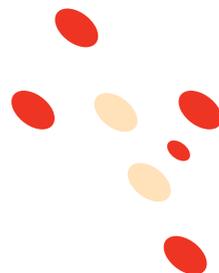




# annual report

2014



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

**Sophia Erikson**

Administrative Assistant

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**CSSV Mission:**

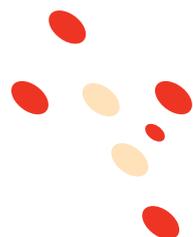
To assist the Catholic Church in Victoria to fulfil the gospel imperatives to:

- (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

During 2014 the puzzling fate of Malaysia Airlines flights MH17 and MH370 and the Air Asia flight 8501, might tempt us to conclude that flying is becoming more risky and dangerous. While these high profile disasters did result in the death



*Fr Tony Kerin*

of 699 people, the number of aircraft crashes during 2014 was the lowest in the history of commercial aviation. The Aviation Safety Network which counts only commercial flights of 14 or more passengers noted only 20 fatal crashes for the year, the fewest since records began in 1942.

In the Social Services sector similar impressions are often conveyed by claims reported in the mass media and more recently on social media. The impression of community safety is regularly undermined by sensational but solitary reports which convey a wider sense of insecurity and failure by the criminal justice system. Harsher sentences may be political vote winners but they do nothing to make our community safer.

The true needs of those who are disadvantaged in our community are similarly distorted. Catholic Social Services Victoria plays a vital role in revealing the true picture. We can do this based not only from experience but also by applying a statistical analysis to those experiences. While many of us are so engaged in service delivery that we have no time for idle reflection, there is always a place for active reflection; that is the continual process of holding our efforts to account in the light of Catholic Social Teaching. Catholic Social Services Victoria has sought to assist all its member agencies to do just that.

As I come to the end of six years as Episcopal Vicar for Justice and Social Service, I would like to put on record my great appreciation for the opportunity to collaborate with Denis Fitzgerald, Peter Hudson and Lucia Brick, and those who went before them, and to express my esteem for the outstanding work of the Council members with whom I have served over those years.

## **Very Rev. Tony Kerin**

Episcopal Vicar for Justice & Social Service

Being Catholic, we respond as community, not as atomised individuals. Our responses are marked by service and ritual, informed by tradition and authority, as well as reflection on lived experience.

Frank Brennan SJ  
(Listening Learning & Leading  
2013)



## *Melbourne Book Launch*

*Fr Andy Hamilton sj, Patrice Scales, Dr Bob Dixon, Sr Margaret Mary Flynn ibvm, Prof Gabrielle McMullen, Prof John Warhurst*

# chair of council's report

Our faith in Christ, who became poor, and was always close to the poor and the outcast, is the basis of our concern for the integral development of society's most neglected members

Pope Francis  
The Joy of the Gospel (2014)

As we reflect on the past year for Catholic social service organisations, the words 'uncertainty' and 'change' come to mind. There was uncertainty for many organisations as they awaited and faced the outcomes of government funding decisions, both state and federal. And change for many organisations as they considered the best way to continue their mission of service and meet the challenges of sustainability in the future.

But the words hope, inspiration, faith and optimism also went hand in hand with the very real challenges facing Catholic providers of a broad range of social welfare services. The one thing that is never in question is the commitment of every member organisation to work to address the injustice, the disadvantage and inequality that face so many people in our community.

As the peak body for Catholic social service providers in Victoria, Catholic Social Services Victoria relies on the participation and involvement of our 54 member organisations. In addition to membership fees which support CSSV's work, leaders and staff were ever willing to assist us through advice, feedback, suggestions and attendance at functions and activities. The achievements of CSSV are always the achievements of our members.



Melbourne Book Launch  
Patrice Scales

It has been a great privilege as Chair of Council of CSSV to be part of an organisation that has assisted its member organisations in their work "to stand with the poor, disadvantaged and marginalized, and to work for a just, equitable and compassionate society".

The Archdiocese of Melbourne and the Dioceses of Ballarat, Sandhurst, and Sale continued their generous financial support of CSSV during the year, for which we are most grateful. Just as important is the commitment they give to our mission, with their guidance, support and encouragement.

Archbishop Denis Hart from Melbourne, Bishop Les Tomlinson from Sandhurst, Bishop Paul Bird from Ballarat and Fr Peter Slater of Sale graciously met Denis Fitzgerald and myself on several visits during the year. We look forward to similarly working with the new Bishop of Sale, Bishop Patrick O'Regan.

