

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES VICTORIA annual report

Very Rev Anthony Kerin EV
Episcopal Vicar for Justice and Social Service

Patrice Scales
Chair of Council

Staff (at 31 December 2012)

Denis Fitzgerald
Executive Director

Lucia Brick
Executive Assistant

Helen Burt
Senior Policy Advisor

Peter Hudson
Network & Member Support Co-ordinator

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CSSV Mission:

To assist the Catholic Church in Victoria to fulfil the gospel imperatives to:

- Stand with and serve the poor, disadvantaged and marginalised; and
- Work for a just, equitable and compassionate society.

CSSV Objectives:

Catholic Social Services Victoria is auspiced by the Archbishop and Bishops, and its member organisations to act as a peak body for Catholic community service works in Victoria by:

- Discerning and promoting within the Church and its agencies and ministries a contemporary vision and focus of the Church's social mission
- Representing its members and the Church in responding to social welfare issues so as to bring about social change in accordance with Catholic Social Teaching
- Resourcing the Bishops, Religious Institutes, Church agencies, ministries and other Church-based groups with regard to their social welfare pastoral responsibilities and ministries
- Encouraging collaboration in the promotion of opportunities for service delivery and mission development
- Giving effective voice to the experiences and struggles of people who are disadvantaged and marginalised through researching, publishing and speaking on issues of justice and equity.



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reflection from episcopal vicar

From October 2012 to November 2013, Pope Benedict has called Catholics everywhere to observe a Year of Faith. The motivation for this initiative might well have been the apparent crisis of faith currently experienced in Europe, but the prescribed remedy



Fr Tony Kerin

presented by the Pope, of revisiting the basic tenets of our faith over the course of this year is of universal benefit. Suggestions for participating in the Year of Faith, range from making a pilgrimage to the Church where we were baptized, to using the Creed as part of our daily prayer in the home. Whatever means we may choose to participate during this year, the opportunity to reflect on our belief in Jesus Christ, as the Redeemer who raises us out of the injustices of this life, is always time well spent. It is this belief that motivates our daily activities in Jesus name.

In Victoria, the Year of Faith is beset with contextual challenges. The State parliamentary inquiry into child abuse, and the Royal Commission which is to follow, make this an uncomfortable climate in which to profess the Catholic Faith. The collateral shame for the crimes of some and the incompetent response of others, humiliates all of us. What are we to do?

This is not the time for being defensive, nor is it opportune to present statistical justifications or arguments in rebuttal. It is rather a time for facing the full horror of this scandal with humility and with faith. But there is a danger in this. The anger occasioned by the scandal, the moral discouragement and the shame that mires us all threatens to silence our belief and sideline our compassion, as we are tempted to disappear from view, or at least lower our Catholic colours.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge reminded the Brisbane priests recently (25/11/12) of the danger of such self-defensive amnesia. We have forgotten how real and powerful evil can be. We have forgotten that the Church has always been sinful. In the coming year we will be reminded daily that this is still the case. So we must not forget that the power of God's love is greater than sin and death. We must not forget the magnificence of Jesus Christ who remains even at the heart of a wounded Church.

We must never forget the love and mercy of God, and that our Catholic social services are the tangible proof of this love for many of those most needy in our society. Now in this Year of Faith, is precisely the time for Catholic Social Service providers to remind ourselves and those we serve, of St Paul's exhortation to James (James 2: 14-26) that faith without works is dead.

Very Rev. Tony Kerin

Episcopal Vicar for Justice & Social Service

Our task as a nation is to have the humility to listen and respond to the most vulnerable, for they show us what needs to change in our society.

*Australian Catholic Bishops
Conference – Social Justice
Statement 2012-2013*

report from chair of council

Does not every one of us sense deep within his or her conscience a call to make a personal contribution to the common good and to peace in society.

Pope Benedict XVI
World Day of Peace 2009

It has been a privilege over the last twelve months to be Chair of Catholic Social Services Victoria in what has been a stimulating and in many ways challenging environment for our council and our member organisations. When you read the Executive Director's Report, I am sure you will be struck by the richness and diversity of activities in the annual calendar of Catholic Social Services Victoria which will continue in the coming year.

Looking back, I take this opportunity to once again pay tribute to my predecessor Peter Bearsley for his dedicated service, wisdom and experience in his leadership as Chair of Council over seven years. Peter brought to his leadership deep understanding of issues underlying vulnerability within society, and also structural and organisational issues that are faced in seeking to improve the life chances of the disadvantaged in our community.

The genuine warmth of the comments Peter received when he stepped down is a sign of the esteem in which he is held in the Catholic Social Services Victoria community. We sincerely thank Peter for his enormous contribution to the sound governance and development of Catholic Social Services Victoria, and for the time and expertise he so generously gave during the past seven years.

The Archdiocese of Melbourne and Dioceses of Ballarat, Sandhurst and Sale are integral to the work of Catholic Social Services Victoria, through their financial contribution and encouraging support. During the year, in my capacity as the new Chair of Council and together with our Executive Director, Denis Fitzgerald, I took the opportunity to meet Archbishop Denis Hart of Melbourne, Bishop Les Tomlinson of Sandhurst, Bishop Peter Connors of Ballarat and Bishop Christopher Prowse of Sale. I was most warmly welcomed by each of them and encouraged by our shared vision for the future of the Church's social services work, and the future of Catholic Social Services Victoria.



Patrice Scales

We met with Bishop Connors shortly before he retired, and it was an opportunity for our Council to thank him for his wise, generous and ever-ready support for the work of Catholic Social Services Victoria. We will miss him, and wish him the very best in his retirement.

