



annual report

2015



Catholic Social Services
Victoria

annual report

Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFMConv Episcopal Vicar for Social Services	Contents
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Mission of Catholic Social Services Victoria:

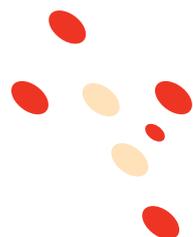
To assist the Catholic Church in Victoria to fulfil the gospel imperatives to:

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

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.



Catholic Social Services
Victoria

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episcopal vicar's report

Dear Friends,

This year has been proclaimed by Pope Francis as the Jubilee of Mercy. By doing so, he wants it to be a special time for the Church to contemplate the mystery of mercy and become a more effective sign of God's action in the world.



The Church, he maintains, is not a museum for saints but a hospital which heals the wounded, strengthens the weak and lifts up the lowly. Its credibility is at stake when it lacks merciful and compassionate love for those who are on the periphery or when it is removed and disengaged with the lived reality.

As Catholics and even more so as Catholic Social Service providers, we are called to be instruments of mercy, which means that we have to open our hearts to those living on the outmost fringes of society. We are called to

believe that no one is ever beyond hope. God does not give up on people, even if they give up on themselves. After all, we are not called to have all the answers, understand all life's mysteries, or fix everyone's problems. But we are called to love especially the least of our brothers and sisters, to assuage their wounds, to heal their hurt and brokenness.

In this Jubilee of Mercy, let us reflect on and live out how we can best be the Church of the poor and for the poor; how we can be an oasis for the unchurched and the disenchanted; how we can facilitate an encounter with Christ's radical equality, inclusiveness and justice for the marginalized, wounded and victimized. Let us also reflect on and live out how we can be a more repentant, humble, listening and learning Church, the Church that does not prefer status quo but leads people in the direction of the kingdom, the Church that points humanity to fuller life, inclusion and justice.

Bishop Vincent Long OFMConv.,
Episcopal Vicar for Justice & Social Service

We are a society which has forgotten how to weep, how to experience compassion – 'suffering with' others: the globalisation of indifference has taken from us the ability to weep!

Pope Francis
at Lampedusa



*CSSV Commissioning
L to R: Deacon Jim Curtain, Fr Tony Kerin, Fr Maurizio Pettena, Fr Joe Caddy, Bishop Vincent Long,
Bishop Mark Edwards*

chair of council's report

“Mission is at once a passion for Jesus and a passion for his people.”

Pope Francis

It would be very simple to look back on 2015 and see it only as another year of challenges and change for members of Catholic Social Services Victoria. And indeed there have been very difficult times as many face funding uncertainties, increased demand for services, shortfalls in financial budgets, and the constant need to re-configure the meaning of ‘mission’ in an increasingly secularized world.

Even in our not for profit sector, we still find ourselves competing - for resources, for recognition of the complexity of the work, for acknowledgement that bigger is not always better and that a local response is often better than a national solution. Uncertainty is never easy, but at the very least change forces us to examine, re-examine and reflect on our shared mission of service for the disadvantaged. Boards, management and staff can feel proud that they have responded with such courage and intelligence in their mission-based work.

In all this uncertainty, we must never forget that we are ‘a people of hope’. As I come to the end of a four-year term as Chair of Council, I see beyond these challenges, to what I believe is a future of great hope for our Catholic social service organisations.

In saying this, I look to Pope Francis who has captured the hearts and minds of so many people in the world. His quote about



hope resonated with me very much. “It’s best to not confuse optimism with hope,” Francis is quoted as saying. “Optimism is a psychological attitude toward life. Hope goes further. It is an anchor that one hurls toward the future, it’s what lets you pull on the line and reach what you’re aiming for and head in ‘the right direction.’ Hope is also theological: God is there, too.”

Governance

Four priority areas guided our 2015 work plan – the second year of CSSV’s three year strategic plan. These priority areas - identity and shared commitment; the changing social services environment; better outcomes for the disadvantaged and vulnerable, and our response to the issue of sexual abuse – set a taxing and challenging year of work for Council, Committees and the Secretariat.

Later in this report you will read a detailed review of the many activities and projects that were completed during 2015. Of these, there were many achievements, but I feel it worthy to mention the workshops on Catholic Social Teaching and the professional development program on Leadership for Mission that were so well received during the year. There is a real appetite to understand mission and what it means for our work.

