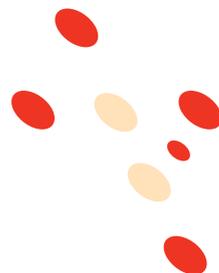


annual report

2013



Catholic Social Services
Victoria

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 2013)

Denis Fitzgerald
Executive Director

Lucia Brick
Executive Assistant

Helen Burt
Senior Policy Advisor

Peter Hudson
Network & Member Support Co-ordinator

Sonia Starc
Administrative Assistant

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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

2013 will go down in history as the year the Pope resigned. Pope Benedict XVI had astutely discerned what the needs of the Church were and just as astutely determined that the answers to those needs were beyond his capacity as the burden of years progressed. The genius of Benedict shone through his solicitous care of the Church when he resolved to act decisively and resign the papacy, affording the Holy Spirit an unforeseen opportunity to influence the College of Cardinals in their deliberations to choose his successor.



Fr Tony Kerin

In a year characterised by the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Child Abuse and the commencement of the Federal Royal Commission into the same subject, adverse but deserved criticism of past practice by Church leadership may have dampened our enthusiasm to draw any attention to our specifically Catholic approach to social welfare.

The election of Jorge Bergoglio however, brought a refreshing change to the morale of those within the Church and the admiration of many outside it. The example of such a pastoral leader who communicates his message with an integrity of consonant actions and simple stories has set a pattern for us all to emulate.

The Pope calls us to exude the tenderness and mercy of Jesus to those with whom we minister. Our experience in walking with those marginalised by our society ensures that our agencies and staff are well placed to share this message with our wider community. But it is not automatic, it requires a conscious effort to see image of God in even the most tortured soul in need of our help, compassion or forgiveness.

Authentic Catholic social service demands we continue to present the joy of the Gospel. 'The king will reply 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' (Matt 25:40).

Very Rev. Tony Kerin

Episcopal Vicar for Justice & Social Service

To protect creation, to protect every man and every woman, to look upon them with tenderness and love, is to open up a horizon of hope.

Pope Francis
March 2013



The installation of the CSSV Message Stick at the Conference Opening Ceremony by Sherry Balcombe and Vicki Clark

report from chair of council

Building a just social and civil order, wherein each person receives what is his or her due, is an essential task which every generation must take up anew.

Pope Benedict XVI
God is Love 2009, #28

2013 at Catholic Social Services Victoria was a year of heightened awareness and a challenging set of responses to a wide range of issues affecting the lives and well-being of Victoria's most disadvantaged and marginalised people. I thank most sincerely the members of our Council and Committees, our member organisations, our staff and many supporters for their participation and contribution.

Australia faces a challenging future of economic restraints, employment uncertainty and a widening gap between those with and without access to the necessities of life. Within those parameters, Catholic social service organisations operate in an increasingly complex policy and regulatory environment at both state and federal level. The imperative for our member organisations is to continually adapt to new paradigms without ever losing sight of a fair and just society for all, not just for some. Our initiative during the year around increased collaboration between members was part of a response to these challenges, which can be expected to continue for some time.

Our continued advocacy work was another necessary response to the challenges faced within our society. A number of reports, submissions and representations on criminal



Denis Fitzgerald, Patrice Scales, Bernie Geary



Patrice Scales

justice issues argued for a move beyond a 'law and order' political paradigm. Housing, disability, human rights, child welfare, and domestic violence are among the other issues that received attention, and which continue to challenge our community.

Major gatherings during 2013 were our Commissioning Mass and Annual General Meeting in March, our Annual Dinner in July, and our successful national conference on Catholic Identity and Mission in October. All these events helped build our community of shared commitment and endeavour, and continued to deepen our shared dialogue around mission.

The October conference, entitled Listening, Learning and Leading, was a powerful formation experience for all concerned, from our world-class keynote speakers to our generous and ever attentive volunteer support people. The message: the Catholic identity of our services should affect what we do and how we do it.

The Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and other Non-Government Organisations reported in November 2013, and made a number of recommendations to assist the victims of criminal child abuse, and to provide greater protection for children in the future. During the year Catholic Social Services Victoria had engaged with members on these issues, and with Diocesan and other Church leaders. Playing our appropriate part in a Church that protects children at all times, and that provides the best response and support for victims, remains a priority for the social services sector.

There was significant movement over the course of the year in Council membership.

Retirements from the sector, and thus from the Council, saw us farewelling Jamie Edwards as Director of Centacare Gippsland, Paul Fogarty, Director of Centacare Sandhurst. We have benefited greatly from their experience and expertise through their decades of combined service on our Council, where they made a marked impact on Catholic Social Services Victoria.

At the 2013 Annual General Meeting we welcomed newly-elected Council members Julie Edwards (CEO, Jesuit Social Services) and Jan Horsnell (CEO, Southern Cross Care (Victoria)), and we welcomed the re-election of Sr Michelle Reid sgs, Manager of Good Samaritan Inn. Others to join the Council during the year were Br Bill Wilding CFC as the nominee of Catholic Religious

Victoria, and Peter Richardson, on his appointment as Director of Centacare Sandhurst. We have warmly welcomed each of these, and I take this opportunity to again thank them and other Council members for their commitment of time and expertise.

At our Annual Dinner we were delighted to award Life Membership of Catholic Social Services Victoria to Mr Bernie Geary OAM, Principal Commissioner for Children and Young People in Victoria. Bernie rightfully stands beside our other Life Members, Fr Kevin Mogg AM and Sr Toni Matha AM. Well known for his service over the decades to vulnerable children, and his tireless advocacy, Bernie has also been a great contributor to the Catholic social services sector, and has been a strong supporter of our work as a peak body.

...all of us are asked to obey his call to go forth, from our comfort zone in order to reach all the "peripheries" in need of the light of the Gospel.

Pope Francis
The Joy of the Gospel 2013, #20

Continued on page 6



L to R – Front row: Patricia McCourt, Jan Horsnell, Julie Edwards, Robyn Roberts, Helen Burt. Back row: Patrice Scales, David Beaver, Denis Fitzgerald, Ruth Webber, Fr Joe Caddy, Archbishop Denis Hart, Peter Hudson and Sr Michelle Reid

report from chair of council

Continued from page 5

There will always be loneliness. There will always be situations of material need where help in the form of concrete love of neighbour is indispensable

Pope Benedict XVI
God is Love 2009, #28

I take this opportunity to reiterate our thanks to Archbishop Denis Hart and Bishops of Victoria for their support and encouragement for Catholic Social Services Victoria. We are grateful for the contribution that Fr Tony Kerin, as Episcopal Vicar for Social Services and Justice, makes to our sector and our Council.

Our staff, too, deserve special mention. Denis Fitzgerald, Peter Hudson, Lucia Brick, Helen Burt and Sonia Starc have delivered a substantial work program, that was responsive to our mission as a peak body, and to the needs of the time. It is a pleasure to work with them.

From a personal perspective, I am thankful for the privilege and inspiration of seeing at close hand the work of our fifty-plus member organisations, and of working with so many gifted and dedicated people. This is the Church at work. It is an environment where we can readily respond to the call of Pope Francis to 'live the joy of the Gospel', as we work to build a more just and compassionate society.

Patrice Scales
Chair of Council



Sue Ludwig and Fr Joe Caddy at the CSSV Conference 2013.



L to R: Patrice Scales, Michelle Reid, Margaret Costigan, Kathy Hogarty enjoying refreshments following AGM 2013.



That basic level of human solidarity – hospitality to the stranger and refuge for those seeking protection – has been lacking in our national political debate over the past decade.

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference – *Social Justice Statement 2013-2014*

Photos from CSSV Conference 2013 Listening, Learning and Leading

report from executive director

Goodness always tends to spread... if we wish to lead a dignified and fulfilling life, we have to reach out to others and seek their good.