Our Council and staff were also very fortunate to meet the new Bishop of Ballarat, Bishop Paul Bird, only days after his ordination, when Council met in Ballarat in October. We were indeed honoured that Bishop Paul could share this time with us. We wish him the very best in his Episcopal work, and look forward to working with him in the future.

We were also pleased to have Archbishop Denis Hart attend our Council Meeting in September. His Grace was actively interested in hearing from Council Members about the major issues they face in their work, and willingly engaged in dialogue with us on a number of issues of mutual interest.

Catholic Social Services Victoria Strategic Priorities

Three strategic objectives continued to be our focus of work during 2012: policy and advocacy on behalf of those who are disadvantaged; network development and member services; and fostering a Catholic ethos and identity.

The challenge for Council is to direct and prioritise Catholic Social Services Victoria's activities to ensure it delivers a program of activities and policy responsiveness that best meet the needs of our member organisations. The Executive Director expands on this program of activities in his report. I think you will agree that much was achieved around our strategic objectives during 2012, but Council is only too aware that much more can always be done.

During the year, the issue of sexual abuse by clergy became an increasingly disturbing issue affecting many Catholic social service organisations. The Victorian Government announced a Parliamentary Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and other Organisations. Catholic Social Services Victoria member organisations were pleased to have an opportunity to have input into the Catholic Church submission "Facing the Truth: Learning from the Past".

Following the Federal Government's announcement of a Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, a group from our member organisations has formed to ensure that Catholic Social Services Victoria is actively engaged in issues around preventing and responding to child sexual abuse. This group will continue to assist us in ensuring our member organisations are informed and across issues throughout the term of the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry and the Royal Commission.

Two major activities in the Catholic Social Services calendar for the year brought our member organisations, friends and colleagues together. Our Commissioning Mass and Annual General Meeting in March 2012, and our Annual Dinner in August 2012 were both notable for the numbers who attended, but more importantly, for the spirit of friendship and collegiality that was felt amongst the attendees. We are proud to be the conduit for such shared-spirit opportunities amongst our member organisations and networks.

GOVERNANCE

Catholic Social Services Victoria Council

Catholic Social Services Victoria Council met formally on eight occasions during 2012, and all members of Council contributed to the work of Council Committees and to other activities.

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...we must adopt a realistic attitude as we take up with confidence and hope the new responsibilities to which we are called by the prospect of a world in need of profound cultural renewal, a world that needs to rediscover fundamental values on which to build a better future.

Pope Benedict XVI
Caritas in Veritate 2009



Standing L to R: Vicki Clark, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry; Catherine Collins, VincentCare Victoria.
Seated: Mary Simpson and her twin, Fr Gerard Dowling.

report from chair of council

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...we are called to form one family in which all – individuals, peoples and nations – model their behaviour according to the principles of fraternity and responsibility.

Pope Benedict XVI
World Day of Peace 2009

A changeover to a new Chair can often be a difficult period for an organisation. I am therefore indebted to all Council Members, both ongoing and new, for their personal support, and most importantly, for their guidance, expertise and wise counsel in representing the interests of all our member organisations.

At the 2012 Annual General Meeting, we welcomed newly-elected Council members, Gerard Jones (MacKillop Family Services) and Robyn Roberts (Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services). Fr Joe Caddy (Catholic Care Melbourne) was also re-elected to Council. Tony Hollamby (St John of God Accord) joined Council as the Episcopal Vicar nominee taking the place of Marilyn Webster who retired after six years of outstanding policy input and guidance to Catholic Social Services Victoria.

Micaela Cronin (MacKillop Family Services) did not seek re-election to Council but continues to be a valued contributor to our involvement in many issues. Michael Perusco (formerly Sacred Heart Mission) took up a position in Canberra and his work on Council was also greatly missed.

Two other valued Council Members, Joan Donoghue (Catholic Homes) and Johanna Snelleman (Marillac) retired from their organisations at the end of 2012, and we will be seeking new Council Members to replace them. Each of these dedicated women has brought to their Council membership a breadth of experience, expertise and compassion which is a wonderful legacy to hand on to their successors.

It is not easy to put into words how appreciative Catholic Social Services Victoria is to have had the experience, expertise, and insights of all our Council Members. We are mindful that each of them carry significant roles and responsibilities in their own organisations and make time to commit to the work of Catholic Social Services Victoria. We are indebted to them for this outstanding commitment and I personally appreciate all they do to keep us focused on our work on behalf of the Church.

You will see a full listing of both outgoing and incoming Council and Committee Members further into this Annual Report.

Council committees

The Council is most capably supported by its four committees. Each committee is enhanced by the expertise of a broad range of people from across Catholic social service organisations.

Governance and Finance Committee: David Beaver agreed to continue as our Treasurer, with the welcome addition of Tony Hollamby who has added great experience in governance and finance matters.

Network Development and Member Support: Chaired most ably by Michelle Reid, the Committee was joined by new Council Member, Robyn Roberts. The Committee is very clearly focused on listening to and meeting the needs of our member organisations, and building up strong and valuable networks.

Policy and Advocacy: Fr Joe Caddy continues to chair this Committee. Three new members – Gerard Jones, Cath Neville (Jesuit Social Services) and Damien McCartin (Centacare, Diocese of Ballarat) – have added significantly to the wealth of policy and advocacy experience of this group. More recently, Ruth Webber, Director of the Quality of Life and Social Justice Research Centre at ACU has joined as a co-opted member.

