

mini MICAH – July 2009

monthly update for members and friends of Catholic Social Services Victoria

Contents

CSSV News & Developments

- ✚ Key people moving to new roles
- ✚ *Equal Opportunity Act 1995*: CSSV Submission
- ✚ CSSV Council news - Planning
- ✚ Aged Care – Jeanne Jugan Aged Care group
- ✚ Women's Retreat

Around the Sector

- ✚ New Encyclical – *Love in Truth*
- ✚ Gateway Kitchen: support from Innovation Fund
- ✚ Funding for Disability Services
- ✚ Victorian Corrections Stakeholders' Forum
- ✚ Connections UnitingCare Anti-Poverty Awards
- ✚ Whole-of-Church response to bushfires
- ✚ Doing IT better

For your diary.

- ✚ Wed 22 July 2009, 7.30 – 8.45am
CSSV Breakfast Briefing
Topic: **Post bushfire reconstruction & community rebuilding**
RSVP by Thursday 16 July to Emmy Silvius, tel 9287 5566, 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
- ✚ Further details below for the following events:
 - Thurs 10 September, 2009, Next **CSSV Breakfast Briefing**
 - 11 – 17 October, 2009 - **Anti-Poverty week**
 - 13 – 15 November, 2009 – **CSSV Women's Retreat**
 - Thurs 11 March, 4.30pm **2010 CSSV Commissioning Mass and Annual General meeting**

Who am I?

- ✚ Bernie O'Regan from MacKillop Family Services.

CSSV News & Development

✚ **Key people moving to new roles**

As reported earlier, several key contributors to the Catholic social services sector are moving to new roles. In each case, the significant loss to the sector is more than offset by our appreciation for the contribution that has been made, and by the expectation of further contributions in their new roles.

- **Paul Linossier** (pictured at right) is a past Chair of CSSV, as well as founding CEO of MacKillop Family Services. As Executive Director, Early Childhood Development, in the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Paul will have responsibility for policy advice and program development in this key area.



Congratulations to **Bishop Christopher Prowse** on his appointment as Bishop of Sale. Bishop Chris has been Episcopal Vicar for Justice and Social Services in the Archdiocese of Melbourne for the past two years, and, in his capacity as Bishop of Sale, will retain a key involvement with CSSV.





- **Michael Yore** (pictured at right) has led Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services for the past 22 years. His new role with the Good Shepherd congregation carries responsibilities for mission development in the various works of the order, and thus builds on his achievements over recent years.



See www.css.org.au for further details on these moves. The CSSV Dinner on 28 August will be a further opportunity to express our thanks for the contribution of these and other leaders in the sector.



Review of Exceptions and Exemptions in the *Equal Opportunity Act 1995*

As part of a series of review of the Victorian Equal Opportunity Act 1995, the Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee of the Victorian Parliament is conducting a review of exceptions and exemptions provided for in the Act. This review is expected to feed into legislative changes to the Act later this year.

In consultation with members, CSSV has lodged a submission with the review - copy available at www.css.org.au. There was much of interest that could have been addressed, but constraints of time and resources restricted comment to the exemptions under the Act for religious organisations. Key issues conveyed in the submission include:

- Catholic Social Teaching leads to a strong support for the protection by society of the human rights of all members. Freedom of religion is such a human right.
- Catholic agencies, in carrying out their work of justice and compassion, are performing an integral part of the Church's mission, and of the manifestation of the religious belief of individual Christians. To carry out this work they need to be able to select staff, and deliver their services, in accordance with their inherent needs as Catholic organisations.
- Catholic social service agencies require the freedom, in very limited circumstances, to be exempted from some of the prohibitions against discrimination provided for in the Equal Opportunity Act 1995. They need to be able to recruit people whose views are aligned with the social mission of the Church, and whose conduct will not compromise the witness of the Church; and need to be able to continue the provision of their wide range of social services and support for the general community in accordance with the teachings of Christ and the doctrines and principles of the Church.
- To ensure that the Act does not provide any exemptions that might be broader than is necessary to protect religious freedom, there is scope to clarify in the legislation that the requirements of religious freedom would not relate to many of the attributes listed in the Act: age, impairment, physical features, race etc.

We have asked that CSSV be included in public hearings associated with this enquiry.