The work of our sector also relies heavily on the Religious Congregations, parishes, the health and education sectors, and many other parts of the Catholic Church in Victoria. We appreciate that support and look forward to continued strong relationships in the coming year.

We are also ever grateful and appreciative of the support and collegiality of our relationship with Catholic Social Services Australia. We look forward to working productively with the CSSA Chair, Professor Maria Harries, and Marcelle Mogg, CSSA Executive Director during the coming year..

## Strategic Objectives

Three key areas underpin the work of CSSV: policy and advocacy on behalf of the marginalized and disadvantaged; network development and member support, and Catholic ethos and identity.

At the end of 2013, Council developed a three year strategic plan to give focus to, and prioritise the work of CSSV. Four strategic

objectives were developed in 2013 and further refined at a planning day in 2014. Broadly they are based around:

1. Identity and shared commitment
2. The changing social services environment
3. Better outcomes for the disadvantaged and vulnerable
4. Responding to child sexual abuse.

There were some notable highlights during 2014 around these four objectives including the presentation of Catholic Social Teaching modules presented by Peter Hudson to more than 75 participants; continuation of the “Pathways to Partnership” series into collaboration and partnerships; submissions to various enquiries including Social Inclusion and Disability; a breakfast session with Archbishop Diarmuid Martin from Ireland; a member briefing workshop on the Royal Commission and previous Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into child sexual abuse; a state election kit and state election forum at which James Merlino MP, Mary Wooldridge MP and Colleen Hartland MP presented.

In addition, the Annual Dinner, breakfast briefing sessions, launches of the “Listening Learning and Leading” conference book, the Commissioning Mass and AGM all combined to keep the CSSV Secretariat working tenaciously.

In December 2014, Council and Committee members met to review and reflect on the three year strategic plan, and develop a 2015 workplan. Of particular note is another Conference on Mission to be held on 25 and 26 February 2016 with a ‘not to be missed’ line-up of speakers.

## Governance

Council meets formally eight times each year, with Committees meeting a similar number of times. Meetings of themselves are meaningless without the expertise, skills, input, review and recommendations of the

people who meet. CSSV is indeed fortunate and grateful for the wonderful contribution and participation of its Council and committee members.

To the members of Council – Fr Tony Kerin, Sr Michelle Reid, Tony Hollamby, Jan Horsnell, Br Bill Wilding cfc, David Beaver, Fr Joe Caddy, Peter Richardson, Robyn Roberts, Gerard Jones, Julie Edwards – I express my utmost appreciation for all that they have contributed during 2014. Each Council member carries significant roles and responsibilities in other areas of their work, yet have contributed solidly to the decisions and actions of CSSV Council and to the Committees they convene and are part of.

I am also indebted to the many people, named later in this Annual Report, who contribute to our four Council Committees, and do much of the groundwork and thinking around direction, ideas, policies and advocacy.

I add to them, many other people who provide

*Continued on page 6*



*Canberra Book Launch  
Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells, Fr Frank Brennan sj*

*Continued on page 6*

...I want a Church which is poor and for the poor. They have much to teach us

Pope Francis  
The Joy of the Gospel (2014)

# chair of council's report

*Continued from page 5*

Does seeing me... seeing us, offer a glimpse of God to those with, and for, whom we work? This is what is being asked of us as people of the Gospel. Daunting, but true!

Margaret Mary O'Flynn IBVM  
(Listening Learning & Leading  
2013)

pro bono services for CSSV at so many levels. I thank each one of them; we value greatly and appreciate their personal and professional commitment to CSSV's work.

As we turn to another year, we are sad to farewell Sr Michelle Reid, Julie Edwards and Robyn Roberts from our Council numbers. Michelle, Julie and Robyn have added great credibility to the Council's work and each has contributed expertise, knowledge and insights into CSSV's endeavours. We wish each of them the very best in their future pursuits, and look forward to continued association with them.

## **CSSV Secretariat**

The hub of the work of CSSV is done at the Secretariat level headed by Denis Fitzgerald the Executive Director, with Helen Burt as Senior Policy Analyst, Peter Hudson as Network and Member Support Co-ordinator, Lucia Brick, Executive Assistant and office administrator and Sophia Erickson as casual administrative support. Adrian Foley, Michael Yore and Janet Cribbes have assisted on a number of specific projects.

Modest in size, the Secretariat staff does a mammoth job and no matter how many activities, events and projects they are asked to do, they do so with professionalism, unselfishness and competence. They really are an outstanding team, 'worth their weight in gold' and are ever friendly and caring to all who have contact with the office. Thank you Denis, Helen, Peter, Lucia and Sophia.