Catholic Ethos and Identity: Jamie Edwards has chaired the Committee during the year. The Committee carries responsibility for one of our most challenging objectives: maintaining a Catholic mission, ethos and identity in an increasingly secular and professionalised environment. The Committee instigated and supported the Mission and Identity Conference which will take place in October this year.

A broad range of views, ideas and input is critically important to Council in meeting its strategic objectives. We are most fortunate to have so many talented and dedicated people to play their part, and I thank all of them for being so willing to join us in this important work.

CSSV SECRETARIAT

Staff

In October last year, Terry O'Shannassy OAM retired from his role as Member Support and Projects Co-ordinator for the past four years. Terry brought a wealth of experience, generosity and commitment to those on the margins of society. We are grateful to Terry for his great gift for networking and inclusiveness, and his ability to articulate and creatively follow through on so many important welfare issues.



Terry O'Shannassy OAM

We welcome Peter Hudson onto the team to continue in this role and bring to it his experience and energy as educator, missionary and human resource professional.

I would also like to thank Lucia Brick for her tireless efforts at so capably organising the many aspects of the day-to-day running of the office. Nothing is too much trouble for Lucia, and her ability to keep her eye on the detail is such an asset for a small office with so many activities in progress.

We are also indebted to Helen Burt for her contribution on policy and advocacy matters, and in particular for her energy and expertise in coordinating the three mental health workshops during 2012. Thanks too to the volunteers, from member organisations and beyond, who have assisted on particular projects. Council is of the view that our members have been very well served by this team.

Membership

Catholic Social Services Victoria member organisations are a diverse and varied group ranging across social welfare, health, aged care and education. Together, we aim to represent their interests – large and small - across all areas of their work, to give a cohesive and strong voice for justice, and to work to meet the needs of the people they serve.

Our active, formal membership of Catholic Social Services Victoria is now 50 organisations. During 2012, three new organisations joined our ranks

- Mary Aikenhead Ministries
- Mary MacKillop Aged Care
- Vietnamese Catholic Family Mutual Assistance Network.

Our future endeavours will be improved by a strong membership base. We look forward to a productive partnership and dialogue with our new member organisations and warmly welcome them.

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The reality of human solidarity, which is a benefit for us, also imposes a duty.

Pope Paul VI
Populorum Progressio 1967



Standing L to R: James O'Farrell, Communications Office; Catherine O'Farrell; Denis Fitzgerald; Son Hoang Nguyen; Bishop Peter Connors; Kristen Toohey, Communications Office.
Seated L to R: Nu Bui; Madeleine Cham Nguyen; Hung Chau; Oam Pham, Vietnamese Catholic Family Mutual Assistance.

report from chair of council

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Do not look the other way; do not hesitate. Recognise that the world is hungry for action, not words. Act with courage and vision.

Nelson Mandela



Diane Ryan, St Vincent de Paul; Sr Toni Matha ibvm; Christine Campbell MP.

Life Membership

We are privileged to have two great friends as Life Members of Catholic Social Services Victoria – Sr Toni Matha ibvm, AM, and Fr Kevin Mogg AM. Each of them has made outstanding contributions to the work of Catholic Social Services Victoria and have indeed earned their status as Life Members.

One would be hard-pressed to have a more distinguished duo of Life Members who are wonderful role models for all who work with the disadvantaged in our community.

Associate Membership

Associate membership is open to individuals who wish to keep in touch and support our work. Associate members may nominate and be nominated for Council positions and be nominated for the position of Chairperson, although they do not have voting rights. They are eligible to be appointed to fill a casual vacancy on the Council, and may participate in many Catholic Social Services Victoria activities. During 2013 invitations will be extended to people with various connections to us to become Associate Members.

The year ahead

In reflecting on this first year as Chair of Catholic Social Services Victoria, my over-riding impression can best be summed up as “many people doing much unheralded work” both for and with Catholic Social Services Victoria and in their own organisations. This is not to say that everything is perfect. The sexual abuse controversy is a shadow over all of this good work, and has taught us not to be complacent in the way we work with, and are accountable for, the community of people we serve.

For Council, the coming year will see a sustained focus across three areas of activity:

- Mission and identity, in particular the Catholic Social Services Victoria Conference on Mission and Identity in October 2013
- More work around collaboration and co-operation within our member organisations



Musicians from Marcellin College and teacher Matthew Thomas (centre) at the CSSV Annual Dinner.

- Ensuring our members are engaged in and responsive to the issues around the Royal Commission and sexual abuse allegations

I wish to conclude this report by expressing my thanks to Council and Committee members, the Bishops of Victoria, and our Member organisations. Thank you too to our sponsors noted in this Report who support our events: we are indebted to you. In particular, I mention Denis Fitzgerald, our Executive Director, and Fr Tony Kerin, Episcopal Vicar for Justice and Social Services for their support and assistance during the year. There is never a question that I ask that they see as being unimportant.

Please read the rest of this Report and feel proud that you are associated with this shared mission of service and work for a just, equitable and compassionate society.

Patrice Scales
Chair of Council

Those who work for the Church's charitable organisations must be distinguished by the fact that they do not merely meet the needs of the moment but they dedicate themselves to others with heartfelt concern, enabling them to experience the richness of their humanity.

Pope Benedict XVI
Deus Caritas Est 2005

report from executive director

She (St Mary MacKillop) would want you to advocate from experience with the poor and in the light of Catholic social teaching. She would expect you to be the hands and voice of the Church, respectful of authority, tradition and dogma, but always true to yourself, your God, and your neighbour.

