



## mini MICAH – May 2009

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

### Contents

#### CSSV News & Developments

- ✚ Forum on pastoral care in aged care residential programs, Thurs 30 April
- ✚ 2009 Victorian Government Budget
- ✚ Submission on problem gambling
- ✚ Pastoral visits by Bishop Chris Prowse
- ✚ Breakfast Briefing – 27 May 2009, Frank Quinlan
- ✚ 2009 CSSV Annual Dinner – Speaker: Julian McMahon
- ✚ Farewell to Chris Wade; welcome to Emmy Silvius

#### Around the Sector

- ✚ 2009 Anti-Poverty week
- ✚ National Forum on Social Housing
- ✚ Visits to welfare agencies by health leaders
- ✚ [www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au)
- ✚ Exhibition of Prisoners' Art
- ✚ Communities in Control Conference

#### For your diary.

- ✚ Wed 27 May 2009, 7.30 – 8.45am  
383 Albert St, East Melbourne  
**CSSV Breakfast Briefing**  
Speaker: Frank Quinlan, Executive Director, Catholic Social Services Australia  
Topic: **Australian Government directions in light of the 2009 budget**  
RSVP by Friday 22 May to Emmy Silvius, tel 9287 5566, [esilvius@css.org.au](mailto:esilvius@css.org.au)
- ✚ Fri 28 August, 2009 **CSSV Annual Dinner**  
at San Remo Ballroom, Nth Carlton  
**After Dinner Speaker: Julian McMahon, barrister and human rights advocate**  
Enquiries to Emmy Silvius, tel 9287 5566, [esilvius@css.org.au](mailto:esilvius@css.org.au)

#### Who am I?

Emmy Silvius, Office Administrator, Catholic Social Services Victoria

### CSSV News & Developments

[Back to top](#)



#### **Pastoral Care services in Aged Care residential programs.**

The provision of pastoral care to residents is a central feature of Catholic aged care. CEO's, pastoral care leaders and other representatives from Catholic aged care providers in Victoria gathered at CSSV on 30 April 2009 to share issues and views on the provision of pastoral care – the diversity within the sector ensures that there is a wide range of practice and of issues, but participants also had much in common. Catholic Health Australia, Health Care Chaplaincy Victoria Inc. and others added their perspectives, and identified resources that are available. The group was keen to maintain contact and to take further some of the issues discussed. They decided to form a Special Interest Group, that CSSV will service.

A report on the day will be available soon, and sent to member agencies. Please feel free to follow up any aspect of this important issue with Terry O'Shannassy: [toshannassy@css.org.au](mailto:toshannassy@css.org.au), tel 9287 5570.

### **Victorian Budget 2009**

In the context of increased unemployment and reduced economic output, the 2009 Victorian Budget exceeded the expectations of many CSSV members in its provision of additional resources for many social support programs, and its emphasis on productive infrastructure investment. The overall approach in the budget was incremental, not radical, and the ratings agencies were quick to advise that the much-prized AAA-rating was not under threat. Using a blend of additional Commonwealth funding, expected increases in stamp duty income, and no reductions in tax rates, the Government was able to take some very positive steps towards building a more just and compassionate society. (See <http://www.css.org.au/news.html> for our media release on the budget.)

Among the program areas and initiatives that received significant additional funding were

-  programs to address homelessness by preventative measures, working with people who are homeless, and increases in the levels of social housing
-  additional support packages and increased levels of assistance for people with disabilities, and
-  increased effort and funding for children and young people who cannot live at home.

Mental health issues, legal aid, and public dental care were other areas that received welcome funding injections.

There remains, of course, much to be done: among other things, the budget projects that unemployment in Victoria will remain at 7.5% for some years, so many Victorians will be under financial and other pressures for years to come. And the budget's economic strategy will be looking pretty ragged if their estimates of economic recovery prove to be too optimistic. Nevertheless, on balance, this was a good budget for those who are marginalised or disadvantaged in Victoria.

Please let us know if there are areas that you would like further information or comment on, or where you think we should start to focus on now with a view to impacting on the 2010 State Budget.

### **Submission on problem gambling**

The Inter-Church Problem Gambling Taskforce, of which CSSV is an active member, recently lodged a submission to the Productivity Commission review of Gambling – see <http://www.css.org.au/papers.html>. It was a previous Report by the Commission, in 1999, that documented the vast social costs of problem gambling – 2.1% of adults had gambling problems; these accounted for 33% of gambling losses; and 5-10 others were affected for each problem gambler. A draft report is now expected in October 2009. Our goal in all of this is to minimise the incidence and the impact of problem gambling.