Finally, I want to express my personal appreciation to Very Rev. Tony Kerin who has recently stepped down as Episcopal Vicar for Justice and Social Service. Tony has been CSSV's Episcopal Vicar for six years and his support, wisdom and spiritual leadership has been a mainstay in the achievements of CSSV during that time. We are particularly grateful to Fr Tony for continuing to nurture us and foster CSSV's work during 2014 when he was in the throes of moving from his role as Avondale

Heights Parish Priest to Parish Priest of Box Hill.

We are fortunate to have Bishop Vincent Long take over the role of Episcopal Vicar for Social Services. We welcome Bishop Vincent and look forward to working with him in his role as Episcopal Vicar.

And so another year for CSSV has passed, but the mission of CSSV continues. I think I would join many of our member organisations in saying that the work at times is overwhelming, that the signs of improvement in gaining a just and equitable society for all seem further away than ever.

Even so, I think we should take great hope in the words of the inspirational Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador who said:

*We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.*

- Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador

I urge you to read this Annual Report and feel proud that you are part of the work that is done by Catholic social service organisations in the true name of Jesus Christ. It is an honour for all of us.

## **Patrice Scales**

Chair of Council



*Prison Chaplaincy Report  
Sr Mary O'Shannassy sgs, Professor Ruth Webber,  
Fr Joe Caddy, Msgr Greg Bennet*

# executive director's report

Catholic Social Services Victoria is comprised of our members, our Council, Committees and working parties, staff and volunteers. We work closely with many other parts of the Church and of the community sector; and we interact with many others, in Government and beyond.

Our mission is 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.

Our member organisations advance these Gospel imperatives. They serve people who are vulnerable, and who are on the margins of our comfortable society: young people in care; those in prison; families under pressure; those who are aged, or homeless, or both; people with disability; and so the list goes on.

They also stand with those that they serve, and advocate on their behalf. Much of this happens at the local level; but some members are also national leaders in advocacy around, for example, the impact of utility pricing, finance exclusion, the improvements needed in our justice system.

It is inspiring to be associated with such work, and with the people who undertake it. And it is a privilege to work with such organisations to extend these contributions through co-operation shared engagement.

This Annual Report mentions many of the individuals that have undertaken and contributed to this work. We are all very much in their debt. The identification of any particular people risks understating the contribution of others, but the unique and significant contributions made by the following calls for special mention: Patrice Scales, Chair of Council at Catholic Social Services Victoria, Fr Tony Kerin, Episcopal Vicar for Justice and Social Service, and our staff members Peter Hudson, Lucia Brick,

Helen Burt and Sophia Erickson.

There are so many others. There are the members of our Council, Committees and working groups; those who volunteer with us; those who participated in our various functions, contributed to our discussions and papers, contributed to events, and offered support in a variety of ways. To these must be added the Bishops of Victoria and the people in the many parts of the Church that we work with; Catholic Social Services Australia and their members across the country; people from other Churches, the community sector and Government; and our sponsors.



*Denis Fitzgerald*

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

It is probably always a challenging time for Catholic social services, because the people we are most interested in are those who are particularly vulnerable, or at the margins of our society.

Particular challenges over the past year include Increasing unemployment and imprisonment; a number of Government policy measures that seem to punish rather than assist those who are vulnerable; changes of Government funding of community services that does not strengthen our capacity to assist; and a lack of progress in key areas such as housing, indigenous wellbeing, asylum seekers, families under pressure, etc.

Signs of hope, however, emerge. Implementation of the National Disability and Insurance Scheme continues to hold out hope to many; there has been increased recognition and action around family violence; the

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.

Pope Francis  
The Joy of the Gospel (2014)

*Continued on page 8*

# executive director's report

*Continued from page 7*

the Gospel tells us constantly to run the risk of a face-to-face encounter with others, with their physical presence which challenges us, with their pain and their pleas, with their joy which infects us in our close and continuous interaction.

Pope Francis  
*The Joy of the Gospel* (2014)

commitment and contribution of organisations, their staff and volunteers is unabated; there has been increased reflection and analysis of what we as a sector need to do to thrive in changing and challenging times.

This Annual Report chronicles our main activities for 2014. We are very much aware of their shortcomings, and their modest reach. But we are very pleased to be associated with them, and with the people who made them possible.

To highlight just a few items:

Our work in policy and advocacy culminated in a campaign around the 2014 Victorian election that involved a brochure that highlighted issues of interest and concern, a forum with representatives from the major parties, and engagement across parishes, etc.

This work built on the work of our members, but also on earlier submissions and papers on disability and inclusion, social housing, sector reform, competition policy, and aspects of the criminal justice system.