Thanks to those who have commented on this, and any further input welcome – dfitzgerald@css.org.au, or tel 9287 5569



CSSV Council News

CSSV Council met on 3 July. Business included:

- Review of a report on activity year to date, and of plans for the rest of 2009 – the Executive Director is to update members on this soon.
- Endorsement of Fr Joe Caddy as Chair of the Research, Policy and Advocacy Committee, and noting of intention to progress research agenda on the adequacy of mental health services.

The Council meets next on 14 August 2009. Details of membership is at <http://css.org.au/council.html> Enquiries or comments are welcome to Denis at dfitzgerald@css.org.au, or tel 9287 5569.



Aged Care Forum – follow up

A comprehensive report of the Aged Care/Pastoral Care forum has been circulated to attendees and other interested parties, and is available on an aged care page of the CSSV website: <http://www.css.org.au/agedcarelinks.html>. We are also working on a follow up event for the Jeanne Jugan Aged care Group later this year. Enquiries, comments etc to Terry O'Shannassy at toshannassy@css.org.au, or tel 9287 5570.



CSSV Women's Retreat, Warburton, 13 – 15 November, 2009

Plans are in train for a weekend away for women in the Catholic social service community who want to take time out, slow down, reflect and refresh. Carole Carmody rsm is the facilitator. A separate message on this will follow soon. Any queries, comments at this stage can be forwarded to Terry on tel 9287 5570 or toshannassy@css.org.au

Around the Sector

New Encyclical: *Charity in Truth*

Most would be aware that Pope Benedict's third encyclical, and the first that is squarely in the tradition of the 'social encyclicals' was released earlier this week. Focusing on the necessity for a moral underpinning to just economic relationships, the encyclical *Charity in Truth*, has been quite well received in the general media. A summary and the text of the document are readily available on line – they can be accessed via www.vatican.va.

Had time permitted, this miniMICAH would have had an accessible summary and some analysis. That will follow. Denis would be happy to engage with comments etc.

Gateway Kitchen: Funding from Innovation Fund

Congratulations to Jesuit Social Services on success in gaining support for the Gateway Kitchen from the first round of funding from the Commonwealth Innovation Fund.

"The Innovation Fund is designed to address the needs of the most disadvantaged job seekers through funding projects that will foster innovative solutions to overcome barriers to employment which these job seekers face. The announcement means the Kitchen will be able to implement a staged redevelopment to become a viable social enterprise, providing work placement/experience and job pathways to people who are disconnected and alienated from mainstream projects and services." – see www.jss.org.au for more detail. To support the Kitchen please visit www.abbotsfordbiscuits.com.au



Applications for round two funding are now open, and are due on 7 August 2009. Information on these funding rounds available from:

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/JSA/Pages/innovationfund.aspx#members>. Note that, while only Innovation Fund Panel Members are eligible to apply for funding, the Innovation Fund guidelines allow that non-panel members may directly approach panel members to collaborate on activity proposals which a panel member could then submit. .

Funding for Disability Services

200 service representatives from all over Victoria gathered recently in Melbourne to launch, A Fair Go For All, a campaign calling on the Victorian Government for better funding of the current system to bring it into line with the Disability State Plan. The campaign, initiated by National Disability Services, aims for greater transparency in funding arrangements, benchmark cost figures, full funding of services, and a less bureaucratic approach to filling in forms. This is an area where CSSV can add to the work of others with similar goals.

Victorian Corrections Stakeholder Forum.

The office recently attended this gathering of a wide range of services concerned with the Justice system where information was presented on Housing, Infrastructure, Transport and Regionalisation projects. A key initiative is that funds have been allocated for the construction of 30 new units. Housing and mental health are linkages with prisons where CSSV advocacy is planned.

Connections UnitingCare Anti-Poverty Awards

The Connections UnitingCare Anti-Poverty Awards recognise young Victorians and Tasmanians between the ages of 16 and 30 who are making a contribution to the eradication of poverty, locally, nationally or internationally. One Award recipient will receive a \$4000 grant to continue their work. Encouragement Awards up to \$1000 are also offered. Deadline: Last day in August (each year). For more information go to: www.connections.org.au/anti-poverty



The whole-of-Church response to Bushfires

One of the challenges facing the Church in responding to the devastating bushfires of 7 February is to be there for the time needed to enable communities to recover. This long term commitment is a key thrust of programs being undertaken by Catholic social service agencies - see report at www.css.org.au/news.html.

