

mini MICAH

monthly update for members and friends of Catholic Social Services Victoria

April 2008

Hello, and welcome to *mini MICAH*.

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Recent CSSV News & Developments

- 🔗 On Wednesday 12th March, CSSV conducted its **Annual Commissioning Mass and Annual General Meeting**.
 - ♣ In his homily, Bishop Christopher Prowse, Episcopal Vicar for Justice and Social Services in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, highlighted the natural alignment of the Christian mission with natural sentiments of opposition to injustice; and stressed "it is now time for all of us to engage with our indigenous brothers and sisters to advance practical reconciliation".
 - ♣ Guest speaker at the AGM was Francis Moore, Business Manager of the Archdiocese of Melbourne. His presentation built on the historic teaching of the Church, that organised service to those in need, and working towards a more just and compassionate society, is at the core of the Church's mission.
 - ♣ The Annual Report was distributed at the meeting and mailed to those not present. It is also available online at www.css.org.au/publications

- 🔗 CSSV participated in a colloquium on *Mission and identity in Church-based organisations: Catholicity in practice*, along with representatives of the Catholic welfare, health and education sectors Australia-wide. For CSSV, assisting members with their work in this area will be an integral part of our emerging work program.

Follow-up to the colloquium to date includes: further contact with ACU regarding their community involvement program and a seminar engagement with other interested parties in the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

- 🔗 On 3rd April, in conjunction with Catholic Social Services Australia, CSSV hosted a forum on *Social Inclusion and what it means for Australia*. Jackie Brady from CSSA and several of our member organisations explored the concept of social inclusion that is a part of the re-focus of the Commonwealth Government. There was a consensus that the concept was a useful ways of gaining focus on key remedial issues, but that this should not be at the cost

of Government efforts to provide adequate standards for all Australians in education, health, shelter and other areas of basic human need.

- ♣ Further workshops and seminars are planned on issues where there is value to member agencies and their clients from our exchanging ideas and experience. We will advise details as they emerge, and we welcome suggestions for topics.
- 🔒 A round of visits to member agencies is underway. We are very appreciative of the welcome that has been extended at every turn, and we look forward to visiting all agencies over the coming weeks.
- 🔒 *Micah* will be posted out this week and this issue has a theme which is 'Finding a Place', looking at issues of homelessness and social inclusion/exclusion. Drawing on their experience of service and research in this area, insightful articles have come from Sacred Heart Mission, St Vincent de Paul and others. The issue will be available by the end of the week on our website at www.css.org.au/publications.
- 🔒 Media coverage of the Commissioning Mass and Annual General Meeting was reported in CathNews and can be viewed at <http://www.cathnews.com/article.aspx?aeid=6207>
- 🔒 CSSV will conduct its **annual planning day** on 18th April, when Council and Secretariat will come together to develop a work program for the coming twelve months, aimed at strengthening our public presence. Areas we will be working on include:
 - ♣ policy and advocacy
 - ♣ support for members through exchanges of ideas and appropriate co-operation in areas such as policy and research; building on program experience, etc.
 - ♣ building on the Catholic identity and specific history of each agency
 - ♣ strengthening the community encompassing all those involved in the Catholic social services sector in Victoria.

Any input you would like to make to our planning, whether general or specific, would be welcome. Please call or email us with your ideas or to talk things over.

- 🔒 **Clemente Program** is an initiative of Australian Catholic University in partnership with Mission Australia. The program provides courses to people outside the educational mainstream. Several clients of Regina Coeli Community are participants, and it is likely that there will be interest within other agencies. We will be writing soon to members about a briefing session at ACU on this program.
- 🔒 **For your diary:**
Catholic Social Services Dinner - Feast of the Assumption, 15 August 2008.
This dinner is to bring together key players in the sector: Bishops and auspicing bodies; Board members and leaders of organisations; Parliamentary leaders. Location is the San Remo Ballroom in North Carlton. Further details to follow.

Around the Sector

- 🔒 **Respite Care - its place in supporting families.** A forum entitled Respite Care, Practice and Research will be held on 30th April, 9.30 - 4.30 at the Treacy Centre, 126 The Avenue, Parkville. Further information please contact Bonita Ralph at Good Shepherd Services, telephone 0408 035 483 or 8412 7379.
- 🔒 Jesuit Social Services Annual Fundraising Dinner will be held on Saturday 24th May at the Melbourne Town Hall. The Hon Jenny Macklin, Minister for Families, Housing, Community

Services and Indigenous Affairs will be guest speaker and bookings can be made by calling JSS on 9427 7388.

World Youth Day – Days in the Dioceses

- ① **World Youth Day - Justice involvement.** The various Dioceses are organising 'Days in the Dioceses' in the week prior to World Youth Day 2008, to engage pilgrims and young Australians in preparation for the Sydney event.
- ① CSSV is involved in organising an event in Melbourne on Saturday 12th July, in which young people can engage with Cardinal Napier of South Africa on issues of justice and peace.
- ① We will also be following up separately with members about creative contributions to a festival on the weekend of 12th and 13th July - of which the Cardinal Napier event is part.
- ① Organizers in the various Dioceses would also welcome support from Catholic social welfare agencies and those associated with them, in a number of areas, including provision of home stay opportunities for pilgrims, and volunteers to assist with the conduct of the program over the week. More details about each of these areas is available at
 - Melbourne: www.did08.com
 - Ballarat: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au
 - Sandhurst: www.sand.catholic.org.au
 - Sale: www.sale.catholic.org.au/wyd08/

Who am I?

Each issue, we profile someone in the CSSV community. In this issue, we hear from Gavin Dufty at St Vincent de Paul Society.

Q: Tell us about where you work and your role.

My formal title is manager of Policy and Research at St Vincent de Paul Victoria. I am based at our head office at Box Hill. I also work with national council of the Vinnies as a member of the national social justice committee. I like to explain my role as the story teller of the issues and the reasons why people are seeking assistance from the Vinnies. I also try to act as an advocate seeking to identify the structural issues that cause this disadvantage with a view to proposing solutions to these issues.

I am trying to do what Fredrick Ozanam would have done.

Q: Tell us something interesting or funny that has happened at your work recently?

As I get into work early (which means I dress myself in the dark) it was pointed out to me the other day that my shirt was inside out (this was at 11.00 am) after I had been to a number of meetings!

We all laughed - but for those who know me, I have been told it's a very 'Gavin thing'!

What I can't work out is why nobody else picked it up earlier - I assume there are many polite people out there.

Q: Have you a piece of advice or encouragement that has helped you in life or work?

Forget about the outcome, focus on the journey - get the journey right and the outcome will take care of itself.

Q: What do you do to wind down or relax?

I spend my time searching for mechanics and people who have parts (eBay and other networks) to restore and maintain my early model Ducatis. This is a journey in itself.

Q: Have you a particular role model?

I like people who are positive and give things a go - optimists - I like optimists. Anything is possible, you just have to believe it is (well it helps on the start of the journey anyway - see answer to what's my piece of advice).

Q: Which footy team do you support and why?

Tricky one and I have to give two answers.

I support Collingwood BUT am paid up full member of the Doggies - have been to all the Doggies' games this year. I live in the "Scray" and it's all about community - you've gotta support your local club!

Send us your news ~ any information on what your agency is doing will be greatly appreciated.

Contact us

mini MICAH thrives on news! Send your news, updates, and any items of interest to miniMICAH@css.org.au.

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