Our annual dinner and our Commissioning Mass and AGM were among occasions to help build our network of support and shared endeavour. Breakfast forums and workshops around particular topics complemented these.

Engagement with parishes and support for their outreach to those in need took on clearer shape, as we established a pattern of regular contact, including around our asylum seeker support program, and its forum for parishes and agencies in November 2014.

Reflecting on our Catholic ethos and identity, and its implications for our work, continued through the year, including through the publication of the book from our 2013 conference – *Listening Learning Leading: The impact of Catholic identity and mission*, edited by Gabrielle McMullen and John Warhurst, and an exploration of Catholic Prison Ministry by Ruth Webber.

Among other developments in this sphere, we continued our Catholic Social Teaching presentations; commenced an expanding dialogue on the specific value that our



2014 AGM  
*Sr Mary O'Shannassy, Adrian Foley, Anne Bavington, Sr Margaret Armstrong, Rev Jim Curtain*

sector adds to the society; and worked for the delivery in 2015 of our Leadership for Mission program, and in February 2016 of our conference, with Catholic Social Services Australia, on *Mission making a difference in a changing world*.

Sexual abuse within the Church also continued to loom large. Liaison within the Church was a major feature of this work, and a submission on responses to victims of abuse was one of our outputs.

2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council, where the Church as a whole committed itself to engagement with society:

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.

Our Catholic social services stand in this tradition, and Catholic Social Services Victoria works to serve them and the Church in general. The support we received in 2014 gives confidence that in the coming years we can continue to contribute to fullness of life for those who are poor, marginalised or disadvantaged, through our work as a peak body for Catholic social service providers in Victoria.

**Denis Fitzgerald**

Executive Director

Let us receive a heart which is firm and merciful, attentive and generous, a heart which is not closed, indifferent or prey to the globalisation of indifference.

Pope Francis  
(Lent 2015)



*Launch of Election Pamphlet  
Bishop Vincent Long*



*2014 AGM  
Denis Fitzgerald, Paul Fogarty, Terry O'Shannassy,  
Sr Therese Power*



*2014 AGM  
John Falzon addressing the 2014 AGM*



*Launch of Prison Chaplaincy Report  
Prof Ruth Webber addressing the Launch audience.*

# 2014 activities report

There is a place for the poor and their culture, their aspirations and their potential. Even people who can be considered dubious on account of their errors have something to offer which must not be overlooked.

Pope Francis  
The Joy of the Gospel (2014)

## Our strategies

Members of the Council and Committees of Catholic Social Services Victoria gathered in late 2013 for a day of reflection and strategic planning. With assistance from facilitator Bernie Cronin, this gathering produced a three year plan of strategic action from 2104 – 2016, under the three continuing 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, under the strategic headings:

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

There is also a section on 'working with others'.

## Policy and Advocacy

Our advocacy work during the year was guided by our Policy and Advocacy Committee, chaired by Fr Joe Caddy.

This work culminated in a campaign around the 2014 Victorian election that involved a brochure that highlighted issues of interest and concern, a forum with representatives from the major parties, and engagement across parishes, etc. The campaign was endorsed by the Bishops of Victoria, and was launch by Bishop Vincent Long.

Our material included general principles that derive from the Gospels and the Church's reflection on society, namely:

- we should respect the dignity of each person
- we have an obligation to work for the common good,
- we have an obligation towards those who are vulnerable or in particular need
- and we are called to play our part to ensure that society as a whole focuses on these principles.

It sought to resource members of the broader community to reflect on the directions they want our society to move in, and policies and priorities that they wanted from Members of Parliament and the Government. It provided a path forward by

- identifying areas of policy concern to our Catholic social services community,
- offering background information and analysis and,
- proposing Government and community actions,

in the following areas:

- alcohol and other drugs
- closing the gap
- providing inclusion for people with disability
- homelessness and social housing
- mental health
- justice
- children in care
- family violence
- vulnerable young people
- community infrastructure and regional disparity

The campaign was well received by members, politicians and parishes. Some feedback queried why other issues were not included – the range of issues and the varying interests of members will always require that judgements be made.

During the course of the year, substantial submissions were also presented, and advocacy undertaken, on a range of core issues, including:

Disability and Inclusion: Our submission to a Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into social inclusion for people with disability made recommendations around promoting a culture of acceptance and of equal citizenship; provision of enabling infrastructure; effective service design, including services directed

at people who experience particular disadvantage, such as young people with disability living in nursing homes; and adequate funding of Government-funded services.

**Social Housing:** our response to a Victorian Government social housing framework called for continued investment in the required housing and the social and economic life of vulnerable Victorians.