Council also undertook a review of our Constitution to ensure it is in line with contemporary governance practice. Much of the work was of a formatting and expression nature, but Council has recommended a number of changes to put to members at the annual general meeting. These include a change in the term of Chair from one to two years, changes to the process of nomination for Life Membership, and a reduction in Council meetings from eight to six times per year.

Acknowledgements

Needless to say, the work done by CSSV can only be done with the co-operation, assistance and support of many people

and organisations. I express my most sincere thanks to members of our Council, committees, and special interest groups. The wisdom, capabilities, sound commonsense and dedication of all these people gives us the hope that the Catholic Church so much needs at this time in its history.

Two new members of Council - Cathy Humphrey, CEO of Sacred Heart Mission, and John Blewonski, CEO of VincentCare - joined us and lifted our sights. I want to acknowledge too the commitment of Tony Hollamby who resigned as a Council member in December after nearly five years, and to Gerard Jones who retires after two terms on Council.

As Episcopal Vicar for Social Services, Bishop Vincent Long has taken this journey with us during 2015. With his many other responsibilities, Bishop Vincent has been there whenever we need his advice and guidance. I am indebted to him for supporting us throughout the year.

Catholic Social Services Victoria is most grateful to the Archdiocese of Melbourne and Dioceses of Ballarat, Sandhurst and Sale for financial support. Archbishop Denis Hart, Bishop Paul Bird, Bishop Les Tomlinson are wholeheartedly supportive of the work of CSSV and I thank them most sincerely. Denis and I were pleased to also meet with the new Bishop of Sale, Bishop Pat O'Regan, ordained as the ninth Bishop of Sale in February 2015 and to share discussions with him about the needs of the disadvantaged in the Sale area.

Thank you, too, to our colleagues at Catholic Social Services Australia under the guidance of Executive Director, Marcelle Mogg and Chair, Professor Maria Harries for their willingness to support our shared endeavours. As I write this report, planning is in full swing for our shared 2016 Conference on Mission: Review, Reimagine, Renew: Mission making a difference in a changing world. It is this spirit of shared co-operation on issues and topics that affect us that makes our working relationship together so productive and valued.

Disregard for the duty to cultivate and maintain a proper relationship with my neighbour, for whose care and custody I am responsible, ruins my relationship with my own self, with others, with God and with the earth.

Pope Francis
Laudato Si #70

Continued on page 6



2015 AGM MacKillop Family Services
Front Row: Helen Burt, Sr Toni Matha AM ibvm, Tony Hollamby

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chair of council's report

Continued from page 5

Love, overflowing with small gestures of mutual care, is also civic and political, and it makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world.

Pope Francis
Laudato Si #231

At our Annual Dinner in September 2015, Vicki Clark was awarded Life Membership of Catholic Social Services Victoria. Vicki was formerly Coordinator of Aboriginal Catholic Ministry retiring after 25 years of service. Vicki joins our other Life Members, Fr Kevin Mogg AM, Sr Toni Matha AM and Mr Bernie Geary OAM. We are indeed proud to have each of them as our Life Members. They have set high standards for those of us who follow and we are indebted for their continued friendship, wisdom and guidance.

Secretariat

Denis Fitzgerald has for another year brought to the role of Executive Director, his broad-ranging skills and tireless efforts. Peter Hudson, Helen Burt and Lucia Brick are very much the stalwarts that keep the 'ship afloat' and I am so indebted to them for their commitment to the objectives of CSSV. Each brings energy, competence, skills and experience to their various roles. Assistance from Sophia Erickson and Michael Yore has been invaluable. On behalf of us all, thank you Denis, Peter, Helen and Lucia, Sophia and Michael.

So, what is the anchor that we hurl into the future that Pope Francis speaks about? During 2015, I think the "anchor" of hope is the leadership that I have witnessed at all levels of our member organisations. The people who so

doggedly respond to the challenges of guiding, managing and working at the grass roots level to make a difference to people's lives. That has often meant making hard decisions about service provision, amalgamations or mergers, funding, strategic direction or, most difficult, having to cut services, but courageous thinking, decision-making and implementation has been the way by which member organisations have responded to challenges. And as Pope Francis reminds us: "God is there too".

In conclusion, I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported me in the last four years as Chair of Council. It has been an honour and a privilege, and my eyes have been opened more widely to the needs of our community and the work of Catholic social service organisations.

