

# mini MICAH June 2008

*monthly update for members and friends of Catholic Social Services Victoria*

Hello, and welcome to *mini MICAH*.

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## Recent CSSV News & Developments

- 🔗 **Disability funding:** Representatives from nine Catholic Social Services agencies met on 28 May to identify ways to assist members to introduce or expand services to address the residential needs of people with disabilities. A range of issues emerged for follow up, some by CSSV and some by agencies, with other advocacy bodies and with Government over time. These included issues:
  - the adequacy of personal choice packages, in terms of hours provided for, and rate of funding.
  - availability of funding for 'community respite care'
  - adequacy of arrangement for out-of-home care for children with high level disabilities
  - Greater flexibility in accommodation funding, to provide, in appropriate circumstances, support for facilities or common servicesA fuller report will be distributed soon.
- 🔗 **Mental health:** CSSV is currently working with members to develop a response to the Victorian Government consultation paper on mental health services. Contact Denis Fitzgerald if you would like to input to this and are not currently involved. The submission will be finalised in July.
- 🔗 **Victorian Government directions:**
  - A CSSV analysis of the **2008 Budget** welcomed the new funding initiatives in areas such as disability, housing and aspects of education. However, there are many pressing needs that were not met and, in that context, a focus on building a just and compassionate society would argue against the budget outcomes of a reduction in taxation rates and a fall in expenditure as a proportion of economic activity in Victoria. . See [www.css.org.au/publications](http://www.css.org.au/publications) for a full report on this.
  - Following the release of the budget, the Premier launched the 2008 update of the Government's blue print for social sector development, **A Fairer Victoria 2008**. The four key areas of focus remain as Getting the best start; Improving education and getting people into work; Improving health and wellbeing; and Developing liveable communities. See

<http://www.dvc.vic.gov.au/web14/dvc/dvcmain.nsf/allDocs/RWPBA66A032F874AC59CA2572D00026A891?OpenDocument> or contact CSSV for details or queries.

- A Government Action Plan for **Strengthening Community Organisations** was reviewed at a VCOSS seminar on 27 May. The agenda here involves key issues affecting the future of community organisations, including maintaining adequate funding via Government grants, achieving manageable regulatory requirements, and addressing the many issues that impact on workforce adequacy and sustainability. A CSSV report on the recent consultation is attached. We would be happy to address or onforward any queries or comments on these issues. Thanks to Paul Linossier for his leadership in working to frame developments in these key areas for the sector.
- 🔗 **Refugee support:** a meeting of CSSV and related agencies to share experiences and explore options for effective cooperation in working with refugee communities is scheduled for 26 June.
- 🔗 CSSV welcomes the Commonwealth Green Paper on **Homelessness**. There are a range of responses in train to this report, including from CSSA. CSSV will work with smaller agencies to ensure that their views on the Paper are heard, and a workshop on Fri 13 June is planned to make this happen. Please contact us if you would like to be included in this consultation within the network.
- 🔗 **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, but please lock this in to your diaries.

## Around the Sector

- 🔗 Jesuit Social Services Annual Fundraising Dinner was held on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May at the Melbourne Town Hall and The Hon Jenny Macklin, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs was guest speaker. Congratulations to JSS on another great event.
- 🔗 St Mary's House of Welcome and Sacred Heart Mission also recently conducted successful large fundraising events. (A CSSV initiative down the track is to bring together fundraisers from a range of members, in part so that the smaller ones can learn from the more experienced.)
- 🔗 Project Dreaming Tracks is conducting an art exhibition from 16<sup>th</sup> May – 9<sup>th</sup> June at St Francis Pastoral Centre, Lonsdale Street, Melbourne. Further enquiries 9471 1410 or [dtooffice@bigpond.com](mailto:dtooffice@bigpond.com)
- 🔗 Congratulations to those associated with CSSV who have been appointed to the recently-established **Australian Social Inclusion Board**:
  - The Chair, Patricia Faulkner, who is a Board member at Jesuit Social Services
  - Elleni Bereded-Samuel, whose deep association with Centacare Catholic Social Services includes a current role as marriage relationship educatorMuch is hoped for from the Government's focus on social inclusion, and the composition of this Board is a step in the right direction, including as it also does such luminaries from the national Catholic Social Services sector as Professor Tony Vinson, Msgr David Cappelletti and Dr John Falzon.
- 🔗 **World Youth Day** preparations and events remain an important focus for CSSV and some members.
  - The **journey of the Cross and icon** around Victoria involved liturgies and functions hosted by a number of members – Corpus Christi Community at Greenvale and St Vincents Hospital in Fitzroy reported very positive encounters.
  - The centrally-organised Melbourne **events** include a seminar on 'voices from the margin' with Cardinal Napier on Saturday 12 May; and a St Vincent de Paul Society Ozanam lecture and youth concert. Other events relating to welfare and justice are being organised in regional and local settings. Contact CSSV or [www.did08.com](http://www.did08.com) for details.

- There are still openings for home-stay offers for international pilgrims, and for people to volunteer during the Days in the Dioceses, during the period from 9-14 July. Contact your local diocesan organisers, or [www.did08.com](http://www.did08.com) for the Melbourne Archdiocese.

## Who am I?

Each issue, we profile someone in the CSSV community. In this issue, we hear from **Marcelle Mogg** from St Vincent's Health.

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

I'm Director of Mission at St Vincent's and my role covers all of our agencies across Melbourne from our campus at Fitzroy, to our aged care and rehabilitation service at St George's, Kew, our 'new' Prague House service also at Kew and Caritas Christi Hospice which is co-located at Kew and Fitzroy. We also have numerous mental health services in the community (Fitzroy, North Fitzroy, East Melbourne and Hawthorn) as well as providing health services to three of the state's prisons (Port Phillip Prison, Metropolitan Remand Centre and Marnongoneet).

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

We recently hosted the World Youth Day Cross and Icon at our Fitzroy campus and I was moved by the number of staff who took time away from pressing schedules to attend the service, and the clear devotion so many of them have to their faith and their readiness to share this publicly. We were doubly blessed by the presence of children from St Joseph's Primary Collingwood who came and sang at the service.

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

An odd one perhaps, but learning how to say 'no'. If we can't say no to the things that aren't so important we're never in a position to say yes to the things that really matter.

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

Meeting friends for dinner.

*Q: Have you a particular role model?*

Two – and they will both be furious with me for nominating them, but too bad. Sr Stancea Vichie who has not only worked for years with asylum seekers, but *befriended* them and welcomed them in to her life and this community and that's a whole other way of being with people. And her capacity to delight and enjoy life and savour everything. And Fr Andy Hamilton sj – for his wisdom, wicked sense of humour, capacity for fun and enjoyment of life, and again his work with those in need by being friend and companion to them

*Q: Which footy team do you support and why?*

Two teams - North Melbourne, because the only other choice was Essendon and that's beyond the pale. And second team is 'against Collingwood'. 'Nuff said.

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

## Contact us

mini MICAHA thrives on news! Send your news, updates, and any items of interest to [miniMICAHA@css.org.au](mailto:miniMICAHA@css.org.au).

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