Frank Brennan sj 2011

Our Mission

It has been a privilege for me to continue to represent and to serve the Catholic social services sector during 2012, and to work with the dedicated and gifted people in our member organisations and beyond. Our role is to assist the Catholic Church in Victoria to respond to the Gospel imperatives of service and work for justice; to encourage and assist a comprehensive response to the challenge that Christ extended to each of us, as related in St Matthew's Gospel:

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

As a peak body, we do this by supporting the work of our member organisations, and by bringing their collective expertise and commitment to bear on some of the key issues that face us as a society, and as a Catholic social services sector.

Our member organisations (which are listed towards the end of this Annual Report) provide services across a wide range of needs and activities. They stand with and serve those who are poor, disadvantaged and marginalised in many ways, spread across the State of Victoria. Their provision of Gospel-inspired service is inextricably linked with the striving for justice in our society.

Most of the work undertaken by Catholic Social Services Victoria during 2012 to support these endeavours is reflected on our website and significant documents can be accessed there. This report summarises that work under the following strategic headings:

- Advocacy
- Network development and member support
- Catholic ethos and identity

Advocacy

As in previous years, our advocacy work was undertaken in partnership with members who have specific experience or expertise in a relevant area, and under the guidance of the Policy & Advocacy Committee. Some members devote specific resources to public policy research, analysis, advocacy and public comment. Others, though, are unable to commit specific resources, and work for justice through their engagement with others, including Catholic Social Services Victoria, and through their empowerment and inclusion of those who are marginalised or disadvantaged.

The year opened with a paper by Brendan A McCarthy, Independent Counsel and Consultant, entitled *The Weight of Sentencing Reform* which analyses the policy and politics underpinning the Victorian Government's program of changes to sentencing laws. The paper reflects on key aspects of some of the reforms that are being introduced, and on the social and political setting in which they have arisen.

The *Protecting Victoria's Vulnerable Children Inquiry* report was tabled in the Victorian Parliament on 28 February 2012. An initial response from Catholic Social Services Victoria to the report noted that the protection, care and growth of our children are the responsibility of us all, but the Government has a central role to play. 'For too long services essential for the wellbeing of Victoria's most vulnerable children and families have been rationed because of resource limitations.' The report has provided a strong rationale for resource allocation, and for systems changes.



Denis Fitzgerald

'Assessing cost-effectiveness in building a safer Victoria' was a paper prepared for Catholic Social Services Victoria by Gavin Kempen. We have provided this paper to the Victorian Government and advocated that the Government undertake an inquiry into the benefits and costs of alternative approaches to crime prevention and rehabilitation, in order to underpin sustainable, long-term improvements in the safety of society and individuals within it. As the paper highlights, this is particularly important in light of the current \$10 billion annual cost of crime to Victorians.

On 30 April we hosted a fundraising forum with presenters Ralph Roath, Director of Development and Fundraising at CatholicCare; Trish Roath, Head of Philanthropy at the Australian Ballet School and Barbara Kitchen, Director of the Development Office at the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Ralph and Trish presented on Capital Appeals while Barbara presented on accessing Trusts and Foundations. All presentations stimulated informative discussion, and, as is often the case, the links established between the 20 or so participants from a range of professional and organisational backgrounds were a strong feature of the forum.



Helen Burt, CSSV and Connie Maina, CAM
Development Office at the Asylum Seeker Forum.

During May 2012 more than seventy people from parishes, schools, religious congregations and community service organisations came together to explore our Catholic response to asylum seekers in Victoria, and explore further actions. Bishop Vincent Long joined us, along with several asylum seekers and expert presenters. The range of organisations represented and the combined depth of experience of presenters and participants made for rich conversations and extensive opportunities for networking to strengthen our collective response in this area.

In June, on behalf of member agencies, an open letter was written to political leaders at Victorian and Federal levels calling on them to rise to the challenge of working effectively together to ensure the effective introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Catholic Social Services Victoria continued active membership of the Victorian Interchurch Criminal Justice Taskforce and has added its voice to the call on the Government, in a tight budgetary climate, to support measures that will reduce Government spending over time, and which will also advance community safety and result in more just outcomes for Victorians. They reiterated to Ministers that to make a lasting impact on community safety we must prevent crime in the first place through community strengthening and through individual and family support, and we must ensure that offenders are equipped and assisted to fully re-join our community. And when young people in particular offend, they need special treatment to reflect their vulnerability and to maximise the chances of their rehabilitation.

During August 2012 Catholic Social Services produced a submission to the Victorian Government consultation on housing policy. The submission, drawing on Catholic social teaching, and the experience of member organisations in their work with people experiencing homelessness or housing stress, stressed the obligation of Government to ensure that all Victorians have access to safe, affordable and appropriate housing. Continued investment in public housing was seen as an important part of this policy.

How can the baptized claim to welcome Christ if they close the door to the foreigner who comes knocking? If anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?

Pope John Paul II
World Migration Day 2000

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report from executive director

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In a consumer society, people's worth is assessed less according to their inherent dignity or their contribution to society, and more by their ability to consume.

Australian Catholic Bishops
Conference – *Social Justice
Statement 2012-2013*

In early October 2012, Catholic Social Services Victoria submitted a response to a Victorian Government Discussion Paper on *diversion for young people*. This submission draws on the experience and insights of various member organisations that have been gained through their work to meet the needs of their communities. It complements individual submissions from several of our members. A key recommendation is that it is crucial that diversion be considered for young people at their first points of involvement with the criminal justice system and for those who are chronic offenders, to prevent their further progression into the justice system.

Network development and member support

Catholic Social Services Victoria works to establish a community of shared identity within Catholic social services. Such a community is better able to foster cooperation and initiatives, to assist individual agencies, and to maximise the impact of our services generally on those within the Victorian community who are most in need. These goals were pursued through some specific projects and through a range of gatherings and briefings on matters of interest.