So, go with great hope: "hurl the anchor towards the future, feel the pull on the line, and reach what you're aiming for". Remember, too, that when we all pull on the line together, the greater our power.

As you continue your work on behalf of the poor, disadvantaged and marginalized in our community, I wish you all great blessings for the future.

Patrice Scales

Chair of Council



Patrice Scales, CSSV Chair, addresses the 2015 Annual Dinner

executive director's report

The Gospel call to love of neighbour is a call to each person, but also to all parts of the Church, at all levels.

In response to this call, Catholic Social Services Victoria works with its members and many other parts of the Church and community to stand with and serve those who are poor, disadvantaged and marginalised; and to work for a just, equitable and compassionate society.

Our member organisations advance these Gospel imperatives in their day-to-day work, and in their witness and advocacy. It is a continuing privilege to work with those who constitute these organisations, to extend their impact through shared engagement and endeavour.

We are indebted to so many people and organisations.

Our members are listed in this Report, as are the members of our Council and its Committees. All of them deserve recognition, and, in a special category, are Patrice Scales, who in March 2016 will have completed four years as Chair of Council at Catholic Social Services Victoria; Bishop Vincent Long, Episcopal Vicar for Justice and Social Service; staff members Peter Hudson, Lucia Brick and Helen Burt; and Adrian Foley, coordinator of our Asylum Seeker Parish Support Program.

There are many others whose support has been critical. A list later in this report identifies those who spoke at functions, who contributed as donors, organisers, as members of our various working groups, and as volunteers with projects and with general support.

Beyond our immediate environment, we are indebted to the Bishops of Victoria and the people in the many parts of the Church that we work with - health services, education authorities, Catholic Social Services Australia and their members across the country; other Church mission-focused and support services. Many agencies and individuals beyond



Hon Jenny Mikakos, Minister for Families and Children with Denis Fitzgerald

the Catholic Church; and many from the community sector and Government are also key parts of our endeavours.

All remain in our prayers, and deserve more thanks than we can give.

We operate in a world that needs God's love and mercy, and Pope Francis has reflected on how he sees the Church respond to this need: "I prefer a church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security."

Our members are out on the streets, reaching out to every form of human need, utilising skilled and dedicated staff who work beyond the formal lines of their employment; drawing on thousands of volunteers, who underpin so many programs; and welcoming support from many donors.

Scarcity of resources is a daily reality in many of our services; and although there is much goodwill across the political spectrum, much policy reform is hostage to a budget system that finds it easier to invest in transport and other physical infrastructure than it does in the foundations of human flourishing.

This Annual Report notes our main activities for the year. To highlight just a few items:

We have to realise that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

Pope Francis
Laudato Si #49

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executive director's report

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An asylum seeker is a kneeling person; kneeling in front of the ship to ask for a reduced escape price; kneeling in front of the aid agency asking to be saved.

Najeeba
Social Justice Statement
2015 – 2016

Our work in policy and advocacy included submissions to enquiries etc on a number of issues: Victorian budget; young people in residential aged care; end of life issues; family violence; responses to sexual abuse; and transition from prison. This built on our dialogue with members and with Government.

Many of these themes are ongoing areas of involvement. In addition, policy areas that impact broadly on our sector – including competition policy and equal opportunity legislation – remain in focus. In the cases of family violence and sexual abuse, working parties extended our engagement within the Church.

Our work to build our network of support and shared endeavour continued to take many forms, including our annual dinner, our

Commissioning Mass and AGM, breakfast forums, and workshops around particular topics. We were honoured that Vicki Clark accepted Life Membership at our 2015 Annual Dinner. Our work in 2015 with Churches from the Middle East, and with Catholic health providers mark further extensions of the Catholic social services network.

Our Catholic Ethos and Identity focus continued to deepen during the year, as it built on our existing program.

Our engagement with parishes and support for their outreach to those in need extended to the re-introduction of a Social Services Sunday in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, and a further two well-attended forums for parishes and agencies on support for asylum seekers. Planning for 2016 would build further on this.



Peter Hudson, CSSV presenting introductory workshop on Catholic Social Teaching to members in Bendigo/Shepparton region

2015 was the first of our Leadership for Mission programs, which was very well received by participants, and which will be offered again in future years. This program, along with our Catholic Social Teaching series, has helped inform planning for the February 2016 conference *Mission making a difference in a changing world*.