### **Pastoral visits to programs by Bishop Chris Prowse**

Bishop Chris Prowse, the Episcopal Vicar for Justice and Social Service in the Melbourne Archdiocese, is keen to re-commence his series of pastoral visits to meet with clients and staff at CSSV agencies and programs. Emmy Silvius will be making arrangements for some visits in late June and during July – please contact Emmy if you would like your program area to be included.

### **Breakfast Briefing– 27 May 2009, Frank Quinlan**

Our breakfast series has started slowly this year, but we are happy to advise that Frank Quinlan, Executive Director of Catholic Social Services Australia, is able to join us on Wednesday 27 May to speak on and discuss priorities of the Australian Government, particularly in light of the 2009 budget that comes down next week. Among many relevant qualifications, Frank has extensive recent experience in working with the Government in a number of areas, including their stimulus and investment responses to the Global Financial Crisis.

Experience has shown that the conviviality and input on these mornings outweighs the downside of an earlier than usual start to the day. All are welcome, including your guests. RSVP by Friday 22 May to Emmy Silvius. Venue is the Cardinal Knox Centre, at 383 Albert St, East Melbourne. Starting time is 7.30am, and the session will conclude by 8.45am.

 **2009 CSSV Annual Dinner – Speaker: Julian McMahon**

Some will have seen barrister Julian McMahon recently on ABC TV's *Compass*, where he reflected on the role of faith in the life of young Melbourne man, Van Nguyen, prior to his execution in Singapore in 2005. Julian's work with Van Nguyen and others within the criminal justice system in Australia and beyond have contributed to an inspiring perspective on the dignity of each person.

Julian will be the guest speaker at the 2009 CSSV Annual Dinner, on Friday 28 August 2009.

The Annual Dinner is an evening of community building within the Catholic social services sector in Victoria, and is aimed at organisational leaders, including Board members, and other friends of the sector. Please start thinking now about putting together a table from your organisation.

 **Farewell to Chris Wade**

Our Office Administrator Chris Wade was suitably farewelled on Friday 24 April at a gathering at East Melbourne – among other things, speakers spoke warmly of the contribution that Chris had made, and the generosity of spirit that had characterised her time at CSSV. We wish Chris well in her holiday and in her move to a new position with Bethlehem Community.

 **Welcome to Emmy Silvius**

Emmy has now joined CSSV in Chris's old position, as Office Administrator. A warm welcome to Emmy, who is profiled below in [Who am I?](#)

**Around the Sector**

[Back to top](#)

 **2009 Anti Poverty Week**

October 11 – 17 is Anti-Poverty week, a series of events designed to raise awareness in the community of poverty and of what can be done to reduce levels of poverty in Australia and beyond. CSSV is a member of the Victorian Facilitating Group.



All member agencies, or individual programs, are urged to develop some 'event' for that week to focus on poverty issues. This could involve 'badging' a regular morning tea, etc; or something more ambitious. Recording that event on [www.antipovertyweek.org.au](http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au) helps give the whole initiative publicity and momentum. Denis Fitzgerald can provide more information.

 **National Forum: A New Era For Social Housing,**

Hosted in Sydney on April 22 by Catholic Health Australia, the St Vincent de Paul Society and CSSA, this forum saw 150 people gather to consider elements of the most recent government direction changes in care of the homeless. Papers are available on [www.cha.org.au](http://www.cha.org.au).

 **Visits to welfare agencies by health leaders**

The Australian Catholic University, in conjunction with Catholic Health Australia, conducts a successful Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Catholic Culture, aimed at senior staff in Catholic health agencies. Thanks to those member agencies that have agreed to host visits by participants in this course over the next couple of weeks. The purpose is to enable health and aged care executives to come to an understanding of barriers some members of the community experience accessing health care.

ACU has a related Graduate Certificate aimed at leaders in Catholic welfare and related agencies. Any enquires about this can be directed to Frank Stuart of ACU at [frank.stuart@acu.edu.au](mailto:frank.stuart@acu.edu.au), tel 5336 5335.

 **New Vinnies website**

Congratulations to the Society of St Vincent de Paul on their new website - [www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au). A striking feature is that it automatically identifies which State you are located in, and opens the website at the corresponding section.



### [🔗](#) **Mission and Identity in Church Based Organisations**

This recently held colloquium at the Australian Catholic University in Melbourne gathered a range of gifted speakers and searching participants to look at the question Catholic identity in the current world. Among many inputs, Darwin Bishop, Eugene Hurley spoke on 'Being Catholic in an Australian context', and inspired those gathered with his insight and passion.