Pope Francis
The Joy of the Gospel 2013, #9

Executive Director's Report

Catholic Social Services Victoria works to assist the Catholic Church to respond to the Gospel imperatives of service and work for justice; we want to encourage and assist a comprehensive response to the challenge that Christ extended when he identified his mission in the words of the prophet Isaiah:

*to bring good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free.*

(Luke 4: 18)

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 striving for justice in our society.

Our strategies

During 2013 we continued our work program under the strategic headings of advocacy; network development and member support; and Catholic ethos and identity.

Most of the work undertaken is reflected on our website and significant documents can be accessed there. The following paragraphs outline the main elements.

Policy and Advocacy

Our advocacy work during the year was guided by our Policy and Advocacy Committee, and was informed by relevant member organisations. There was particular focus in the areas of criminal justice reform

and community sector structural matters.

A working party on collaboration between member organisations responded to the challenges our Catholic organisations face from changed Government policy and tighter budgets. A forum for Board members and senior management in November 2013 generated ideas that will form the basis of an ongoing work program, namely:

- Developing options for collaborative responses, and working out ways of facilitating them.
- Analysing further the specific value-add of Catholic and other faith-based service providers.
- Exploring further engagement between the Catholic social services sector and Catholic health and Catholic education.

The 2013 review of relations between the Victorian Government and the community sector, conducted by Professor Peter Shergold AO, also loomed large. Various discussions and consultations led to two short submissions by Catholic Social Services Victoria, focusing largely on the contribution of our sector, and on the need to recognise that the things that matter can often not be measured. Micaela Cronin, CEO of MacKillop Family Services, co-chairs the resulting Community Sector Reform Council, and Julie Edwards, CEO of Jesuit Social Services is a member – our congratulations to Micaela and Julie, and best wishes for the carrying out of these important roles.

A range of submissions and consultations in the criminal justice space sought to advocate for a safer and more just Victorian



Denis Fitzgerald

community, which requires us as a society to move beyond some of the populist policies that have gained momentum in many parts of Australia. Much of this work was undertaken as part of the Interchurch Criminal Justice Taskforce. Our submissions and representations on reform of the parole system, the requirements for a new prison in Victoria, justice for Aboriginal Australians and for a safer prison system all argued for an approach to the criminal justice system based on a framework of prevention and early intervention to address the causes of crime.

Restorative justice should then be the focus once the criminal justice system is engaged: victims and their communities need to be respected and reparation made; perpetrators need to come to grips with what they have done, and the impact it has on others; punishment needs to be appropriate to the crime committed and the circumstances; assistance is needed to address underlying problems, including mental health, and drug and alcohol use; and rehabilitation must include skills development and the effective transition of those who are imprisoned back into society.



A major work for Catholic Social Services Victoria on the abolition of suspended sentences, by Dr Karen Gelb, was released in early December.

The report found that community safety may well be compromised by the reforms, which will add an extra 5,500 people to Victoria's corrections system each year, at a time when the system is under pressure from so many directions.

The report was launched by Judge Liz Gaynor of the County Court, and received wide media coverage. Speaking on the release of the study, I noted that, "The outcome in terms of community safety will be the opposite of what the government hopes for. Abolishing suspended sentences will exacerbate the many pressures that Victoria's corrections system is already under. We need a range of flexible and effective responses to offending, so that justice can be done and future offending avoided. Suspended sentences have been shown to have lower rates of re-offending than either fines or imprisonment, and they must not be abolished."

A review of the literature around prison chaplaincy by Professor Ruth Webber should broaden the awareness of this important service, and identify areas for further work.

Other policy and advocacy work over the course of the year was undertaken around Victorian budget priorities; human rights, where we cosponsored with the St Vincent de Paul Society and others a conference during Anti-poverty week, in October; the needs of asylum seekers; and around disability issues, which will remain in the policy forefront notwithstanding the development of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

How is it that so many still lie like Lazarus at our gate, bearing in their bodies the cost of their struggle and denied access to the table of participation and solidarity time and again?