On 7 December 2015 we hosted a forum to mark the 50th anniversary of Second Vatican Council's Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, where the Church as a whole committed itself to engagement with society, in the following terms:

The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the people of this age, particularly those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and the

hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the followers of Christ....To carry out such a task, the Church has always had the duty of scrutinizing the signs of the times and of interpreting them in the light of the Gospel.

The Jubilee of Mercy which Pope Francis has declared seeks to continue this tradition, and we pray that Catholic social services in Victoria will continue to grow in their contribution to fullness of life for those who are poor, marginalised or disadvantaged.

Denis Fitzgerald

Executive Director

Where profits alone count.... Biodiversity is considered at most a deposit of economic resources available for exploitation, with no serious thought for the real value of things, their significance for persons and cultures, or the concerns and needs of the poor.

Pope Francis
Laudato Si # 190



Sisters of St Joseph
Back Row: Srs Kerrie Cusack, Mary Kavanagh, Carmel Crameri, Marianne Zeinstra, Anne Porter, Denis Fitzgerald
Front Row: Srs Helen Hickey, Trish Guiney, Val Becker, Mary Davis

2015 activities report

God created the world for everyone. Hence every ecological approach needs to incorporate a social perspective which takes into account the fundamental rights of the poor and the underprivileged.

Pope Francis
Laudato Si #93

Members of the Council and Committees of Catholic Social Services Victoria have been busy again during 2015 across a range of issues and concerns which challenge the Catholic Church to respond robustly and creatively to the Gospel imperative of service and work for justice within our world. Most of the work undertaken is reflected on our website, and significant documents can be accessed there. The following paragraphs outline the main elements, under the three-year strategic headings:

- Policy and advocacy
- Network development and member support
- Catholic ethos and identity

Policy and Advocacy

Our advocacy work during 2015 was guided by our expert and experienced Policy and Advocacy Committee, chaired by Fr Joe Caddy. The Committee gave its energy and commitment to a diverse range of issues during the course of the year. In the early part

of the year a short submission was prepared to the government on the State Budget and the principles of inclusion and equity that should be at play in its compilation. The important issue of competition policy was a regular agenda item which created robust discussion in response to the findings of the Harper Review Report which was published in March 2015.

Another significant ecological and economic statement was made by Pope Francis in July 2015 with the release of *Laudato Si – On Care for Our Common Home*. The encyclical places the care of creation, our “common home”, at the heart of Christian theology. He calls on our fragile world to leave behind the myth of unlimited material progress and proposes instead a “sense of fraternity that excludes nothing and no one” and an understanding of the Earth as a “shared inheritance”. The encyclical generated a number of stimulating events in our Catholic Social Services Victoria calendar from an introductory Breakfast Briefing in July with Jacqui Remond from Catholic Earthcare Australia onto an



CSSV Breakfast Briefing with Guest Speaker Jacqui Remond from Catholic Earthcare Australia

exploratory forum in October with Australian Catholic Social Justice Council on the economic implications of the encyclical.

A continuing and challenging issue throughout 2015 was the gradual evolution of the National Disability Insurance Scheme and its widespread implications for our member organisations within Victoria. The scheme presents some very formidable organisational and service provider challenges to Catholic organisations in responding to client choices with the services they are providing in a very diverse and competitive marketplace. The year culminated in a well attended and received member forum in December presented by the team of CatholicCare Canberra- Goulburn and their organisational strategy in recent years to be an informed and competitive player in the national capital rollout of the scheme. In January 2015 CSSV hosted a forum on young people in aged care and we also prepared a submission to the Senate Community Affairs Committee on Young People in Aged Care and were invited to appear before the Committee.

In September the Committee oversaw the writing of a submission to the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into End of Life Choices. A key message of the submission is that the inherent dignity and worth of each person is not diminished by any form of disability, nor by the vagaries and vulnerabilities that are part and parcel of human existence, especially as a result of the ageing process. We were also able to assist the Archdiocese in their writing of the Catholic Churches broader response to this issue.

Family Violence has been a major focus of Australian society during 2015 and CSSV continues to be active in addressing this issue from a number of different directions. In May 2015 we made a submission to the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence recommending that family violence requires both a crisis, safety response together with medium and longer-term support and services, as lives are healed and re-established for all concerned. Patricia Faulkner, a Royal Commissioner, conducted an interactive Breakfast Briefing in June with our members

The first step in showing a special concern for the poor is to notice. Jesus notices. He turns to people who are scorned, rejected or overlooked in the society of his time.

