

This is what God asks of you, only this,
to act justly, to love tenderly,
and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)

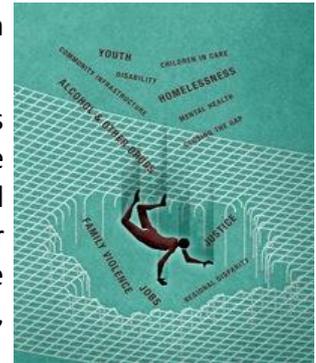
Catholic Social Services Victoria

September 2014

Mend the Net - 2014 Victorian Election kit

We released our [2014 state Election Brochure](#) on Wednesday 17th September.

This kit, entitled *Mend the Net - who will speak out if you don't?* analyses key issues facing Victorians, and in particular those who are disadvantaged or marginalised. It does this in light of the general principles of the dignity of the human person, and our shared concern for the common good. Issues addressed include alcohol abuse, Closing the Gap faced by Aboriginal Victorians, family violence, mental health, justice, and inclusion for people with disability.



Calling on communities to play their part in making Victoria a fair and just society, the brochure at the centre of the launch expands on these issues to guide analysis and dialogue. It also gives concrete recommendations to the incoming government to ensure that Victoria continues to move towards a place of opportunity and fairness for all.

This material has been delivered to Catholic parishes throughout Victoria. Parishioners are urged to reflect on these issues, and to engage with their local MPs and candidates. There are postcards provided that can be used to initiate this contact. Bishop Vincent Long's remarks when launching the kit are included in ancillary [online material](#).

Other news and developments

[Tender process excludes vulnerable Victorians](#)

[Restorative Justice](#)

[Listening, Learning and Leading](#)

[Pathways to Partnerships](#)

[Our 2014 Annual Dinner](#)

[Catholic Social Teaching](#)

[Solidarity with Muslims](#)

Upcoming Events

[Breakfast Briefing – Tuesday 7 October: *An Exploration of Catholic Prison Ministry*](#)

[Anti Poverty week ecumenical Liturgy - 14 October 1.00pm](#)

[Breakfast Briefing on economic violence in the home – Tuesday 11 November, details tba](#)

[Asylum Seeker Forum](#), as part of our Parish Support program, 21 November 2014

Thursday 12 March **2015 - Annual Mass and AGM**; 9.30am at MacKillop Family Services

Friday 4 September **2015 – Annual Dinner**

Member News and Events

Congratulations to [Micaela Cronin](#) on Award Solo Catholics 'Elvis Vegas' Cabaret

[St Mary's House of Welcome](#), Trivia Night on Friday 17 October

News and developments

Tender process excludes vulnerable Victorians

The 2014 Victorian Government re-tendering of Alcohol and Other Drug and of community mental health services Psychiatric has had a negative impact on services to some vulnerable Victorians. We call on the Victorian Government to re-instate this funding, and to learn the lessons of the tender process. [Read more..](#)



A Christian approach to a safer and more just society



The Victorian Interchurch Criminal Justice Taskforce has released a [brochure](#) to give a Christian perspective on current issues of punishment, imprisonment and rehabilitation, and to offer effective and just ways to reduce crime and increase community safety. This has been distributed to Church congregations in Victoria.

In a related development, Victorian Church leaders have written to all Members of Parliament, calling for a 'restorative justice' approach to crime and offending, with a focus on prevention of crime, support for victims of crime, diversion from prison, rehabilitation of offenders and suspended sentencing. Click [here](#) for a copy of the letter.

Catholic Social Teaching

The Church has a social and moral responsibility to increase its commitment and efforts to help the suffering of the world's poor - Archbishop of Dublin Diarmuid Martin (pictured at right) at our CSSV breakfast on 15 July. Click [here](#) for a report that appeared in *Kairos* Catholic Journal.



Catholic Social Teaching workshops



Next session Tuesday 30 September, 9.00 – 12.30pm.

Come and discover the richness of Catholic Social Teaching. [Download](#) flyer. Venue: Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert St, East Melbourne (cnr Lansdowne St). Cost \$35.00 (members); \$45.00 (non members).

Bookings to Lucia Brick: 9287 5566 or email: lucia.brick@css.org.au.

Queries etc welcomed - please direct to phudson@css.org.au tel 9287 5570.

We are also again offering "**Leadership for Service and Solidarity**" an Introduction to Catholic Social Teaching for leadership and Board personnel. This is scheduled for Thursday 27 November, from 6 pm to 9 pm at the Thomas Carr Centre, 278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne. [Download](#) flyer.



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

There have been several events highlighting the book from our 2013 conference, entitled *Listening, Learning and Leading: The impact of Catholic identity and mission*.



The book was launched in Canberra on 26 June. The Hon Kevin Andrews MP, Minister for Social Services, and Professor John Warhurst, one of the editors, spoke at the launch, which was hosted by Catholic Social Services Australia. *(Photo: Patrice Scales, Chair of Catholic Social Services Victoria, and Minister Kevin Andrews.)*

The Chair of Catholic Health Australia, Ms Rowena McNally, launched the volume at their conference in Brisbane, on 24 August.

