



This is what God asks of you, only this
To act justly
To love tenderly, and
To walk humbly with your God.
(Micah 6:8)

Catholic Social Services Victoria - August 2011 Update for members and friends

National Homeless Persons' Week 1 - 7 August 2011

[click here](#) for more information



Homelessness Australia

Creating a framework for ending homelessness

Upcoming CSSV activity

- ✦ 19 August, [CSSV Annual Dinner](#)
- ✦ 24 August [Lunchtime dialogue](#): Justice – Luke's Gospel and today
- ✦ 13, 14 October, [Conference on Mary MacKillop](#): her influence on Catholic social services

News & Developments

- ✦ Breakfast Briefing, '[A contemporary reflection on the case against euthanasia](#)'
- ✦ [Criminal justice](#) advocacy
- ✦ Churches and [Public Policy](#)
- ✦ [Mission network](#) meeting
- ✦ Charter of [Human Rights](#) and Responsibilities

Sector developments

- ✦ Ballarat's [Bishop Connors](#) celebrates 50 years as a priest
- ✦ [Resources: Champion Spirituality Centre](#)
- ✦ [Refugee policy](#): "Welfare of human beings must outweigh policy decisions"
- ✦ [Taxation policy](#): "Taking from the rich and giving to the poor isn't too popular these days"

Sector events

- ✦ Tuesday 9 August 2011: [Discovering a Sense of the Sacred](#), Bishop Bill Morris
- ✦ Wednesday 17 August: Briefing from [Griefline](#) on 'Supporting and working with the family'
- ✦ Friday 26 August, [Good Samaritan Inn Dinner Dance](#),
- ✦ Training for [company directors](#)
- ✦ 16-22 October, [Anti-poverty week](#)

CSSV Annual Dinner - Friday 19 August at Leonda, Hawthorn

For leaders at all levels in the Catholic social services sector, and for friends of the sector. An important night for networking and renewing friendships, and to strengthen our shared identity.

Guest speaker: Hon Mary Wooldridge MP, Minister for Community Services.

Tickets: \$75 pp. Click for [flyer and registration form](#).





Dialogue lunch – Justice in Luke’s Gospel

Wednesday 24 August 2011 at Cardinal Knox Centre

Speaker: Reverend Jonathan Chambers, Senior Prison Chaplain, Anglicare Victoria

Topic:

The Victorian Criminal Justice System: A chaplain’s perspective, in light of the restorative justice of God in Luke’s Gospel.



12.00 - 1.30pm. Bring a Sandwich - Tea and Coffee provided
See [flyer](#) for details. RSVP to Carmen.montalto@css.org.au, tel 9287 5566

Mary MacKillop: A conference on her influence on Catholic social services today

Registration is now open for this conference.

Thursday 13 October: Keynote address at 6.30pm by Frank Brennan SJ AO

Friday 14 October: Lectures. Workshops and discussion, followed by Conference Dinner

Venue: Thomas Carr Centre, East Melbourne

CSSV is joined in organising this conference by Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, MacKillop Family Services, the Australian Catholic University, and the Sisters of St Joseph. It is designed to enable leaders and contributors in Catholic social services to explore the impact and inspiration of Mary MacKillop on Catholic social services today.

Registration: Cost is \$200, including conference dinner. See [website](#) for registration form, or contact Catherine McGovern, tel: 9926 5791, catherine.mcgovern@cam.org.au.



News & Developments

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Breakfast Briefing with Margaret Somerville

Thank you to **Professor Margaret Somerville** from McGill University for her Breakfast Briefing on Wednesday 6 July 2011: **A contemporary reflection on the case against euthanasia** - well worth braving the Melbourne winter morning. [Click here](#) for the text of her Australian lectures, and [click here](#) for a video interview immediately following the Breakfast, in which Margaret summarises her key points. With thanks to co-sponsors [Catholic Health Australia](#), and the [Ambrose Centre for Religious Freedom](#).



Criminal justice advocacy

The Victorian Government has recently launched the first of its online surveys so that ‘Victorians can have a direct say on important issues affecting the justice system.’ This survey is on ‘Sentencing in the Criminal Justice System’, and does not seem well designed to make a positive contribution.

While there is an important place in public policy dialogue for the views of those who identify as stakeholders, this survey is a very flawed way of tapping into that. It presents a number of crime scenarios, advises of the current maximum sentence, and asks participants to decide on a sentence.

Unfortunately, this poll seems skewed in favour of longer sentences (information provided includes maximum sentence,





but not median or other data; the respondent is presented with a series of serious crimes, none of them white collar; full circumstances of cases and of offenders are not available; etc.) And, because it is promoted primarily through the *Herald Sun*, it is being promoted to a readership that has been subject to a 'soft on crime' emphasis. There are much better ways to ascertain public opinion as an input to policy development.

The survey is available [online](#). Please consider completing it, including adding comments in the last frame about the survey itself. CSSV has communicated our views on the survey to the Government - please also consider doing the same to Members of Parliament and the Government.

[Smart Justice](#), of which CSSV is a member, is a good source of information on sentencing issues.

Churches & Public Policy

Social Policy Connections would have been pleased with their one-day conference 'Advancing human wellbeing in a changing society', held on 19 July 2011.

Keynote speaker Robert Fitzgerald presented an optimistic view of the public policy role of church agencies: we have a solid record, the current policy agenda goes beyond economic issues to areas where churches have traditionally had a keen interest, and many of the key contributors in relevant areas are our agencies and people who have been associated with them (such as Robert, a former state president of the St Vincent de Paul Society.) [Click here](#) for a response to Robert by Denis Fitzgerald (no relation!)



