



## Welcoming asylum seekers a focus of action and of advocacy

Parishes in Melbourne have been [invited](#) to contribute more to the wellbeing of asylum seekers in our community, under a program launched in May by Catholic Social Services Victoria.

The Australian Catholic Bishops have made a strong [statement](#) criticising our current national policy towards those seeking asylum, and other parts of the Church have stepped up their work of advocacy in solidarity with those seeking refuge. ([read more](#))



## Vulnerable people not the main focus in 2014 Budgets

The recent [Victorian budget](#) focused on transport investment, but missed an opportunity to focus on the needs of those on the margins of our prospering society.

The 13 May [Commonwealth budget](#) seems to have been worse - most of the 'heavy lifting' will be done by those on the margin.

We need a return to solidarity and dignity for all. One opportunity to redress these imbalances will be in the run-up to the Victorian November 2014 general election.



## Our news and developments

Welcoming [asylum seekers](#)

[Pathways](#) to Partnerships – 19 May forum on readiness for change

Impact of Identity and Mission: [Book launch](#) on 22 May

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Proposed [Racial Discrimination Act](#) changes

Call for an [economy of social inclusion](#)

## Members news and events

## Also of interest

## Our events

### Pathways to Partnership workshops

19 May – Ready for a Changing Environment  
23 July – Re-thinking Organisational Collaboration  
17 September – Sharing Resources

### Book Launch: Listening, Learning & Leading – Catholic Identity and Mission

Melbourne: 22 May 2014 – [click](#) for flyer.  
Canberra: 26 June 2014

### Breakfast Briefing – Tuesday 15 July

Catholic Social Teaching & today's big issues – Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Dublin. [Click](#) for flyer.

### Annual Dinner - Friday 8 August

7.00pm at Leonda, Hawthorn. [Bookings](#) now open

### Orientation for Mission

A 2014 program of three evenings for Leaders in Catholic social services – more info to come.

- Tuesday 19 August
- Tuesday 23 September
- Tuesday 21 October



## Our News and developments

### Welcoming asylum seekers

Many parishes in Melbourne are active in supporting asylum seekers, through provision of accommodation and other support. Catholic social services providers support these activities. The recent initiative seeks to build on this work by [inviting](#) parishes to share with others the work they are doing, and/or to contribute more to the wellbeing of asylum seekers in our community.

In addition to the recent welcome [statement](#) from the Australian Catholic Bishops, prior to the Palm Sunday march, Bishop Vincent Long (pictured) delivered a challenging and inspiring homily at a prayer service at St Patrick's Cathedral - click [here](#) for the text of that homily.



Also of note is the advocacy project coordinated by Jesuit Social Services and Cabrini Health to engage Catholic communities and the broader Australian society in supporting change in community attitudes to asylum seekers. Click [here](#) to support a statement of principles, which is an initial step in this campaign.

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### Pathways to Partnership - 19 May forum on readiness for change

The winds of change blowing through our sector are being felt keenly. We need to learn from each other as we seek to position our own organisations to ensure that our services can continue.



Three evening forums have been scheduled for 2014, to assist member organisations to engage positively with the emerging environment.

Our forum last November highlighted the urgency of addressing these issues – see notes below on that forum.

The next forum is on Monday evening, 19 May, at East Melbourne. The National Disability Service has developed a toolkit designed to help organisations to strategically adapt to the emerging market-driven environment. This has grown out of their experience with the early months of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, but our members from that sector advise that it is of significant value for all those who contract for the provision of community service.

Click [here](#) for more details on this particular forum.

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### Book Launch Thursday 22 May – Melbourne

#### Listening, Learning and Leading: The Impact of Catholic Identity and Mission



Click [here](#) for an invitation to the 22 May Melbourne launch by Archbishop Denis Hart of our new book on the impact of identity and mission. Click [here](#) to purchase the book, which emerges from our [2013 conference, Looking, Learning and Leading](#). Edited by Gabrielle McMullen and John Warhurst, contributors include Chris Lowney, Julie Edwards, Sr Margaret Mary Flynn, Vicki Clark, Jenny Glare, Fr Frank Brennan, David Beaver.



## Orientation for Mission



This is a program of three evening sessions designed to make Board members and senior staff more effective leaders in a Catholic social services environment. A 2014 program of three evenings ,for Leaders in Catholic social services – more info to come.

- Tuesday 19 August
- Tuesday 23 September
- Tuesday 21 October

**Forum leaders:** Fr Noel Connolly, a leader in reflection of the role of mission in the world today; Sandie Cornish, an expert in the relevance and the application of Catholic Social Teaching to the work of Catholic organisations; and Fr Joe Caddy, CEO of CatholicCare Melbourne.

Enquiries: **Lucia Brick t: 9287 5566**

**Documentation and bookings available soon.**

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## Mission Network

### Next meeting 26 June 2014

The next meeting of this network is at 2.00pm on Thursday 26 June. All who share responsibility for mission are welcome to join this faith-based gathering. Please don't hesitate to contact Peter Hudson if you would like to discuss any aspect of this – [phudson@css.org.au](mailto:phudson@css.org.au), tel 09287 5570.