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference – *Social Justice Statement 2013-2014*

report from executive director

Continued from page 9

We do not need a State which regulates and controls everything, but a State which, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, generously acknowledges and supports initiatives arising from the different social forces and combines spontaneity with closeness to those in need.

Pope Benedict XVI
God is Love 2009, #28

Network Development and Member Support

Catholic Social Services Victoria continues to attract new members, and during 2013 we welcomed the Missionary Sisters of Service, and Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH).

Our Associate Member program also continues to engage individual supporters, and, as Patrice Scales noted in her Report, we welcomed our third Life Member, Bernie Geary OAM, at our annual dinner in July.

In our work of establishing a community of shared identity this past year we conducted a range of gatherings and briefings on matters of interest and concern to members.

Our major events were our Commissioning Mass and Annual General Meeting in March at All Saints Parish, Fitzroy and then our annual dinner at Leonda, Hawthorn. Bishop Les Tomlinson of Sandhurst led the celebration of the Mass, and Ms Cath Garner, Executive Director, Mission & Strategy at Cabrini Health spoke at the AGM on "Partnering with

community service organisations to advance mission effectiveness". Bernie Geary received his Life Membership at the Dinner, and in his remarks to the gathering challenged us all to put the Gospel into action.

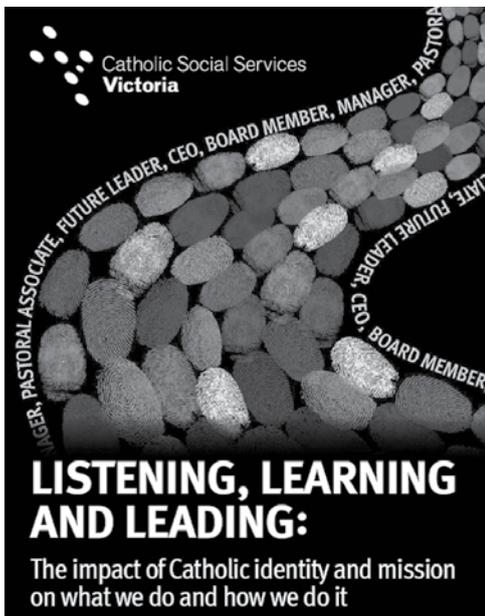
These events were strongly supported by our members, and we again express our thanks to the many people who contributed to the good organisation, hospitality and success of both these evenings. The Acknowledgements section at the conclusion of this report aims to recognise our sponsors, plus our army of colleagues and supporters.

Our engagement with members included a number of presentations, workshops and briefings over the course of the year. Some of these have been mentioned under Policy and Advocacy, and the section below on Catholic Ethos and Identity outlines our Mission Network, Catholic Social Teaching workshops, our 2013 conference on identity and mission, and our forum with the Victorian Council of Churches.

In addition, workshops were conducted, in partnership with members, on the workplace implications of domestic violence,



Chris Lowney makes a point at the CSSV Conference 2013 with panellists Patrice Scales, Donella Johnston and Mark Monahan



and on building indigenous awareness into our organisations. Our thanks to McAuley Community Services for Women, and to Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, for their work in these areas. We also partnered with Caritas Australia and Monsignor Bob Vitillo of Caritas Internationalis in a lunch-time briefing on HIV/AIDS and the 2014 International AIDS Conference, which will be held in Melbourne in July 2014.

We also continued our Breakfast Briefing series during 2013, featuring the Hon Kevin Andrews MP on the role of marriage in Australia today; and Dr Bob Dixon, Director of the Pastoral Research Office of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, on the changing composition of the Church.

The Network Development and Member Support Committee also oversaw several developments in our form of member communication and engagement: our planning process incorporated a member survey, which will be repeated periodically; and our events are now evaluated by participants, with the Committee reviewing outcomes.

Under the guidance of the Committee, we started using Twitter during the year as a

means of engagement on issues of public policy and of identity - @CathSocServVic. Thanks to Helen Burt for making this work. Twitter thus complements our newsletter, regular articles in Kairos and our website as active, broad communications media.