Social Justice Statement
2015 -2016



Patricia Faulkner, Family Violence Royal Commissioner

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2015 activities report

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We sing with pride of the generosity, welcome and unity we offer. This ideal stands in stark contrast, however, to the self-interest, incarceration and exclusion that have characterised our nation's response over many years to asylum seekers who arrive by boat.

Social Justice Statement
2015 -2106

and guests in how we can all respond to building a safer community. There has been a very active Family Violence Working Party from among our member organisations in operation throughout the year. They are now conducting a project to develop resources to assist the Church in being an informed and compassionate part of the solution to this terrible societal scourge.

Sexual abuse within the Church and other institutions in society has continued to loom large with continued national hearings of the Royal Commission. CSSV made a submission to the Ryan Review on improvements to the Melbourne Response in July and were then invited to meet face-to-face with the reviewer. Liaison with the Archbishop and other senior figures within the Church has continued the offering of our expertise and compassion.

Bernie Geary, Principal Commissioner for Children and Young People, and Micaela Cronin, CEO of MacKillop Family Services, presented at our October Breakfast Briefing on the care and protection of vulnerable children. This well-attended gathering helped renew our shared commitment to work together to ensure that Victoria's support for vulnerable children meets the aspirations of the children, the families and society.

Network Development and Member Support

In our work this past year of establishing a community of shared identity we conducted a range of gatherings and briefings on matters of interest and concern to members. Our Network Development and Member Support Committee, chaired by Peter Richardson, oversaw this work, and monitored its reach and effectiveness.

Our major events were our Commissioning Mass and Annual General Meeting in March at MacKillop Family Services in South Melbourne and then our annual dinner at Leonda, Hawthorn. Bishop Vincent Long as Episcopal Vicar for Social Services led the celebration of the Mass, and the Hon Jenny Mikakos,

Minister for Family, Youth and Children spoke encouragingly at the AGM in inviting strong and creative partnerships with State and Church in our response to inequalities in Victorian society.

The speaker at our annual dinner was Vicki Clark the retiring Coordinator of the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry for the past twenty five years. In accepting her Life Membership of CSSV in recognition of her contribution to our mission of inviting all into the journey of hope and striving for reconciliation, and for all who are dispossessed and marginalized, she spoke inspirationally affirming the importance of Catholic social services to the Church and to the people.

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

Our Breakfast Briefing series continued on successfully during 2015 with a total of four early morning events occurring. As well as the three described earlier, we also had a gathering of our members with leaders from the Catholic Health sector to discuss potential avenues of collaboration and support into the future.



Forum with Catholic Health leaders: Stephen Cornelissen, Jan Horsnell, Dr Michael Walsh



The Asylum Seeker Parish Support program has continued its valuable role of networking and resourcing the Catholic parishes of Melbourne in their efforts to respond practically to one of the most marginalised groups in our society. Adrian Foley and his volunteer project team are to be thanked for the passion, energy and professionalism they continue to bring to developing this program. They facilitated two very well attended forums, an evening in June and a full day in October, for people in the parishes across the metropolitan and regional areas of Victoria who are deeply concerned with how as a Church we are responding to Christ's imperative to love and care for our neighbour. So far around 75 parishes have been contacted, ranging from contact at forums to parish visits, speaking at deanery meetings and brokering asylum seeker support arrangements across various groups.

Towards the end of 2015 CSSV facilitated a

meeting of Eastern Churches and relevant Catholic agencies to prepare for the Syrian refugee intake. There has been a lot of interest and support for this program from near and far and we are planning to follow-up invitations to facilitate the program in the other Catholic dioceses of Victoria in 2016 and beyond.

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. Br Bill Wilding chaired the Committee that focused on this specific aspect of our work. We have continued to define our reflection and articulation of how we who are involved in social services shaped by Catholic identity make a difference. Many thanks to Michael Yore for his expertise and experience in continuing to develop our documentation around this important issue which is also very much underpinning the direction of our forthcoming conference on Catholic identity and mission in February 2016.