Our first major event for the year was our 2012 Commissioning Mass and Annual General Meeting. Members and friends came together on 14 March at All Saints Church, Fitzroy which was once again a wonderful setting for the Mass, and their parish hall for the Annual General Meeting. Thanks to Sr Margaret Mary Flynn *ibvm* for her inspiring address on *Responding to the needs of the marginalised*; to Bishop Peter Connors for presiding at the Mass; to Fr Tony Kerin for preaching the Homily, and the many others who contributed to the evening. Many thanks to St Mary's House of Welcome for so generously providing the venue and refreshments at the conclusion of the evening.

Our annual dinner on 24 August at Leonda attracted over 300 guests from a wide range of members and other parts of the Church community. It was an uplifting night, which showed the passion and energy that drives the work of Catholic social service organisations. It was a night for celebration among people from each organisation, but also a night of catching up with friends, and meeting others. A focus on mixing around the room enhanced the experience for all. After dinner, visiting US writer and speaker, Chris Lowney, left all in the room both challenged and affirmed as he spoke about his understanding of heroic leadership, and its contribution to our lives and our workplaces.



Fr Tony Kerin; James Merlino MP and Julian McMahon, Jesuit Social Services Board.

A very successful and relevant series of three mental health workshops were conducted throughout the year. A large range of mental health professionals, who are individually acknowledged and thanked later in this report, generously offered their time and expertise to facilitate discussions around the following topics. *Enabling Social Inclusion* on 26 June for those involved in mental health service design and research; *Understanding and Supporting People Experiencing Mental Illness* on 31 July for face to face practitioners in assisting them to distinguish symptoms and the difference between 'normal' reactions to life and mental illness; *Understanding and Navigating the Mental Health System* on 4 September for assisting community services professionals in understanding mental health services and the mental health system.

Thanks to Joce Bignold, CEO of McAuley Community Services for Women, for leading our 15 June workshop on *Understanding and Managing the Impact of Family Violence at Work*. This workshop explored key issues around the fact that two thirds of women who have experienced family violence are in the workforce and many are at risk of losing their jobs and sliding into homelessness and poverty as a result. It explored how employers can benefit by supporting such women in their employ.

Again, this year, Catholic Social Services was able to host and facilitate four Breakfast Briefings around a range of topical issues for member agencies and their associates. Thanks to Mr Bill Scales AO and our many guests for a most informative Breakfast Briefing on *Protecting vulnerable children*, on 6 March 2012. The briefing focused on the wide-ranging report from the Protecting Victoria's Vulnerable Children Inquiry that was tabled in the Victorian parliament on 28 February 2012.

Thanks to Paul O'Callaghan from Catholic Social Services Australia for the Breakfast Briefing on 13 April on the topic of the national not for profit reform agenda.

Professor Ruth Webber, Director, Quality of Life and Social Justice Research Centre, Australian Catholic University led the 17 July Breakfast Briefing on the topic the use of social media to solve personal problems, and its implications for service providers and we are most grateful.



Denis Fitzgerald and Paul O'Callaghan, CSSA at Breakfast Briefing on the National NFP Reform Agenda.

Dr Mary Ann Glendon, Learned Hand Professor of Law at Harvard University, and former US Ambassador to the Holy See ably delivered our Breakfast Briefing on 4 December 2012, on "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and human rights issues today".

This last briefing had been a natural follow on from Anti Poverty Week events during October. Catholic organisations in Victoria were prominent in marking Anti-Poverty Week 2012, and among the events were an ecumenical liturgy on 16 October at St Francis' Visitors' Centre in the city which was organised by the Social Questions Commission of the Victorian Council of Churches. This was followed by the 'Human Rights Matters' Conference on 17 October which was hosted by Catholic Social Services Victoria. Auspiced by a consortium of community organisations, including the Society of St Vincent de Paul and Catholic Social Services Victoria, the conference brought together a wide range of community service providers and human rights advocates, to update thinking on human rights matters and their connection with poverty and inequality. The implications on human rights of recent government legislation on the reduction in the New Start allowance, the setting up of the Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011, human trafficking, disability rights, freedom of religion, and the global financial crisis were among the topics addressed in lectures, panel discussion or workshops. The tone of much of the presentations and discussion was one of hope: that a human rights framework is a positive element in addressing need, exclusion and marginalisation in our society.

Catholic ethos & identity

Our role is to work with member organisations in thinking through what it means to be a Catholic agency, and in following through on the implications of this. Much of the work described above under 'advocacy' and 'member support' also supports our work on Catholic identity. Our connection with the Church and Catholic social teaching influences all our work, and this influence is reflected in the priorities that emerge from our dialogue with stakeholders.

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The gap between rich and poor has become more marked even in the most economically developed nations. This is a problem which the conscience of humanity cannot ignore, since the conditions in which a great number of people are living are an insult to their innate dignity and are a threat to the authentic and harmonious progress of the world community.

Pope Benedict XVI
World Day of Peace 2009

report from executive director

Continued from page 13

If you are neutral
in situations of
injustice, you have
chosen the side of
the oppressor

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

The following outlines only part of our effort to contribute in this area and the Annual Report as a whole should give the broader picture.

With the generous and experienced support of Michael Yore we have been able to develop a very comprehensive and relevant formation component on our website. Entitled *Engaging with Mission* this resource will further ensure that mission remains the 'senior partner' in the formation and operation of Catholic organisations. This valuable resource will be further enhanced in the coming year with the launch of our new look Catholic Social Services Victoria website and the inclusion of a teaching module on Catholic Social Teaching for orientation and induction training across the member agencies.