Agencies from the wider Catholic community are also contributing strongly to ensure that the community relief and recovery contributions of the Church have a lasting impact, that goes beyond the communities immediately affected.



Australian Catholic University is working with Catholic social service agencies to develop a program that will periodically review the interventions that are undertaken, to provide feedback and thus optimize program effectiveness. Another aspect of this work will be the development of information for the broader Church and social service community on lessons learned from the bushfire response, to inform even better responses to human disasters in the future. Professor Ruth Webber, Director of ACU's Quality of Life & Social Justice Flagship and Board members of Centacare Catholic Family Services (pictured), is leading the ACU involvement.

Caritas Australia also continues to support the work of the local social services sector and of the Dioceses themselves. Caritas CEO Jack de Groot (pictured) and International Programs Manager Jamie Davies facilitated a review session in Melbourne on 18 June that brought together representatives from several Catholic social service agencies, plus people from parishes and schools in bush-fire affected areas, and personnel from other parts of the Archdiocese of Melbourne. A major conclusion from the day was the recognition of the important roles that the Church as a whole has to play in these situations, and our accountability in responding to the local Church communities, the affected population as a whole, and the broader Church on whose behalf our various agencies operate. One specific outcome from the day is likely to be the development of a Diocesan disaster response plan, and then the sharing of that and other insights with the Dioceses throughout Australia.



Doing IT better

Doing IT Better is a three-year project to build information and communications technology capacity in the Victorian community services sector. It seems to offer good support to those who are interested in improving their operations in this area.

The project offers a free workshop on Thursday 16 July @ 1.30 to 3 pm on how to develop an IT strategic plan. See <http://www.doingitbetter.net.au/> for details.

For your diary.



Wed 22 July 2009, 7.30 – 8.45am

383 Albert St, East Melbourne

CSSV Breakfast Briefing

Speaker: Janet Cribbes,

Project Coordinator for the Bushfire Community Response at Centacare

Topic: **Post bushfire reconstruction & community rebuilding**

RSVP by Thursday 16 July to Emmy Silvius, tel 9287 5566, 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



Thurs 10 September, 2009, 7.30 – 8.45am

Next **CSSV Breakfast Briefing**

Speaker – tba



11 – 17 October, 2009 - Anti-Poverty week

Organise your event for the week, and record it on www.antipovertyweek.org.au to help give the Anti Poverty initiative publicity and momentum



13 – 15 November, 2009 – CSSV Women’s Retreat

Warburton Lodge, 18 Park Road, Warburton Vic 3799

Facilitator: Carole Carmody rsm



Thurs 11 March 2010 CSSV Commissioning Mass and Annual General meeting

at All Saints Church and Hall, Nth Carlton, followed by supper at St Mary’s House of Welcome, 165 Brunswick St, Fitzroy. Enquiries to Emmy Silvius, tel 9287 5566, esilvius@css.org.au



Who am I?

Bernie O’Regan from MacKillop Family Services.

Bernie is the Manager, Family and Community Services, at MacKillop Family Services; and a member of the Council of Catholic Social Services Victoria.

Q: Tell us about where you work and your role

I manage a range of services with MacKillop Family and Community Services, with the main areas of focus being:

- Family Services (Footscray and Melton) – assisting families with vulnerable children who need support. The focus is on safety, stability, development, parenting and general practical assistance via material aid;
- Parents Link – for parental education and support especially to CALD groups;
- Education Team – supporting the education needs of young persons who are in care and other special projects including school transition from primary to secondary.
- ChildFIRST Family services intake and Assessment in Brimbank-Melton

I am very proud of these teams and their leadership who consistently demonstrate high standards and strong values.

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

Persistence is the key! By showing dedication and persistence we are capable of creating change. Also by occasionally pausing to take in the wider perspective, we can observe the constructive results of this change.

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

I like to work-out, tinker with my red MG and read, mostly non-fiction.

Q: Have you a particular role model?

St Francis of Assisi. Francis lived a big life in a real world. His spirituality and action were balanced in such a way that he presents hope for all those who aspire to a more beautiful human world.

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

Eradicating disadvantage and in so doing create flow-on effects resulting in more opportunity for human fulfilment and spiritual pursuit.



Contact us

mini MICAH thrives on news! Send your news, updates, and any items of interest to 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

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

To nominate new subscribers or to unsubscribe to mini MICAH, email esilvius@css.org.au.