Catholic Social Teaching underpins the work of our member organisations, and our evolving

...the Church has always had the duty of scrutinizing the signs of the times and of interpreting them in the light of the Gospel...We must therefore recognize and understand the world in which we live...

The Church in the Modern World #4



Phil Glendenning President of the Refugee Council of Australia, addressing the Strengthening Asylum Seeker Parish Support Forum held 14 October

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2015 activities report

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Although the world of today has a very vivid awareness of its unity and of how one depends on another in needful solidarity, it is most grievously torn into opposing camps by conflicting forces.

The Church in the Modern World #4

program in this area provides formation opportunities for people in our sector. There has been an increasing number of member organisations that have invited CSSV to come to their workplace to conduct workshops for their staff. 2015 saw our first metropolitan regional workshop offered to our member organisations in the south eastern suburbs. The Keysborough Learning Centre was our host for the August workshop on Catholic Social Teaching. Workshops were also conducted with CatholicCare Sandhurst in Bendigo and Shepparton and an afternoon workshop in Oakleigh for the regional managers of Southern Cross Care.

We also conducted two programs throughout the year at East Melbourne for member personnel wanting to reflect on and deepen their experience of Catholic Social Teaching. In December we hosted another forum to mark the 50th anniversary of the groundbreaking Vatican II pastoral document *Gaudium et Spes, The Church in the Modern World* and its continuing impact and challenge to the Gospel call to service and justice within the Church and the world.

Our Leadership for Mission series was conducted across three workshop evenings in March, April and May this year. Eighteen leaders and Board directors across our

Catholic social services sector participated in this professional development program which explores the mission and faith dimension of leadership in a Catholic social services setting. Many thanks to our three expert facilitators for these forums: Fr Noel Connelly SSC, Ms Sandie Cornish, Fr Joe Caddy. Many thanks also to Professor Ruth Webber who participated and conducted a detailed evaluation of this initial program. While the evaluation clearly demonstrated that the program was most successful and that the participants commend it, some useful insights have emerged that will assist in the planning for future sessions. We are excited to be offering the program again in 2016 entitled: Mission Inspired Leadership.

Our Mission Network meetings continued on five occasions 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. At the April gathering we invited Fr Steve Curtain SJ to lead us in a stimulating reflection and discussion of the place of Eucharist in our workplace prayer and ritual. We will continue to explore this theme at future gatherings.



Bernie Geary OAM and Micaela Cronin Guest Speakers at CSSV Breakfast Briefing on Protecting our Vulnerable Children

During May and June we hosted again the series of the *First Spiritual Exercises*, conducted through the Campion Centre of Ignatian Spirituality. These are a set of prayers and reflection structured in a four week program, and built on the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius. Ten people from across various Archdiocesan departments and member organisations committed to the program this year which was gently led by Sr Margaret Claver FCJ.

Working with others

A great deal of our work is in various partnerships with other church-sponsored groups and organisations who share our goals. Many of the people that we work with are from our member organisations. These are an integral part of the presence of Christ in 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.

Another group which is integral to the life and mission of our Church is the people of the Catholic parishes. The most significant group we are engaged with is the numerous people involved in the Asylum Seeker Parish Support program which is mentioned in greater detail earlier in this report.

Building linkages with other parts of the Church is a continuing priority for Catholic Social Services Victoria. Mention has already been made of our member organisations, the Bishops and Religious leaders, and parishes. In addition,

- we work with Catholic health and education sectors in events, ideas etc
- the agencies and staff of the Archdiocese of Melbourne have continued to be central to our work.
- Our strong partnership with the Australian Catholic University included their continued sponsorship of our annual dinner and other forums of interest and concern
- A regular column in *Kairos*, the fortnightly journal of the Archdiocese of Melbourne,

was a useful channel of communication and is now being superseded by the monthly *Melbourne Catholic*.

- The cooperation of various agencies of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has enriched many of our endeavours.



Victorian
Council of Churches

Cooperation with other churches and with other faith bodies also continued in 2015. Catholic Social Services Victoria continued to chair an Interchurch Criminal Justice Taskforce and the Social Questions Commission at the Victorian Council of Churches, and participate in the Interchurch Gambling Taskforce, among other forums. Contact with other faith-based service providers also increased during the year.

There are many others who are essential to our work, including many in the not-for-profit sector. VCROSS and the Smart Justice coalition are among our partners; as are the various sector peak bodies in Victoria for housing and homelessness, disability, drugs and alcohol, child and family welfare, etc. We commend their work, and thank them for their cooperation with us.