Playing our part in addressing sexual abuse of children within the Church became an increasing focus for members during 2012. There is much to be done – the voice of compassion for victims is not yet dominant; people within the Church (and the general community) are distressed; internal understanding and communication within the Church is a continuing need; and we do not yet have best practice in compassionate response to victims. As part of a dialogue with members and with the broader Church there were several members' gatherings to focus on aspects of the issue. These included a briefing on the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry, making input into the Church submission to that Inquiry, and reflecting on our obligation to support staff of our organisations in light of the matters that have come to light and the media treatment of them.

A continued program of engagement is underway, around the themes of

- Playing our appropriate part within the broader Church to ensure that this behavior cannot happen again, and that the very best response is in place to support victims and all others who are affected.
- supporting each other.
- ensuring that our work continues.
- ensuring that our own house is in order.

The September 2012 publication of *Charity and Justice – St Mary MacKillop and Australian Society* by Professor John Warhurst builds on the 2011 Melbourne conference conducted by Catholic Social Services Victoria on Mary MacKillop and her influence on Catholic social services. It was launched in November by Professor Anne Hunt, Executive Dean of Theology and Philosophy at the Australian Catholic University. In the booklet, Professor Warhurst has reflected that 'Mary's life and work resonates with contemporary issues: how to serve, how to build partnerships with others, how to advocate for justice and the poor in the public square and how to speak to all Australians confident in our Catholic mission.'

Our evolving Mission Network Support group has continued to develop and this is where Catholic Social Services Victoria hosts a network of people responsible for the advancement of active faith-inspired mission in the Catholic social services sector. Our periodic meetings continued through 2012 and were an opportunity for reflection, development of ideas and programs, and mutual support.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the gathering on 4 October of Religious in Community Services, and to Br Mark O'Connor fms, Sr Margaret Mary Flynn ibvm, and all who contributed in a special way. Br Mark spoke on the theme of 'The Grace of the Journey of Discipleship', It was an enriching gathering and the discussion reflected struggle and challenge, but returned regularly to hope, based in a greater personal engagement with Christ that leads to a greater engagement with other people.

Working with others

The staff at Catholic Social Services Victoria have been outstanding. Executive Assistant Lucia Brick and Senior Policy Analyst Helen Burt contributed throughout the year, and helped underpin our core operations. Terry O'Shannassy retired in October as Member Support and Project Co-ordinator, after four years of valued contribution in that role. During that time our membership increased significantly, and our community of support

and engagement expanded steadily. Peter Hudson has now taken up the task of network development and member support, to build on the growth and impact of recent years.

The report from the Chair of Council reports on the membership and contribution of the various members of Council. Peter Bearsley, who retired as Chair at our Annual General Meeting in March, and Patrice Scales who was elected as Chair at that meeting, deserve special mention. Each in their own way, Peter and Patrice have led the Council and Catholic Social Services Victoria membership with a focus on our mission of supporting the Church as a whole in its mission of service. Among their many areas of contribution, they have each been an enormous support to staff, and to me in particular. We are all in their debt.

Episcopal Vicar Fr Tony Kerin too plays a pivotal role, which he carries out with skill and dedication. If Fr Tony's role were not established, it would need to be invented. It involves input into issues, support for people, and the maintenance of relationships across the Church that are important for our effectiveness.

Other members of Council and members of our various committees and ad hoc working parties are also an essential part of Catholic Social Services Victoria. They interpret the signs of the times, generate and refine ideas and proposals, devote their time and talent to making things happen. They provide tremendous support to staff and to our work program, and, because they form a series of representative groups from the membership, they give all of us confidence that our engagement is on behalf of the membership as a whole.

Looking outwards, there are many others whom we need to acknowledge, as part of our community of support and engagement. Some of these – the Bishops of Victoria, in particular – are addressed in detail in the report by the Chair of Council. To touch on a few others:

- Catholic Social Services Australia, led by Executive Director, Paul O'Callaghan and Chair Fr Joe Caddy: we work in close liaison with CSSA, whose contributions

to CSSV include financial support and a readiness to participate in our events, to include us in their activities, and to provide a broader context within which we play our part.

- Staff from many other Catholic organisations support us in so many ways. Francis Moore and his colleagues from the many agencies and departments of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, Fiona Power from *Kairos Catholic Journal*, staff and clergy from Dioceses and Parishes across Victoria, numerous religious congregations, many parts of the Catholic health and education sectors. Without this extensive network of involvement beyond the social services sector we would all be much the poorer.
- There are many who have supported us as sponsors for our annual dinner and beyond and who have made presentations, made available facilities and a range of services who are listed towards the end of this Report, with thanks to each person and organisation noted.
- Quite a number of our activities are undertaken with other Churches, usually under the auspices of the Victorian Council of Churches; and we rely on and cooperate with VCOSS, Smart Justice, the various sector peak bodies in Victoria, and numerous other community service organisations.

To conclude with our member organisations and their people. These are part of the presence of Christ in our society; they are that part of the Church that focuses on the social mission that, Pope Benedict XVI has frequently reminded us, is integral to the work of the Church. As a community and as a Church we are in their debt.

Through the intercession of St Mary MacKillop, Patroness of Australia, may we all be strengthened in our response to Christ's call to serve those most in need.

Denis Fitzgerald
Executive Director

Whenever people discover that they have rights, they have the responsibility to claim them.

Pope John XXIII
Pacem in Terris 1963

finance report

In today's globalised world, it is increasingly evident that peace can be built only if everyone is assured the possibility of reasonable growth: sooner or later the distortions produced by unjust systems have to be paid for.'