Remaining functions are in Sydney on Tuesday 30 September and in Ballarat on Tuesday 7 October – enquiries to Lucia on 9287 5566, lbrick@css.org.au.

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. The book includes addresses and papers from the conference of the same title hosted by Catholic Social Services Victoria in October 2013 – [click here](#) for more information on the addresses and workshops from the conference and [click here](#) for details on the book and how to order.

Pathways to Partnership held 23 July 2014

Thanks to our presenters from various agencies for an instructive discussion on 23 July of case studies around mergers and attempted mergers within our sector. There were some basic messages around the need for both mission and business alignment; the importance and complexity of all stages: preparation, communication, and implementation; and the rewards that can be gained. A report on the meeting and further material is on our [website](#).

A further forum in this series is planned for the morning of **Thursday 14 November**, to explore options for sharing back-of-house services. Further information will be forwarded to members.

Update on Asylum Seeker Parish Support



The aim of this program is to assist parishes to reach out to asylum seekers. Since an email to all parishes in May 2014 we have been in contact with over 20 parishes, to learn more about their programs and interests.

We have also been developing materials and approaches that we can confidently recommend to other parishes. We've been documenting services that are currently happening and possibilities for the future and we have been putting in place communication arrangements. A six monthly newsletter for parishes will go out soon.

Key themes that are emerging, and that we're working on, include the need to better share experiences and information across the Archdiocese on asylum seeker support issues and assisting parishes to provide more hospitality and accommodation for asylum seekers. A forum for parishes is planned for Friday 21 November.

Please don't hesitate to contact project leader Adrian Foley, on tel 0497 780 233 or adrian.foley@css.org.au with any queries, comments, etc.



Our Annual Dinner – Friday 8 August 2014

Thanks to everyone who helped make our 14 August 2014 Annual Dinner a success – it was the breadth of guests that gave us the atmosphere and the celebration of shared purpose that made the evening so special.

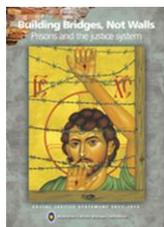
Click [here](#) for the text of Professor Maria Harries' address on Leadership in a time of challenge and change; [here](#) for the text of the Executive Director's remarks on the evening, and click [here](#) for the text of the acknowledgement of country.

Solidarity with Muslims

Archbishop Denis Hart **wrote** in *The Australian* on 26 September about the need for all of us to reach out to the Muslim community; and earlier Catholic Social Services Victoria had joined with other member of the Victoria Police Multi-faith Council in **urging** a continued opposition to violence and discrimination, and a continued focus on the positive features that have made Australia a place of harmonious diversity.

Upcoming Events

Breakfast Briefing Tuesday 7 October



'I was in prison...' An Exploration of Catholic Prison Ministry

Launch of a Report by Professor Ruth Webber

This report, commissioned by Catholic Social Services Victoria and CatholicCare, builds on interviews and literature to explore the operations of Catholic Prison Ministry in Victoria.

Dr Ruth Webber is a distinguished sociologist and an honorary Professor at Australian Catholic University.

7.15am for 7.30am start; finish at 8.45am. Click [here](#) for flyer

Anti Poverty Week, 12 - 18 October 2014



Poverty and severe hardship affect more than a million Australians. Around the world, more than a billion people are desperately poor. In Anti-Poverty Week all Australians are encouraged to organise or take part in an activity aiming to highlight or overcome issues of poverty and hardship here in Australia or overseas.

Among events to which you are invited are "**Voice from the Margins**", an ecumenical prayer service at 69 Bourke St, on Tuesday 14 October at 1.00pm – click [here](#) for flyer.



Breakfast Briefing Tuesday 11 November 2014

Economic abuse in the household

7.15am for 7.30am start; finish 8.45am

Guest Speaker: Kathy Landvogt, Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services

Venue: Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert St (entrance from Lansdowne St). **Cost** \$20.

Bookings and enquiries: Lucia Brick 9287 5566 or email: lucia.brick@css.org.au

Members news and events

Congratulations to Micaela Cronin, Chief Executive Officer, MacKillop Family Services, for her receipt of the prestigious Robin Clark Award for **Inspirational Leadership in working with vulnerable children, young people and families**. The award was announced by Minister Mary Wooldridge on 9 September, during Child Protection Week.

Micaela holds a number of leadership positions, including Chair of the Victorian Council for Social Services and co-chair of the Victorian Sector Reform Council. She is a former member of the Council of Catholic Social Services Victoria.



Solo Catholics weekend at Balnarring

Friday 17 - Sunday 19 October 2014

Enjoy a weekend stay at 17-19 Highview Court, Balnarring. Free time to relax, enjoy beach walks, markets, dining and great company!

Cost: \$55/2 nights (Members) \$60 Non Members.

Please contact Barbara on 5995 8410 for further details.



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