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

finance report

Politics and the economy tend to blame each other when it comes to poverty and environmental degradation. It is hoped that they can acknowledge their own mistakes and find forms of interaction directed to the common good.

Pope Francis
Laudato Si #198

	2015	2014	2013
Income			
Membership fees	\$82,901	\$86,470	\$79,245
Grants from regional Dioceses	\$66,348	\$64,416	\$62,906
CSSA support	\$26,170	\$33,225	\$30,000
Other	\$44,202	\$74,431	\$140,980
Subtotal	\$219,621	\$258,542	\$313,131
Support from Archdiocese of Melbourne	\$312,757	\$304,107	\$258,941
Total income	\$532,378	\$562,649	\$572,072
Expenditure			
Staff and related costs	\$407,680	\$429,388	\$400,501
Other operating	\$124,698	\$133,261	\$171,571
Total expenditure	\$532,378	\$562,649	\$572,072
Net result	0	0	0
Memo			
CSSV trust fund balance at 31 December	\$83,782	\$85,835	\$114,908

Catholic Social Services Victoria financial results for 2015

Highlights

Total income and expenditure, each at \$532,000, were \$30,000 less than for 2014, supporting output at a slightly reduced level than the previous year.

The financial contributions from all parties towards the operations of Catholic Social Services Victoria are very much appreciated:

- The Archdiocese of Melbourne continues to be the largest contributor to CSSV income, at \$312,000, which balances expenditure and other income and for the year.
- Membership fees were \$83,000, and contributions from regional dioceses totaled \$66,000 in 2015. These represent 16% and 12% respectively of total income.
- The contribution from Catholic Social Services Australia was \$26,000 for the calendar year. The change over 2014 is due to timing issues – CSSA's financial year is from July-June.

Other income declined significantly, by 41% to \$44,000. This represented a slight reduction in

event ticket sales, and a reduction in funding for particular projects from the Trust Fund and other sources.

Staff costs were 5% lower in 2015 than in 2014, and other costs were also lower. This reflects slightly lower operating inputs than in 2014.

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 2015 was \$84,000. A payment of \$5,529 from the Trust Fund was transferred to general income during 2015.



Prof Gabrielle McMullen, Fr Charles Balnaves, Vicki Clark

council, committees & membership

Council of Catholic Social Services Victoria

Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen
OFMConv
Episcopal Vicar for Social Services

Ms Patrice Scales (Chair of Council)

Mr David Beaver
Chief Executive Officer
Centacare, Diocese of Ballarat

Mr John Blewonski (from March 2015)
Chief Executive Officer
VincentCare

Fr Joe Caddy
Chief Executive Officer
CatholicCare Melbourne

Ms Julie Edwards (until March 2015)
Chief Executive Officer
Jesuit Social Services

Mr Tony Hollamby (Treasurer)
Chief Executive Officer
St John of God ACCORD

Ms Jan Horsnell
Chief Executive Officer
Southern Cross Care (Vic)

Ms Cathy Humphrey (from March 2015)
Chief Executive Officer
Sacred Heart Mission

Mr Gerard Jones
Executive Director of Operations
MacKillop Family Services

Michelle Pereira (from December 2015)
Youth & Education Development
TeamManager
St Vincent de Paul Society

Sr Michelle Reid sgs (until March 2015)
(Deputy Chair of Council)
Manager
Good Samaritan Inn

Mr Peter Richardson
Director
CatholicCare Sandhurst

Ms Robyn Roberts (until March 2015)
Director of Services Victoria
Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand

Br Bill Wilding cfc
Representative, Catholic Religious Victoria

Membership of Council Committees

Governance and Finance Committee
Patrice Scales (Chair)
Tony Hollamby (Treasurer)
Cathy Humphrey
Denis Fitzgerald

Member Support Committee
Peter Richardson (Chair)
Vicki Clark (until 30 June 2015)
Sherry Balcombe (from 1 July 2015)
Jan Horsnell
Patrice Scales (ex-officio)
Helen Burt
Denis Fitzgerald
Peter Hudson

Policy and Advocacy Committee
Fr Joe Caddy (Chair)
Gavin Dufty
Gerard Jones
Kathy Landvogt
Angela Merriam
Julie Prideaux
Che Stockley
Marilyn Webster
Patrice Scales (ex-officio)
Professor Ruth Webber
Vin Martin
Helen Burt
Denis Fitzgerald
Peter Hudson

Catholic Ethos and Identity Committee
Br Bill Wilding cfc (Chair)
David Beaver
Jenny Glare
Julie Morgan
Michael Yore
Bishop Vincent Long
Patricia McCourt (until May 2015)
Patrice Scales (ex-officio)

We must regain the conviction that we need one another, that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world, and that being good and decent are worth it.