Pope Benedict XVI
World Day of Peace 2009

Finances for calendar year 2012, and previous periods			
	2012	2011	2010
Income			
Membership fees	\$78,631	\$63,921	\$69,560
Grants from regional Dioceses	\$62,160	\$56,000	\$48,000
CSSA support	\$20,000	\$17,321	\$23,500
Other	\$40,949	\$44,095	\$239,844
Subtotal	\$201,740	\$181,337	\$380,904
Support from Archdiocese of Melbourne	\$240,441	\$254,021	\$212,245
Total income	\$442,181	\$435,358	\$593,149
Expenditure			
Staff and related costs	\$332,897	\$321,327	\$282,497
Other operating	\$109,284	\$114,031	\$98,407
Total expenditure	\$442,181	\$435,358	\$380,904
Net result	-	-	-
Memo			
CSSV trust fund balance at 31 December 2012	\$123,371	\$121,029	\$115,421

Overall financial result

Total expenditure for the 2012 year, at \$442k, was \$4k, or 0.8% less than budget. General income at \$202k, was \$15k, or 8% higher than budget.

The support received from the Archdiocese of Melbourne was \$240k, the amount needed to balance income and expenditure for the year. This was \$18k, or 7%, less than budgeted.

Income

- The Archdiocese of Melbourne continues to be the largest contributor to CSSV income, its \$240,441 contribution meeting 54% of revenue in 2012. This was down from 58% the previous year.
- Contributions from regional dioceses increased again in 2012, to \$62,160, equal to 14% of total revenue. This reflects changes in the general price level since they were last increased.
- Member subscriptions, at \$78,613k, accounted for 18% of income, the same level as in 2010.

- The contribution from Catholic Social Services Australia was \$20,000 for the calendar year. This contribution towards the operations of Catholic Social Services Victoria is appreciated by all parties.

Expenditure

- Salary and related costs, at \$332,897, accounted for 75% of total expenditure, up from 74% in 2011.
- Total expenditure, at \$442,181, was up 2% on the previous year. This was more than accounted for by the increase in staff costs.

Trust fund

CSSV maintains a Trust Fund that can be used for the purposes of the organisation. The balance in the Fund at 31 December 2012 was \$123,371. \$5,180 from the Trust Fund was transferred to general income during 2012, following a pattern established over recent years.

council & membership

Council of Catholic Social Services Victoria at 31 December 2012

Very Rev. Tony Kerin PP EV

Episcopal Vicar for Justice and Social Services

Ms Patrice Scales (Chair of Council)

Ms Joan Donoghue (Deputy Chair)

Chief Executive Officer
Catholic Homes

Mr David Beaver (Treasurer)

Chief Executive Officer
Centacare, Diocese of Ballarat

Fr Joe Caddy

Chief Executive Officer
CatholicCare Melbourne

Mr Brian Dalton

Chief Executive Officer
St Vincent de Paul Society

Mr Jamie Edwards

Director
Centacare Gippsland

Mr Paul Fogarty

Director
CentaCare Sandhurst

Mr Tony Hollamby

Chief Executive Officer
St John of God ACCORD

Mr Gerard Jones

Executive Director of Operations
MacKillop Family Services

Sr Michelle Reid sgs

Manager
Good Samaritan Inn

Ms Robyn Roberts

Chief Executive Officer
Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service

Ms Johanna Snelleman

Chief Executive Officer
Marillac

Br Doug Walsh fms OAM

Representative, Catholic Religious Victoria

Membership of Council Committees

Governance and Finance Committee

Patrice Scales (Chair)
David Beaver (Treasurer)
Brian Dalton
Tony Hollamby
Fr Tony Kerin
Denis Fitzgerald

Member Support Committee

Sr Michelle Reid (Chair)
Vicki Clark
Joan Donoghue
Jamie Edwards
Paul Fogarty
Robyn Roberts
Helen Burt
Denis Fitzgerald
Peter Hudson (from October 2012)
Terry O'Shannassy OAM (until October 2012)

Policy and Advocacy Committee

Fr Joe Caddy (Chair)
Gavin Dufty
Gerard Jones
Vin Martin
Damien McCartin
Cath Neville
Johanna Snelleman
Marilyn Webster
Prof Ruth Webber
Helen Burt
Denis Fitzgerald

Catholic Ethos and Identity Committee

Jamie Edwards (Chair)
David Beaver
Jenny Glare
Fr Tony Kerin
Patricia McCourt
Carol Vale
Br Doug Walsh fms OAM
Helen Burt
Denis Fitzgerald
Peter Hudson (from October 2012)
Terry O'Shannassy OAM (until October 2012)

She brought her vision for the poor into being and transformed the society around here, seemingly in small ways but actually in a big way. Mary MacKillop's influence and impact was due to her ability to see things freshly.

Sr Anne Derwin 2011

Continued on page 18

council & membership

Continued from page 17

The Church looks to young people with hope and confidence; she encourages them to seek truth, to defend the common good, to be open to the world around them and willing to see “new things” (Is 42:9; 48:6).