**Sector reform:** There was extensive advocacy around Victorian Government tendering processes and their outcomes in the areas of community mental health, and alcohol and other drugs services. Our submission to the Victorian Government's Sector Reform Council recommended that the principles that should inform retendering of services by Government include -

- a clear focus on the needs, preferences and hopes of potential clients.
- service models which are of demonstrated benefit to all clients for whom services are intended, and have points of access appropriate to their various situations.
- the capacity for organisations to innovate based on an understanding of the situation of current and potential clients.
- a prior assessment of the impact of the process on services within the sector, including the contribution of volunteers, the public, and auspicing organisations.

**Competition policy:** Our submission to the Commonwealth's Harper Review of Competition Policy acknowledged the need for effectiveness and efficiency, but highlighted some of the features of human services that could be at risk if subject to a broad-brush policy of developing competitive markets - competition policy should complement not replace the way in which the sector works.

The spirit of collaboration within the sector is one important feature; another is that the services delivered by the sector to the most vulnerable in our community are outcomes of relationships between service providers and the people they serve. Moreover, in practice, hasty implementation of competitive regimes has damaged the delivery of services and affected clients and institutions alike.

Our consideration of competition policy also focuses our attention on what are the distinctive features of our work – what is the specific value add of Catholic social services? This topic will continue to be a feature of our work in 2015, with a view to further published output.

The criminal justice system was the subject of several documents, developed as part of the Interchurch Criminal Justice Taskforce. These included:

- a brochure for congregations setting out the principles of restorative justice, and

Relationship by definition requires a mutual listening and learning, and from the service provider perspective, a humility and respectful recognition of all the client brings to the encounter.

Margaret Mary O'Flynn IBVM  
(Listening Learning & Leading  
2013)



2014 AGM  
Cathy Humphreys, Sheree Limbrick, Jackie Brady



2014 AGM  
Veronica Hassett, Sr Judy Bellesini, Sr Michele Toussaint

Continued on page 12

# 2014 activities report

Continued from page 11

Every Christian community is called to go out of itself and to be engaged in the life of the greater society of which it is a part, especially with the poor and those who are far away.

Pope Francis  
(Lent 2015)

inviting readers to advocate for a justice system that would build a more just and compassionate society.

- advice and logistical support to Church leaders on an open letter to MPs advocating for a fairer and more just justice system.
- a submission to the Victorian Ombudsman on rehabilitation and resettlement programs. As well as specific recommendations, this submission reflected on the general issues that are of concern to the Taskforce.

These include:

- the rapid increase in prisoner numbers in Victoria over the past ten years, and in particular over the past four years.
- some of the legislative changes to sentencing provisions over the past four years appear to have been driven more by political considerations than by concerns for community safety or reductions in recidivism.
- academic opinion and advice from our prison chaplains indicates that recidivism is not well served by increasing incarceration.

*Pathways to Partnerships* was a series of evening workshops for member organisations exploring and resourcing effective collaboration across the Catholic social services sector. Workshops focused on the lessons for all organisations from the initial experience of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, and on the theory and experience of mergers between organisations.



Asylum Seeker Parish Support Forum

## 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 Robyn Roberts, oversaw this work, and monitored its reach and effectiveness.

Our Commissioning Mass and Annual General Meeting was held in March at All Saints Parish, Fitzroy. Fr Joe Caddy, CEO of CatholicCare Melbourne led the celebration of the Mass, and Mr John Falzon, CEO of The Society of St Vincent de Paul spoke eloquently at the AGM in challenging us to be more prophetic in our response to inequalities in Australian society. He vividly reinforced how we need to stand in solidarity with those who are most oppressed among us.

The Speaker at our Annual Dinner in August was Professor Maria Harries, Chair of Catholic Social Services Australia and a member of the Truth, Justice and Healing Council. Maria spoke on *Leadership in a Time of Challenge and Change*. She acknowledged and challenged every one present as a leader in our community of faith and service – “all are warriors for justice and peace in a world that appears ambivalent about peace and equality and yet a world in which there is much human compassion intermixed with considerable amounts of moral oblivion.”

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.

We also continued our Breakfast Briefing series during 2014, featuring

- July: Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin on *Catholic Social Teaching and Today's Issues*"
- September: the launch of our *State Election Kit* by Bishop Vincent Long, Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne
- October: the launch of Professor Ruth Webber's study *An Exploration of Catholic Prison Ministry* by Monsignor Greg Bennet, Vicar General of the Melbourne Archdiocese
- November: Dr Kathy Landvogt, Acting Director Growth & Policy at Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand presented on current research into family violence: *Economic abuse in the household*.