Pope Francis
Laudato Si #229

Continued on page 18

council, committees & membership

Continued from page 17

We are dealing with human beings, and human beings always need something more than technically proper care. They need humanity. They need heartfelt concern...enabling them to experience the richness of their humanity.

*Pope Benedict
Deus Caritas Est (2005)*

Helen Burt
Denis Fitzgerald
Peter Hudson

Members of Catholic Social Services Victoria

Aboriginal Catholic Ministry
Assisi Centre
Australian Catholic Religious Against
Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH)
Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project
Catholic Chaplains' Association
for Health Care
CatholicCare Melbourne
CatholicCare Sandhurst
CatholicCare Victoria Tasmania
Catholic Womens League Victoria
and Wagga Wagga
Centacare, Diocese of Ballarat
Corazon
Corpus Christi Community
Don Bosco Youth Centre and Hostel
Edmund Rice Camps
Edmund Rice Refugee & Community Services
Good Samaritan Inn
Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand
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
Office for Justice & Peace,
Archdiocese of Melbourne
Order of Malta Hospice Home Care Victoria
Pregnancy Assistance Frankston
Rosies Oblate Youth Mission
Sacred Heart Mission St Kilda
Shekinah Homeless Services
Society of St Vincent de Paul
Solo Catholics
Southern Cross Care (Vic)
St John of God ACCORD
St Joseph's Flexible Learning Centre
St Joseph's Home for the Aged, Little Sisters
of the Poor
St Mary's House of Welcome
The Way Community
Vietnamese Catholic Family Mutual
Assistance Network
Villa Maria Catholic Homes
VincentCare Victoria
Wellsprings for Women

Life Members of Catholic Social Services Victoria

Sr Toni Matha AM ibvm
Rev Kevin Mogg AM
Mr Bernie Geary OAM
Ms Vicki Clark



CSSV Staff and friends

*Back Row: Bishop Hilton Deakin, Lucia Brick, Denis Fitzgerald, Sophia Erickson, Jose Quiroga, Peter Hudson
Front Row: Vicki Clark, Helen Burt, Evangelia Kladou*

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 our member organisations, people from within these bodies, 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
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Antony McMullen
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Asylum Seekers Resource Centre
Australian Catholic University
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Bernadette Steele
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Catholic Education Office, Melbourne
Catholic Health Australia
Catholic Social Services Australia
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Janet Cribbes
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Julie Owens
Kairos Catholic Journal
Fr Kevin Mogg
Kris Johnstone
Lansdowne Cafe
Laurie Findlay
Lorraine Berends
MacKillop Family Services
Margaret Gearon
Margaret Nutbeam
Marilyn Webster
Bishop Mark Edwards
Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre
Sr Mary O'Shannassy sgs
Matthew Etty-leal
Michael Liddy
Michael Yore
Michelle Date
Dr Nasir Butrous
Neil Cooper
Dr Paul Taylor
Rejoice Yigak
Roberto Guatemala
Professor Ruth Webber
Sally Parnell
Sherry Balcombe
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Professor Gabrielle McMullen
Gerard Jones
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Jenny Glare
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Jacqui Remond
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Kate Colvin
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Sr Margaret Claver FCJ
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Br Michael Herry FMS
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Patrick Lawrence
Peter Charles
Peter Colley
Phil Glendenning
Phillip Steele
Ray Johnson
Robyn McKay
Fr Steve Curtain sj
Sandie Cornish
Tony Hollamby
Vicki Clark
Bishop Vincent Long

The following sponsors have once again been a generous and valuable support to the ministry of Catholic Social Services Victoria

The following sponsors provided generous and valuable support to the ministry of Catholic Social Services Victoria



The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties
of the people of this age, especially those
who are poor or in any way afflicted,
these are the joys and hopes, the griefs
and anxieties of the followers of Christ.

The Church in the Modern World #1



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