Catholic Ethos and Identity

All of our work is undertaken as part of the Church, and under the guidance of Catholic social teaching. Much of the work mentioned above under 'advocacy' and 'member support' also supports our work on Catholic identity.

Our major project for the year was the conference on 9, 10 October. It brought together an array of leaders and participants to explore the impact of Catholic identity and mission on what we do and how we do it. In the words of one participant, a leading practitioner in their own field: *enjoyed the conference ... interesting ... lots of good people ... energising commitment to the 'mission' ... honest about the challenges they suffer ... all in all, good stuff!*

Speaker after speaker reflected on the centrality of the Gospel mission to Catholic service: to love one another as Christ has loved us; to reach out to the least of our brothers and sisters; to reveal Christ to those that we serve. Julie Edwards of Jesuit Social Services explained how the Gospel mission, as reflected in Catholic social teaching and the Ignatian tradition, must pervade all aspects of their work. Our mission as leaders requires us to reach out with respect, as an organisation that is truly Catholic, with a treasure to offer individuals and the world. We are called, individually and as a Church, to present the face of God to those we serve, and to make the hope of the Gospels a reality.

The book from the conference is expected to be available in April 2014, and planning is underway to launch it at events in Melbourne, Canberra, Sydney and Brisbane.

Set your stakes on great ideals, the ideals that enlarge the heart, the ideals of service that make your talents fruitful.

Pope Francis
April 2013

Continued on page 12

report from executive director

Continued from page 11

...But until exclusion and inequality in society and between peoples are reversed, it will be impossible to eliminate violence.

Pope Francis
The Joy of the Gospel 2013, #59

The Conference was part of a broader focus on formation for leaders of our member organisations, and for future leaders. Part of the conference had an explicit focus on Catholic Social Teaching, as have various workshops and briefings in recent years. Building on this, our program of workshops on Catholic Social Teaching, designed to provide induction opportunities for people in our sector, commenced in earnest during 2013, with two workshops for staff of member organisations, and one targeted at Board members. This program will be expanded in 2014.

In her Report, Chair of Council Patrice Scales has mentioned our engagement with members on issues of child sexual abuse, and the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry.

We held a forum in March 2013 to update and inform the review, and to consider steps that should be taken by organisations to ensure prevention of abuse, and to respond effectively to victims. Francis Sullivan, CEO of the Church's Truth, Justice and Healing Council, spoke about the Royal Commission

and related issues. Another forum, in January, reflected on the implications of the abuse tragedy on our member organisations.

Leaders from our sector also met later in the year with the Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Melbourne to advance a dialogue on the protection of children and an effective response to victims. A meeting between Archbishop Denis Hart and the Council provided another opportunity to discuss these matters.

Our Mission Network meetings continued during the year, providing a forum for people with a responsibility for advancement of mission. These meetings are an opportunity to enhance our mission leadership through the sharing of ideas, experiences and resources in a faith-based, reflective environment. Twenty two people participated in at least one of our six meetings.

Working with others

Most of the people that we work with are from our member organisations. These are an integral part of the presence of Christ in



Delegates at the CSSV Conference 2013.



Bishop Eugene Hurley at the CSSV Conference 2013.

our society; they are that part of the Church that focuses on the social mission that is integral to its nature. As a community and as a Church we are in their debt. So too are we at Catholic Social Services Victoria.

The staff at Catholic Social Services Victoria have continued to contribute at a very high level. Among other things, Peter Hudson, in his first full year as Member Support Coordinator, developed and presented our modules on Catholic Social Teaching; Executive Assistant Lucia Brick, assisted for a time by Sonia Starc, ran our conference and other events while keeping the office running well and our many callers well catered for; and Senior Policy Analyst Helen Burt continued her high level of contribution in the public policy sphere.

The report from the Chair of Council reflects on the membership and contribution of the various members of Council. Our Chair, Patrice Scales, deserves special mention. Her commitment, experience, clarity of direction, warmth and practical wisdom are a potent combination. I am personally in her debt, as is the Catholic social services community.