A forum in July on Church and Government responses to the issue of sexual abuse. Some of the policy leaders with our member agencies met with Francis Sullivan, CEO of the Truth, Justice & Healing Council; Frank McGuire MP, Deputy Chair of the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the handling of child abuse in religious and other institutions, and Francis Moore, Executive Director, Administration of the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

There were several meetings of members associated with advocacy around the tendering by the Victorian Government for alcohol and drug services, and community mental health services.



2014 Annual Dinner Guests  
Msg Anthony Ireland, Peter Richardson,  
Richardson, Patrice Scales



In November the Asylum Seeker Parish Support program hosted a forum for Catholic parishes of Melbourne. This was a valuable opportunity for parishes and others to share ideas and resources and encourage further initiatives and outreach 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 have brought establishing and developing this program.

#### **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. Sr Michelle Reid chaired the Committee that focused on this specific aspect of our work.

*Listening, Learning and Leading: The impact of Catholic identity and mission*, the book emerging from our 2013 Conference on Mission and Identity, was launched nationally in five cities during 2014. Edited by Professors Gabrielle McMullen and John Warhurst, it is a set of articles that include the keynote presentations and other papers from of the conference. The launches were an opportunity to make these reflections available to a wider audience:

- In May Archbishop Hart launched the book in Melbourne and emphasised that "Catholic Social Teaching can be a very positive point of entry to the mission of a Catholic agency, so too can it engage all staff in reflection on how things are done".
- The Hon Kevin Andrews MP launched the book in Canberra at Parliament House in June

We've got to come back...to that vision that dictates what we 'get high' about, which is the mind and the heart and the touch and the voice of Jesus Christ.

*Bishop Eugene Hurley  
(Listening learning & Leading  
2013)*

Continued on page 14

# 2014 activities report

Continued from page 13

Are we in the throes of achieving what we've always coveted and at the same time losing our identity as we forget our past and the paths of sacrifice by which we've travelled?

Bishop Eugene Hurley  
(Listening Learning & Leading  
2013)

- Rowena McNally, Chair of Catholic Health Australia, launched it in Brisbane in August during the annual CHA national conference.
- We were delighted to have the incoming CEO of Catholic Social Services Australia, Marcelle Mogg launch the book in Sydney in September
- A longstanding supporter of Catholic Social Services, Emeritus Bishop Peter Connors of Ballarat, launched the book in that city in October.

At all the launches it was noted that this book is a rich and relevant resource for many organisations in the formation and development of staff in Catholic vision and practice.

Catholic Social Teaching underpins the work of our member organisations, and our program in this area provides formation opportunities for people in our sector. Activities during the year included:

- Two workshops for staff of member organisations, and two targeted at Board members during 2014. Feedback from participants was overwhelming positive and appreciative of the content and resources being offered.
- Workshops were also conducted for three of our member organisations.
- A chapter on Catholic Social Teaching in *Listening, Learning, Leading*, by Fr Frank Brennan, on Catholic Social Teaching
- A number of gatherings on particular Catholic Social Teaching topics, including our July Breakfast Briefing with Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin, provided a more deeper focus.

During the year we also developed a *Leadership for Mission* program, to be launched in March 2015. The aim of this set of three Forums is to equip leaders in the Catholic social services sector to more effectively develop and strengthen their organisations in carrying out their transformative role.

Professor Ruth Webber's report on Catholic

Prison Ministry was another highlight. Auspiced by Catholic Social Services Victoria and CatholicCare, Archdiocese of Melbourne, the report opened several windows into the work of chaplains, and the impact they have on the lives of those they serve. It was well received by the chaplaincy community and those associated with this work, and is soon to be published by the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council.

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. Thirty nine people participated in at least one of our five gatherings during 2014.

In July as a lead-in to the World AIDS conference held in Melbourne, Caritas and others convened a pre-conference on the Catholic Church response to HIV and AIDS. CSSV staff and some of our member organisations were participants in this very informative and challenging weekend of input and dialogue with a range of international and local speakers.

Another initiative during 2014 was the hosting of a 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. CSSV staff and other colleagues from the Archdiocesan offices participated in the program, which, during 2015, will be offered more broadly.

## Working with others

As is the case with our member organisations, and as Catholic Social Teaching encourages, much of our work is in partnerships of various sorts with others 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 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.

There has been a heightened appreciation and response to this group at CSSV during 2014. The most significant development has been the Asylum Seeker Parish Support project. Many parishes are actively engaged in supporting asylum seekers through a range of activities. This project is an attempt to support and empower these parishes and to support and encourage others to respond to this very marginalised group within our society.