In a related development, CSSV is now working on a publication arising from the March 209 Melbourne seminars on Catholic Identity.

### [🔗](#) **Exhibition of Prisoners' Art**

The Catholic Prison Ministry chaplaincy team have organised this exhibition, and all are invited to visit, and thereby express solidarity with a group of fellow citizens who are often at the margins of our society. No need to RSVP:

- [📅](#) Friday 29 May 2009, 3.00 – 7.00pm (official opening at 5.00pm)
- [📅](#) Mary of the Cross Centre, 7 Brunswick St, Fitzroy.

### [🔗](#) **Communities in Control Conference**

Centacare Catholic Family Services co-sponsors this rich annual gathering, and Fr Joe Caddy is co-chair.

- [📅](#) 15 & 16 June 2009
- [📅](#) Theme: "Crisis, Catastrophe, Community: Rebuild, Renew, Recharge" - [click here for details](#)
- [📅](#) Pre-Conference Skills Day on 14 June, Fundraising, Advocacy & Evaluation - [click here](#)

[Who am I?](#)

[Back to top](#)

## **Emmy Silvius, Office Administrator, Catholic Social Services Victoria**

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

I joined the CSSV team at the Cardinal Knox Centre as Office Administrator on 21 April of this year. Together with Denis and Terry I am very much looking forward to contributing to the good works that are being carried out now, and to building on the work of my predecessor, Chris Wade. As the 'new girl' there is much to learn and many new names and faces to remember. Thankfully everyone is very patient and friendly and it is a joy to come to work each day. The job is quite varied with lots of events to organize, presentations to prepare, keeping on top of everyone's appointments, taking minutes, organizing files, updating the website, preparing mail-outs, following up queries for assistance in various areas etc. etc. It's a bit of a juggling act; fortunately I rather enjoy acrobatics...



Previously, I had a temporary placement with the Parliament of the World Religions which will be held in Melbourne in December of this year. Last year I assisted Bruce Duncan and his team with setting up office and designing the website for their newly formed ecumenical organisation called Social Policy Connections.

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

To follow my heart, believe in myself and not to be discouraged by opposing opinions. It is important to collect all relevant information on an issue and then carefully discern the correct action to take. Sometimes pursuing a certain issue can be lonely and it is during these times that I need to remind myself what it was that motivated me in the first place.

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

At this point in my life there is little time for real relaxation as I am also studying for my Theology Degree. All going well, I hope to graduate at the end of this year. Still, when I do get the opportunity I enjoy the countryside and the beach and whenever possible you will find me with my camera taking shots of all sorts of possible scenes. I also enjoy travelling and writing as well as spending time with friends, especially in cafes where excellent coffee is served.

**Q: Have you a particular role model?**

There are a few people that come to mind. First of all my father, who taught me that I could say anything I felt I needed to say as long as I knew the right words to use. Then there is William Wilberforce who through persistence, and with a valued group of supporters, achieved the abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade in 1807. His was the public voice in Parliament and much persistence plus belief in his mission was required to achieve this goal. There are actually many people I admire for their works for peace and justice, such as Dorothy Day, Pope John XXIII, Martin Luther King Jr – and more recently President Barack Obama.

**Q: If there is one thing you could change in the world today what would that be?**

I would like to see people being empowered to do what is required to live fulfilled lives. If everyone did what they could to live better lives, looking out for their neighbour and sharing their resources then our world would not only become a better place to live in but peace would surely prevail.

**Contact us**

**[Back to top](#)**

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

Please also let us know of any events, celebrations etc in your agency or program – we are keen to keep in touch with developments, and to assist with publicity etc where that is appropriate.

**Catholic Social Services Victoria**

383 Albert St (PO Box 146) East Melbourne Vic 3002 03 9287 5566 [www.css.org.au](http://www.css.org.au)

<p><i>Denis Fitzgerald</i> Executive Director <a href="mailto:dfitzgerald@css.org.au">dfitzgerald@css.org.au</a> 9287 5569</p>	<p><i>Terry O'Shannassy</i> Member Support and Projects <a href="mailto:toshannassy@css.org.au">toshannassy@css.org.au</a> 9287 5570</p>	<p><i>Emmy Silvius</i> Office Administrator <a href="mailto:esilvius@css.org.au">esilvius@css.org.au</a> 9287 5566</p>
--	--	--

To nominate new subscribers or to unsubscribe to *mini MICAH*, email [esilvius@css.org.au](mailto:esilvius@css.org.au).