Other key roles include that of Episcopal Vicar, Fr Tony Kerin, who has continued to apply his scarce time and his considerable skills to advancing the work of Catholic Social Services Victoria. The chairs of our Board Committees – Fr Joe Caddy, Policy and Advocacy; Sr Michelle Reid sgs, Catholic Ethos and Identity; Robyn Roberts, Network Development and Member Support – also require special mention, as they oversee and support our work in these key areas.

Ad Hoc working groups and committees led and supported other activities during the year, in areas including collaboration between members; addressing sexual abuse; developing the asylum seeker support program; organising our 2013 conference; and producing the book that is emerging from that Conference. The members of our Council and Committees that assisted in these and other areas, and the other committed friends of Catholic Social Services Victoria that contributed, are central to our work. They are all named in the list of contributors at the back of this Annual Report. They are an essential part of Catholic Social Services Victoria. As I noted last year: '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.'

Beyond our members and our own structures, we operate in cooperation with many people and organisations.

Building linkages with various parts of the Church remained a priority.

In addition to our member organisations and the Bishops and Religious leaders,

We are called to strive, with love, to close the chasm between the Church and Christ; to heal the wounds, warm the hearts, and be close to the people. The blazing glory of the Resurrection far surpasses any human weaknesses and their effects.

Bishop Eugene
CSSV Conference October 2013

Continued on page 14

report from executive director

Continued from page 13

We can judge the ethical and moral quality of a society by the way it treats its most vulnerable members.

Australian Catholic Bishops
Conference – *Social Justice
Statement 2013-2014*



Volunteers: Frances Brick and Kath Spencer assisting at CSSV Conference 2013.

this extended to Catholic health and education sectors, and to parishes. Most of our events were open to this broader grouping, who participated actively. A fortnightly column in *Kairos*, the fortnightly journal of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, was a useful channel of communication. Presentations by CSSV staff at Church-related conferences, and to various member and broader gatherings, also extended further these linkages.

Catholic Social Services Australia, led for most of the year by Executive Director, Paul O'Callaghan and Chair Fr Joe Caddy, was a continuing financial supporter of Catholic Social Services Victoria; a partner in our 2013 conference; and a factor in much of our work and thinking. The two organisations collaborate closely, and ensured complementarity of activity. This was facilitated by Paul O'Callaghan's meeting with our Council again in 2013, and Fr Joe's membership of our Council.

The agencies and staff of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, led by Vicar General Monsignor Greg Bennett and Executive Director for

Administration Francis Moore, continued to be strong supporters. Fiona Power, editor of *Kairos* magazine, and Rita Terunawidjaja, who designed the distinctive livery for our conference, are among the many without whom we could not have worked as we did.

Contributions were also made by staff and clergy from Dioceses and Parishes across Victoria, numerous religious congregations, and many parts of the Catholic health and education sectors. Various agencies of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference have been very helpful and supportive. Another partnership, growing out of our identity and our mission within the Church, has been to work with the Ministry to Priests in contributing to the orientation of priests joining the Archdiocese from overseas.

A strong partnership has continued to develop with the Australian Catholic University, with CSSV participation in various committees around courses and curriculum in leadership and identity; cooperation to place ACU students from Law and other faculties with our member organisations;

linkages with the Business School through a public lecture in 2013 by US visitor Chris Lowney and contributions to our work by Professor Ruth Webber, Professor Anne Hunt, Fr Frank Brennan SJ, and others. ACU sponsorship of our major events has also been most welcome.

Again this year sponsors supported our annual dinner. Nor would our conference and the visit by our international guest speaker been possible without sponsorship and other support from quite a few organisations. These are all listed towards the end of this Annual Report, along with those who made presentations, provided facilities, volunteered at our functions, provided advice, etc. The support was substantial.