At our most recent meeting, on 3 April, we reflected together on the impact of Pope Francis' message of joy, mercy and hope in his recent 'Exhortation' [\*The Joy of the Gospel\*](#) and on his other words and actions during this first year of his pontificate.

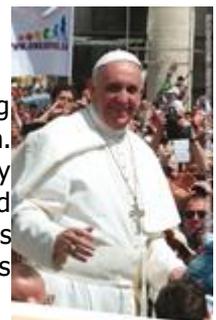
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## Catholic Social Teaching workshop

### Next session Tuesday 30 September

These workshops are a valuable formative experience and a great networking opportunity for all concerned. They present a mix of input, reflection and discussion. The key Catholic Social teaching principles of human dignity, common good, solidarity and subsidiarity are presented and applied. Feedback has been very positive and participants felt they were better resourced to engage with Catholic Social Teaching as a framework for analysis of our society, and of our individual and collective obligations to work for a more just and compassionate society.

Queries etc welcomed - please direct to [phudson@css.org.au](mailto:phudson@css.org.au) tel 9287 5570.



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## Proposed changes to the Racial Discrimination Act

On 10 April 2014, Fr Frank Brennan [\*reflected\*](#) on the proposed changes:

- Senator Brandis has circulated a proposal to amend the existing provisions prohibiting offensive behaviour based on racial hatred. ...





- It is ludicrous to suggest, as does the government draft, that the reasonable likelihood of intimidation 'be determined by the standards of an ordinary member of the Australian community, not by the standards of any particular group within the Australian community'. It is not a matter of standards but of apprehensions of fear. Such fear is not endured by all Australians, but by racially targeted groups.
- And there is no reason to limit intimidation to fear of physical harm. Some racist taunts can be very intimidating even if physical harm is not threatened.
- It is also ludicrous to stipulate that the law would not apply to words used 'in the course of participating in the public discussion of any political, social cultural, religious, artistic, academic or scientific matter'.



## Call for an economy of social inclusion: putting people first

The dignity of the human person must be the central focus of national and global economies. This is a key message from Pope Francis' recent statements, and from the Church in Australia, in a [statement](#) to mark the 1 May 2014 Feast of St Joseph

## Members news and events



### First People's Lighting Pathways for All

#### Reconciliation Week Exhibition 13 May - 2 June 2014

A cross-cultural Art Exhibition and Reconciliation Week event presented by Project Dreaming Tracks Inc at St Francis Pastoral Centre, 326 Lonsdale St, Melbourne. If you wish to take part contact (03) 9480 1121 or email [pdtooffice@bigpond.com](mailto:pdtooffice@bigpond.com) [Download](#) flyer.

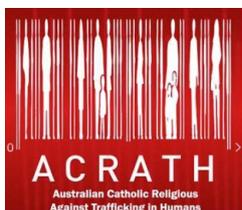


### Oh What a Night!

#### Good Shepherd annual fundraiser - Thursday 15 May

The evening will see us launch the Doyle Scholarship and Mentoring Program. A unique program that not only will provide women undergoing financial stress to access higher education or vocational training but we set them up with full support for the duration of their study via a mentor in the chosen field.

The link to accessing your ticket and further information can be found at <http://www.goodshepvic.org.au/events> Click [here](#) for a flyer.



### Campaign to Halt Forced Labour

Australia's Catholic anti-trafficking organisation has launched a major labour trafficking awareness campaign through ethnic media outlets in a bid to reach



people forced to work in Australia for little or no wages. The RAP (Radio Awareness Project) will also target print media throughout 2014. [read](#) full media release

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## **Pink Lightning Project - A social enterprise mobile manicure service from Marist Youth Care - [Read more](#)**

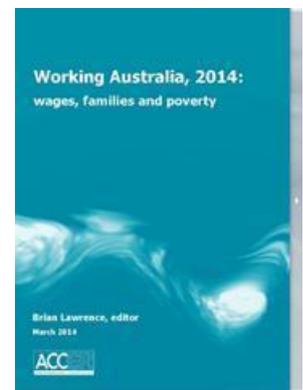
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## **Solo Catholics - Dining & Dancing, Friday 23 May, [Read more](#)**

### Also of interest

## **Working Australia 2014: Wages, families and poverty**

The main message of this e-[book](#), edited by Brian Lawrence, Chair of the Australian Catholic Commission for Employment Relations, is that the wages safety net is failing to keep workers and their families out of poverty. 'The important issue is why it has been allowed to happen over more than a decade of enormous national economic growth, despite the Global Financial Crisis.' [Read more..](#)



## **Communities in Control, 26, 27 May 2014 - [Read more](#)**

## **9 August Asylum Seeker Convention - [Read more](#) or to register [online](#)**

## **Feedback needed from TAFE students - [Read more](#)**

## **Truth, Justice and Healing Council - [Read more](#)**

### Catholic Social Services Victoria

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