Another parish-focussed activity has been the preparation of resources for parish leaders in observing Social Services Sunday in the Archdiocese, which falls on the Sunday prior to Ash Wednesday.

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 the hosting in Ballarat of a launch of *Listening, Learning, Leading*.
- a regular column in *Kairos*, the fortnightly journal of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, was a useful channel of communication.
- the cooperation of various agencies of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has enriched many of our endeavours.
- Presentations by staff at Church-related events, and to various member and broader gatherings, also extended further these linkages.

We welcomed Dr Maria Harries as the new Chair of the Board at Catholic Social Services Australia, and Marcelle Mogg as Executive Director. We continued our close collaboration with them, as exemplified by Maria's speaking at our annual dinner, and Marcelle's launching in Sydney of *Listening Learning Leading*. Their continued financial support for Catholic Social Services Victoria is very much appreciated, as is the collegial cooperation at all levels.



**Victorian**  
Council of Churches

Cooperation with other churches and with other faith bodies also continued in 2014. 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. The Criminal Justice Taskforce was particularly active during the 2014 election year, as outlined earlier. 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. VCOSS 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.

The mission will be evident in things like how we treat each other, our commitment to those most in need, how we conduct our meetings, how we manage our resources

*Julie Edwards*  
*(Listening Learning & Leading*  
*2013)*

# finance report

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 (2014)*

<b>Finances for calendar year 2013, and previous periods</b>			
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Income</b>			
Membership fees	\$86,470	\$79,245	\$78,631
Grants from regional Dioceses	\$64,416	\$62,906	\$62,160
CSSA support	\$33,225	\$30,000	\$20,000
Other	\$74,431	\$140,980	\$40,949
Subtotal	\$258,542	\$313,131	\$201,740
Support from Archdiocese of Melbourne	\$304,107	\$258,941	\$240,441
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$562,649</b>	<b>\$572,072</b>	<b>\$442,181</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Staff and related costs	\$429,388	\$400,501	\$332,897
Other operating	\$133,261	\$171,571	\$109,284
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>\$562,649</b>	<b>\$572,072</b>	<b>\$442,181</b>
<b>Net result</b>	-	-	-
<b>Memo</b>			
CSSV trust fund balance at 31 December 2013	<b>\$85,835</b>	<b>\$114,908</b>	<b>\$124,437</b>

## **Catholic Social Services Victoria financial results for 2014**

### **Highlights**

Total income and expenditure, each at \$563k, were \$10k or 2% less than 2013, supporting output at a level similar to 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 \$304k, which balances expenditure and other income and for the year. This was an increase over the previous year. The reason for this one-off reversal of a trend was an agreed increased contribution by the Archdiocese to CSSV's project capability.
- Contributions from regional dioceses totaled \$64k in 2014, increasing with CPI over the previous year, and remaining steady at 11% of total income.

- Membership fees were \$86k and improved by 9% on the previous year. This change related mainly to more thorough follow up.
- The contribution from Catholic Social Services Australia was \$33k for the calendar year. The \$3k increase over 2013 was due to timing issues – CSSA's financial year is from July-June.

Staff costs were 7% higher in 2014 than in 2013, and other costs were lower. This reflects that the 2013 accounts included costs of the conference held that year, and an increase in staff input into project work 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 2014 was \$86k. An annual payment of \$5,369 from the Trust Fund was transferred to general income during 2012, and \$28,000 was utilised for project costs.

# council, committees & membership

Council of Catholic Social Services Victoria at 31 December 2014

**Very Rev. Tony Kerin PP EV**

Episcopal Vicar for Justice and Social Services

**Ms Patrice Scales** (Chair of Council)

**Mr David Beaver**

Chief Executive Officer  
Centacare, Diocese of Ballarat

**Fr Joe Caddy**

Chief Executive Officer  
CatholicCare Melbourne

**Ms Julie Edwards**

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)

**Mr Gerard Jones**

Executive Director of Operations  
MacKillop Family Services

**Sr Michelle Reid sgs**

(Deputy Chair of Council)  
Manager  
Good Samaritan Inn

**Mr Peter Richardson**

Director  
CatholicCare Sandhurst

**Ms Robyn Roberts**

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)  
David Beaver (Treasurer)  
Tony Hollamby  
Fr Tony Kerin  
Denis Fitzgerald

**Member Support Committee**

Robyn Roberts (Chair)  
Vicki Clark  
Jan Horsnell  
Peter Richardson  
Patrice Scales (ex-officio)  
Helen Burt  
Denis Fitzgerald  
Peter Hudson