Cooperation with other churches and with other faith bodies remains a priority. Much of this is undertaken through the Victorian Council of Churches, where Catholic Social Services Victoria continues to chair an interchurch Criminal Justice Taskforce and the Social Questions Commission, whose conference on mission and social services has already been referred to. The Victoria Police Multi-faith Council and related forums have also provided channels for consultation and cooperation.

A conference in July arose from our ecumenical cooperation. We organised and hosted for the Victorian Council of Churches a half-day conference entitled *Putting the Gospel into Action: A forum on the contribution of Christian faith-based organisations to community services*. Around 50 people from a range of Churches and agencies gathered at Catholic Social Services to reflect on the strengths of faith-based community service organisations, and on the challenges facing Churches, and those facing community service organisations generally. Speakers and participants generally attested to the strength and diversity of the sector, and the reality of both opportunities and challenges that need to be engaged with.

Acknowledgement must also be made of the many people we engage with within Government, and the array of organisations active in civil society with which we interact.



Without these relationships, our understanding of issues would be much diminished, and any advocacy we undertake would have much less impact. VCOSS, the Smart Justice coalition, Meeting Point; and the various sector peak bodies in Victoria for housing and homelessness, disability, drugs and alcohol, child and family welfare, etc, are among our valued partners.

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Pope Francis has been a major presence for all parts of the Church since his election in March 2013. He has built on the work of his predecessors with an engagement with the lives of the people that has caught the positive attention of much of the world. This was very much in evidence at the October conference, where almost every speaker drew on his actions and words, and Chris Lowney's book on the Pope's leadership characteristics was launched.

Pope Francis has much to teach us at Catholic social services, and in that spirit, we are invited to share in the words of a prayer to the Mother of God with which he concluded his major statement on the *Joy of the Gospel*:

help us to bear radiant witness
to communion, service, ardent
and generous faith, justice
and love of the poor,
that the joy of the Gospel
may reach to the ends of the earth,
illuminating even the fringes of our world.

Denis Fitzgerald
Executive Director

The great danger in today's world, pervaded as it is by consumerism, is the desolation and anguish born of a complacent yet covetous heart, the feverish pursuit of frivolous pleasures, and a blunted conscience.

Pope Francis
The Joy of the Gospel 2013, #2

finance report

This face of inequality and poverty, so prevalent around the world and here at home is often related to a history of dispossession and the loss of self-determination in the life of families and communities

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference – Social Justice Statement 2013-2014

Finances for calendar year 2013, and previous periods			
	2013	2012	2011
Income			
Membership fees	\$79,245	\$78,631	\$63,921
Grants from regional Dioceses	\$62,906	\$62,160	\$56,000
CSSA support	\$30,000	\$20,000	\$17,321
Other	\$140,980	\$40,949	\$44,095
Subtotal	\$313,131	\$201,740	\$181,337
Support from Archdiocese of Melbourne	\$258,941	\$240,441	\$254,021
Total income	\$572,072	\$442,181	\$435,358
Expenditure			
Staff and related costs	\$400,501	\$332,897	\$321,327
Other operating	\$171,571	\$109,284	\$114,031
Total expenditure	\$572,072	\$442,181	\$435,358
Net result	-	-	-
Memo			
CSSV trust fund balance at 31 December 2013	\$114,908	\$124,437	\$123,555

Overall financial result

Total expenditure for the 2013 year, at \$572k, was \$13k, or 2.3% less than revised budget. General income, other than support from the Archdiocese of Melbourne, at \$313k, was \$1k less than the revised budget.

The support received from the Archdiocese of Melbourne was \$259k, the amount needed to balance income and expenditure for the year. This was \$13k, or 4.6%, less than budgeted.

Expenditure and total revenue were each \$130k higher than in 2012, equivalent to a 29% increase. The main reason for this was the 2013 conference *Listening, Learning and Leading: the impact of Catholic identity on what we do and how we do it*, for which revenue and expenditure were balanced.

Income

The Archdiocese of Melbourne continues to be the largest contributor to CSSV income, at \$259k. This contribution in 2013 was \$31k or 13% more than the 2012 outcome, and a 2% increase on 2011. This contribution continued to fall as a proportion of total revenue, at 45%, down from a 54% share the previous year, and 58% in 2011.