CSSV Mission network

The purpose of the CSSV 'mission network' is to support participants in their work of mission advancement by providing a faith-based forum for the sharing of ideas, resources etc, and joint consideration of some current issues. The network has been meeting every two months, with some fluidity around attendance.

Around a dozen people met on Thursday 21 July, and covered a wide range of issues. Feedback at the meeting and beyond was very positive. Extracts from notes from the meeting give some sense of things:

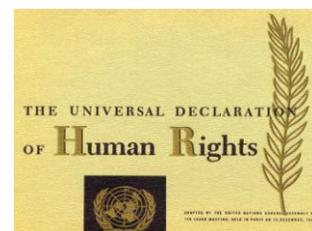
- To put into words....bold mission....fragility
- Gospel is possible...we celebrate this
- Mission to staff
- Seeing the face of God in the people we serve
- The mission is the work – allowing staff to own it

Please feel free to contact [Denis Fitzgerald](#), tel 9287 5569, or [Terry O'Shannassy](#), tel 9287 5570, if you would like to know more about this network.

Review of Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities

The **Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities** is currently under review. Catholic social services are among the many parts of the Church with a keen interest in its outcome, to ensure that justice for all is advanced through the "recognition and respect for the legitimate rights of individuals and peoples" (as Pope Benedict XVI highlighted in his 2009 Encyclical *Charity in Truth*). [Click here](#) for an introduction to the central role that human rights play in Catholic social teaching, and [here](#) for the submission to the review from CSSV.

Submissions from organisations that are members of CSSV focused on a number of specific themes: the focus of the submission by Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services was around gender equality and the





rights of women, the MacKillop Family Services submission was heavily focussed on putting the case forward for increased rights for vulnerable and disadvantaged children, and the Jesuit Social Services focus was very deliberately on the rights of young people particularly those involved in the youth justice.

CSSV was involved in other submissions, including one from the Victorian Council of Churches that focused on freedom of religion. [Click here](#) for the VCC submission, and [here](#) for a note on the VCC's presentation to the Committee.

Input or comment on any of these ongoing matters would be welcome: contact [Denis Fitzgerald](#), tel 9287 5569.

Sector developments

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Ballarat's Bishop Connors celebrates 50 years as a priest

Congratulations to Bishop Peter Connors on the Golden Jubilee of his ordination.

The [testimonials](#) delivered at the celebratory Mass in Ballarat's St Patrick's Cathedral outlined the many dimensions of Bishop Peter's contribution to the people of Ballarat Diocese. CSSV is pleased to join in thanking the Bishop for that contribution, and for his specific support for Catholic social services in the Diocese.

Resources: [Campion Spirituality Centre](#)

"The Campion Ignatian Spirituality Centre is dedicated to strengthening individuals in a quiet, peaceful environment that encourages reflection and growth in spirituality and supporting the community through its outreach programs. They offer a diversity of retreats founded on Ignatian spirituality, and it is their desire to offer guests a warm welcome and a comfortable, secure place to rest and pray. Click on heading for program and other information.

"Welfare of human beings must outweigh policy decisions"

The welfare of all migrants is paramount and outweighs any policy, says Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office Director Fr Maurizio Pettenà. [Read more...](#)



Taking from the rich and giving to the poor isn't too popular these days

[Click here](#) for a recent article on taxation policy by Paul O'Callaghan, Executive Director of [Catholic Social Services Australia](#).

Sector events

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Discovering a Sense of the Sacred

The Missionary Sisters of Service are delighted to announce that Bishop Bill Morris, Emeritus bishop of Toowoomba, will give the Father John Wallis Memorial Lecture at Genazzano College on August 9. The title of the lecture is "*Discovering the Sense of the Sacred*". [Click here](#) for details.



17 August, Briefing from Griefline on 'Supporting and Working with the Family'

Often issues such as ill health, mental illness, bereavement and addiction impact on the whole family unit -This day will look at programs and concepts in helping health care professionals, counsellors, spiritual support social workers, students and all allied health disciplines, recognise and work with these challenges within a family centred framework.



Venue: Hilton on The Park, East Melbourne Vic, 3002. [Click here](#) for registration and further details

Good Samaritan Inn dinner dance,

[Good Samaritan Inn](#) provides short term accommodation for women and children in need. Click here for details of their fund-raising dinner dance, on Friday 26 August, cost \$65 per person.



Training for Company Directors

Company Directors are invited to apply for funding to complete the Australian Institute of Company Directors Not-for-Profit Board Course. The course is a one-day program designed specifically for not-for-profit boards, and courses will be conducted in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, and Canberra in October. Applications must be lodged by 19 August, and can be made by clicking [here](#)

Anti-Poverty Week, 16-22 October 2011

Anti-Poverty Week was established in Australia as an expansion of the UN's annual International Anti-Poverty Day on October 17. The main aims of Anti-Poverty Week are to:



- strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship;
- encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems, including action by individuals, communities, organisations and governments.

Everyone who is interested in helping to reduce poverty and hardship here or overseas is encouraged to organise their own activities during the Week or join in some being organised by other people. The activities can be large or small, and events at the local level are especially welcome.

Please [click here](#) for information on how to get involved.

Contact CSSV

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Catholic Social Services Victoria
383 Albert St (PO Box 146) East Melbourne Vic 3002

<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>Carmen Montalto</i> Office Administrator carmen.montalto@css.org.au 9287 5566
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