



mini MICAH

monthly update for members and friends of Catholic Social Services Victoria

May 2008

Hello, and welcome to *mini MICAH*.

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Recent CSSV News & Developments

- 🔗 CSSV Council and Secretariat met on 18th April to plan out the coming twelve months, which is aimed at making an impact in the areas of advocacy, strengthening Catholic identity, member support and research and policy development.
- 🔗 CSSV made a submission to the **2020 Summit** held last month. This, and the accompanying media release, can be viewed at <http://www.css.org.au/news.html>
- 🔗 **Micah** is online at www.css.org.au/publications and this issue's theme 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. Media coverage of *Micah* was reported in CathNews <http://www.cathnews.com/article.aspx?aeid=6916>
- 🔗 A meeting of interested members has been organised for 28th May to focus on policy and funding issues around disability residential care. Please contact us on 9287 5566 or office@css.org.au if you wish to attend.
- 🔗 The State Government handed down its 2008-2009 Budget yesterday. Denis went to the 'lock-up' and Marg went to the Ministerial briefing, with a media release being sent out last night to all member agencies. The media release can be viewed at <http://www.css.org.au/documents/042008VictorianStateBudgetWeb.pdf>
- 🔗 **Affordable Living Alliance.** With the release of the State Budget and the broadening of the concessions which we thought would be lessened, VCOSS have advised that once things have quietened down, the Alliance members will be asked if they wish to continue and perhaps consider focusing on other cost of living pressures.
- 🔗 **A Fairer Victoria.** The Premier will launch this year's *A Fairer Victoria* tomorrow, Thursday 8th May and CSSV will be represented at the briefing.
- 🔗 **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 auspicating 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

- 📌 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.
- 📌 Project Dreaming Tracks will conduct an art exhibition from 16th May – 9th June at St Francis Pastoral Centre, Lonsdale Street, Melbourne. Further enquiries 9471 1410 or dtooffice@bigpond.com

Who am I?

Each issue, we profile someone in the CSSV community. In this issue, we hear from Connie Gray at Shekinah Homeless Services.

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

I work at Shekinah Homeless Services in the role of volunteer program co-ordinator recruiting volunteers for the 10 member agencies which make up the Shekinah group. I run in-service training programs for volunteers and staff and conduct orientation programs for volunteers when they start at a new agency.

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

Because I work for a group of 10 homeless agencies, the people I have met have had a huge impact on me. Sometimes the encounters are confronting, but most of the time they are enjoyable. Their life experiences have taught them a lot and they can teach us a lot, and many still manage to have a laugh and make your day better for having been with them.

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

Exercise! Running around after kids and their exercise programs and even make time to exercise with my daughter and sister - we do yoga.

Q: Have you a particular role model?

When I was nursing, there was a Nurse Unit Manager who inspired me to be a better nurse. He taught me things I could never learn from a textbook - so much so, that I went on to aged care nursing - which was where he had gone!

Q: Which footy team do you support and why?

Western Bulldogs. My husband barracked for the Bulldogs - I was Collingwood supporter - and I was told that in order to have full family support as a new in-law, something had to give!!! So I gave!!! And here I am - a Bulldog supporter.

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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