Contributions from regional dioceses totaled \$63k in 2013, increasing with CPI over the previous year, and equal to 11% of total revenue.

Member subscriptions, at \$79k, accounted for 14% of income.

The contribution from Catholic Social Services Australia was \$30,000 for the calendar year. The large increase over 2012 was due to timing issues – CSSA's financial year is from July-June.

These contributions from all parties towards the operations of Catholic Social Services Victoria are very much appreciated.

Expenditure

As noted above, overall expenditure was \$130k higher than in 2012, largely because of the 2013 conference.

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 2013 was \$115k. An annual payment of \$5,240 from the Trust Fund was transferred to general income during 2012, and \$10,000 was utilised for research costs.

council & membership

Council of Catholic Social Services Victoria at 31 December 2013

Very Rev. Tony Kerin PP EV

Episcopal Vicar for Justice and Social Services

Ms Patrice Scales (Chair of Council)

Br Bill Wilding cfc

Representative, Catholic Religious Victoria

Mr David Beaver (Treasurer)

Chief Executive Officer

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Mr Gerard Jones

Executive Director of Operations

MacKillop Family Services

Fr Joe Caddy

Chief Executive Officer

CatholicCare Melbourne

Mr Jamie Edwards (retired July 2013)

Director

Centacare Gippsland

Ms Jan Horsnell (from March 2013)

Chief Executive Officer

Southern Cross Care (Vic)

Ms Julie Edwards (from March 2013)

Chief Executive Officer

Jesuit Social Services

Sr Michelle Reid sgs

Manager

Good Samaritan Inn

Mr Paul Fogarty (retired December 2013)

Director

CentaCare Sandhurst

Mr Peter Richardson (from November 2013)

Director

CentaCare Sandhurst

Ms Robyn Roberts

Chief Executive Officer

Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service

Mr Tony Hollamby

Chief Executive Officer

St John of God ACCORD

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Helen Burt

Denis Fitzgerald

Peter Hudson

Any-one who sets off on the path of doing good to others is already drawing near to God, is already sustained by his help, for it is characteristic of the divine light to brighten our eyes whenever we walk towards the fullness of love.

Pope Francis
The Light of Faith 2013, #35

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council & membership

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When we reach out from our place of comfort and open our gates, we open the way to a new solidarity as human beings

Australian Catholic Bishops
Conference – *Social Justice*
Statement 2013-2014

Members of Catholic Social Services Victoria

Aboriginal Catholic Ministry
Assisi Centre
Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking
in Humans (ACRATH)
Bethlehem Community
Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project
Catholic Chaplains' Association for Health Care
Catholic Homes
Catholic Solo Parents
CatholicCare Melbourne
CatholicCare Victoria Tasmania
Centacare, Diocese of Ballarat
CentaCare Sandhurst
Centacare Gippsland
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Don Bosco Youth Centre and Hostel
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
Marist Youth Care

Mary Aikenhead Ministries
Mary MacKillop Aged Care
McAuley Community Services for Women
Missionary Sisters of Service
Nazareth House – Sisters of Nazareth
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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 Flexible Learning Centre
St Joseph's Home for the Aged, Little Sisters
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St Mary's House of Welcome
The Way Community
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
Bernie Geary OAM



*From L to R: Anne Tuohy, Fr Kevin Mogg, Sr Karen Donnellan, Fr Bruce Duncan, Sue Ludwig, David Ali;
at the 2013 Annual Dinner*

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Catholic Social Services Australia
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Patricia McCourt
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Sophia Erickson
Sr Mary O'Shannassy sgs
St Mary's House of Welcome
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Trish McLaughlin
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Chris Lowney
Chris Middendorp
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Sr Margaret Mary Flynn ibvm
Sr Michelle Reid
Sr Ruth Davis
Susan Sullivan
Teresa Rhynehart
Tim Flowers
Trish Cooney
Vicki Clarke



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

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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Victoria

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