have already dropped out to engage in training opportunities and employment; and *Family Services* supports families struggling with mental health issues, lack of financial management skills and the impact of the ongoing drought.

Approximately one third of Centacare's 60 staff are Indigenous to ensure cultural sensitivity and to support the development of leadership within Indigenous communities. Centacare also very deliberately takes a lead role in engaging all levels of community to work together to develop innovative models to address issues and create sustainable change. With so few resources available to rural and remote communities Centacare believes this approach is imperative in forging their future survival.

SVA believes that Centacare's programs are well placed to provide those in need with access to an appropriate range of services to help them improve the quality of their lives and have access to opportunities to break the chain of intergenerational welfare dependency.



Historical Achievement

In a three year period to June 2008, Centacare programs have serviced approximately 7,030 people through a range of services. Approximately 4,000 young families have received support, 170 young people have engaged in TAFE training and approximately 50 have obtained apprenticeships, 150 Indigenous families have received training in financial literacy skills and 600 families have received counselling support.

Growth Goals as agreed with SVA

Centacare's strategy (FY09-FY12)

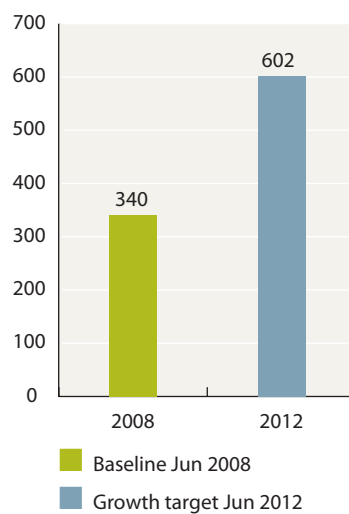
To continue to build excellence and effective evaluation processes in its services, develop expertise within its team and strengthen its infrastructure to more effectively meet the needs of rural and remote communities in western NSW, particularly through three key programs: *Strong Young Mums*, *Out There Learning* and *Manage Your Income*.

Goals

1. Support 90 participants per annum by June 2012 in the *Strong Young Mums* program across four regions.
2. Support 112 participants per annum by June 2012 in the *Out There Learning* program across five regions.
3. Support 400 participants per annum by June 2012 in the *Manage Your Income* program across three regions.

Performance Indicators

- To develop standardised client evaluations with self-assessed progress of greater than four out of six for every Centacare program by June 2012.
- To aim for a total of over 600 participants per annum in Centacare's three key programs: *Strong Young Mums*, *Out There Learning* and *Manage Your Income* by June 2012.



Full detailed performance indicators are contained in the Centacare Wilcannia-Forbes Strategic Plan.

Venture Team

Advisory board members

Sr Marie Carey (Chair)
 Mr Allen Duggan
 Ms Maryanne Tinlin
 Mr Basil Toohey

Sr Margaret Flynn, CEO

Margaret Flynn is founding director of Centacare Wilcannia-Forbes and joined the organisation in 1996. Previous roles over two decades have seen Margaret use her qualifications in education and psychology through teaching and administration in secondary schools and as a practising family therapist. Margaret is also a graduate of the Executive Program for Non-Profit Leaders at the Stanford Graduate School of Business.

Margaret's commitment to justice and Aboriginal issues brought her to western NSW, where she and her team are creating innovative responses to help rural communities, supporting educational pathways and quality family relationships, as well as encouraging leadership development within Indigenous communities.

Her background in both education and psychology has been influential in shaping Centacare's very clear focus on prevention and early intervention and the fundamental importance of empowering people through education to manage their lives with greater confidence.

Her vision for Centacare over the next few years is to see an expansion of their innovative models which are having such an impact on young mothers, young people and Indigenous communities; a strengthening of management and leadership within the organisation; development of leadership skills among Indigenous staff, and an expansion of services across western NSW.