**Policy and Advocacy Committee**

Fr Joe Caddy (Chair)  
Cath Neville  
Damien McCartin (until May 2014)  
Gavin Dufty  
Gerard Jones  
Kathy Landvogt  
Marilyn Webster  
Patrice Scales (ex-officio)  
Professor Ruth Webber  
Vin Martin  
Helen Burt  
Denis Fitzgerald  
Peter Hudson

**Catholic Ethos and Identity Committee**

Sr Michelle Reid (Chair)  
Br Bill Wilding cfc  
Carol Vale (retired Nov 2014)  
Damien McCartin (till May 2014)  
David Beaver  
Br Doug Walsh fms OAM (retired Nov 2014)  
Jenny Glare  
Michael Yore  
Fr Tony Kerin  
Patricia McCourt  
Patrice Scales (ex-officio)  
Helen Burt  
Denis Fitzgerald  
Peter Hudson

We are not solely in the business of delivering services, rather our goal is to build a just society by accompanying people to realise their full potential.

Julie Edwards  
(Listening Learning & Leading  
2013)

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)*

## **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  
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 Aged Services  
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  
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  
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  
VincentCare Victoria  
Wellsprings for Women

## **Life Members of Catholic Social Services Victoria**

Sr Toni Matha AM ibvm  
Rev Kevin Mogg AM PE  
Mr Bernie Geary OAM



*2014 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 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:

Asylum Seekers Resource Centre  
Aboriginal Catholic Ministry  
Adrian Cropley  
Adrian Foley  
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Anne Tuohy  
Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation  
Australian Catholic University  
Barbara Kitchen  
Brenda Hubber  
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Catholic Church Insurances Ltd  
Catholic Communications Melbourne  
Catholic Development Fund, Archdiocese of Melbourne  
Catholic Education Office, Melbourne  
Catholic Health Australia  
Catholic Social Services Australia  
Catholic Social Services Australia, NSW/ACT Branch  
Catholic Super  
Connor Court Publishing  
Consult Point  
Cynthia Viti  
Eva Ansiting  
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Frances Brick  
Hans Zerno

Jackie Brady  
Jan Hayes  
Janet Cribbes  
Joan Donoghue  
Jose Quiroga  
Julie Morgan  
Kairos Catholic Journal  
Dr Karen Gelb  
Fr Kevin Mogg  
Kris Johnstone  
Lansdowne Cafe  
Laurie Findlay  
Dr Lois Martin  
Margaret Nutbeam  
Maria Armstrong  
Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre  
Sr Mary O'Shannassy sgs  
Fr Michael Mooney  
Michael Yore  
Fr Noel Connolly  
Dr Paul Taylor  
Sandie Cornish  
Sauro Antonelli  
Sophia Erickson  
St Vincents Health Australia  
Sonia Starc  
Susan Sullivan  
Thomas Carr Centre Staff  
Tiffany Orbien  
Tomas Morales  
Vin Martin  
Pastoral Projects Office

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Brenda Hubber  
Brunswick Parishes  
Sr Brigid Arthur csb  
Brian Luby  
Fr Bruce Duncan CSsR  
Camberwell Parish  
Colleen Hartland MP  
Archbishop Diarmuid Martin  
Archbishop Denis Hart  
Deepdene Parish

Douglas Hyde  
Francis Moore  
Francis Sullivan  
Frank Maguire MP  
Br Frank Perkins cfc  
Professor Gabrielle McMullen  
Gerard Jones  
Monsignor Greg Bennet  
Helen O'Kane  
Hon James Merlino MP  
James O'Brien  
Jenny Glare  
Jesse Hooper  
Keegan Clothier  
Maddy Mac  
Filomemo Boavida  
Fr Joe Caddy  
Dr Joe Fleming  
Dr John Falzon  
Professor John Warhurst AO  
Sr Josephine O'Kelly  
Hon Kevin Andrews MP  
Dr Kathy Landvogt  
Libby Saunders  
Magitha Suresh  
Marcelle Mogg  
Professor Maria Harries AM  
Fr Michael Casey  
Hon Mary Wooldridge MP  
Fr Michael Hansen SJ  
Sr Michelle Reid sgs  
Patricia McCourt  
Peter Charles  
Peter Coltery  
Bishop Emeritus Peter Connors  
Phillip Steele  
Rachel McLoughlin  
Rowena McNally  
Professor Ruth Webber  
Sally Anne Petrie  
Sheree Limbrick  
Stephanie Worsteling  
Tony Hollamby  
Vicki Clarke  
Bishop Vincent Long

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



## Prayer to the Mother of God

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.

from Pope Francis (*The Joy of the Gospel*)



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