Pope Benedict XVI
World Day of Peace 2012

Members of Catholic Social Services Victoria

Aboriginal Catholic Ministry
Assisi Centre
Bethlehem Community
Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project
Catholic Chaplains' Association for Health Care
Catholic Homes
Catholic Solo Parents
CatholicCare Melbourne
Centacare, Diocese of Ballarat
CentaCare Sandhurst
Centacare Gippsland
Corazon
Corpus Christi Community
Don Bosco Youth Centre and Hostel
Early Education Program for Hearing Impaired Children
Edmund Rice Camps
Edmund Rice Refugee & Community Services
Good Samaritan Inn
Good Shepherd Aged Services
Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services
Griefline
Jesuit Social Services
John Pierce Centre for Deaf Ministry
Kewn Kreestha
Keysborough Learning Centre
Larmenier Child and Family Centre
MacKillop Family Services

Marillac
Mary Aikenhead Ministries
Mary MacKillop Aged Care
McAuley Community Services for Women
Nazareth House – Sisters of Nazareth
Office for Justice & Peace, Archdiocese of Melbourne
Order of Malta Hospice Home Care Victoria
Pregnancy Assistance Frankston
Project Dreaming Tracks
Rosies Oblate Youth Mission
Sacred Heart Mission St Kilda
Shekinah Homeless Services
Sisters of Charity Community Care
Society of St Vincent de Paul
Southern Cross Care (Vic)
St John of God ACCORD
St Joseph's Home for the Aged, Little Sisters of the Poor
St Mary's House of Welcome
The Way
Vietnamese Catholic Family Mutual Assistance Network
Villa Maria
VincentCare Victoria
Wellsprings for Women

Life Members of Catholic Social Services Victoria

Rev Kevin Mogg AM PE
Sr Toni Matha AM ibvm



From L to R: Samuel Dariol, Catholic Social Services; Tate Bourke, Jesuit Social Services; Meg Monahan; Mark Monahan, Edmund Rice Camps Victoria; Bernard Wilson, Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services; Caterina Mezzatesta, Edmund Rice Community & Refugee Services; Paul Daly, Edmund Rice Network; David Francis, MacKillop Family Services; Brenton Carey, Edmund Rice Centre Amberley and Katrina Powell, Edmund Rice Network at the CSSV Annual Dinner.

acknowledgements

In carrying out its mission, Catholic Social Services Victoria relies on the input of many people and organisations, as mentioned in the various parts of this annual report.

Special mention has been made of people from our member organisations, the Bishops of Victoria and others working with the Dioceses and other parts of the Church, and the members of our Council and its Committees. Financial contributions from our member organisations, the Dioceses of Victoria and Catholic Social Services Australia have also been highlighted.

In this section, we also acknowledge with thanks the sponsorship, material support, and other special assistance, received from the following:

Aboriginal Catholic Ministry
Adrian Foley
All Saints Parish, Fitzroy
Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation
Australian Catholic University
Bishop Peter Connors
Brenda Hubber
Catherine McGovern
CatholicCare Melbourne
Catholic Church Insurances Ltd
Catholic Development Fund,
Archdiocese of Melbourne
Catholic Education Office, Melbourne
Catholic Social Services Australia
Catholic Superannuation Fund
Consult Point

Communications Office,
Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne
Cynthia Viti
Dr Paul Taylor
Erin Hunter
Facilities & Reception staff at
Cardinal Knox Centre
Fr Binh Le
Frances Brick
Francis Moore
Gabrielle McMullen
Hans Zerno
James McGarvey
Janet Cribbes
Jenny Glare
Joseph Fernandes
Marcellin College
Maria Pires
Mark Clarke
Michael Yore
Ministry to Priests
Peter Hudson
Sam Dariol
Sr Mary O'Shannassy sgs
St Mary's House of Welcome
Teknocorp Electronic Security Systems
Tim Fitzgerald
Trish McLaughlin
Vin Martin

The following members and friends who gave presentations of various sorts during the year are also thanked and acknowledged:

Associate Professor Peter Doherty
Barbara Kitchen
Bill Scales
Bishop Vincent Long

Br Mark O'Connor fms
Caterina Mezzatesta
Chris Hynan
Chris Lowney
Deb Tsorbaris
Dr Caroline Lambert
Dr Cassandra Goldie
Dr John Falzon
Dr Liz Curran
Dr Mark Zirnsak
Dr Mary Ann Glendon
Eddie Chapman
Erica Myers-Davis
Fr Bruce Duncan cssr
Fr Daniel Groody
Fr Frank Brennan sj
Fr Joe Caddy
Gail McNaul
Henrique Van-Denum
Joce Bignold
Lucy Adams
Matthew Colledan
McAuley Community Services for Women
Merrilee Cox
Micaela Cronin
Neil Cole
Netty Norton
Patricia Faulkner
Paul O'Callaghan
Philip Lynch
Professor Anne Hunt
Professor John Warhurst
Professor Ruth Webber
Ralph Roath
Robyn Rose
Sheree Limbrick
Sr Brigid Arthur
Sr Josephine Dubiel rsj
Sr Margaret Mary Flynn ibvm
Sue Grigg
Trish Roath
Vicki Clarke



The above mentioned sponsors have once again been a generous and invaluable support to the ministry of Catholic Social Services Victoria.

Annual Dinner photos by Richard Timbury/Casamento Photography

Cover photos: James and Musa, African Dads and Kids Program CatholicCare (photo by Peter Webb), Villa Maria – Residential Aged Care, Villa Maria – Disability Services, Early Childhood Intervention Sibling Program, St Vincent de Paul Soup Van, Sad girl – Jesuit Social Services, Refugee Program – CatholicCare Melbourne (photo by Lisa Marie Bonnici), Mary MacKillop – Mel Brigg *Untitled*. Used with permission of the artist and Trustees of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, Resident Artists from Sacred Heart Mission's rooming house exhibit their Albert Park lake group textile piece at Parliament House, Nov 2011, Hands – photo provided by CentaCare Ballarat

I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me...

Matthew 25:35



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