annual report

2010

Catholic Social Services
Victoria

Episcopal Vicars for Archdiocese of Melbourne

Very Rev Anthony Kerin EV
Episcopal Vicar for Justice and Social Service

Rev Monsignor Anthony Ireland STD EV
Episcopal Vicar for Health and Aged Care

Peter Beasley
Chair of Council

Staff

Denis Fitzgerald
Executive Director

Terry O'Shannassy OAM
Member Support and Projects Co-ordinator

Emmy Silvius
Office Administrator

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Episcopal Vicars

Chairman

Executive Director

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CSSV Mission:

To assist the Catholic Church in Victoria to fulfil the gospel imperatives to:

(a) Stand with and serve the poor, disadvantaged and marginalised; and
(b) Work for a just, equitable and compassionate society.

CSSV Objectives:

Catholic Social Services Victoria is auspiced by the Archbishop and Bishops, and its member organisations to act as a peak body for Catholic community service works in Victoria by:

- Discerning and promoting within the Church and its agencies and ministries a contemporary vision and focus of the Church's social mission
- Representing its members and the Church in responding to social welfare issues so as to bring about social change in accordance with Catholic Social Teaching
- Resourcing the Bishops, Religious Institutes, Church agencies, ministries and other Church-based groups with regard to their social welfare pastoral responsibilities and ministries
- Encouraging collaboration in the promotion of opportunities for service delivery and mission development
- Giving effective voice to the experiences and struggles of people who are disadvantaged and marginalised through researching, publishing and speaking on issues of justice and equity.

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Designed by Catholic Communications Melbourne

episcopal vicar
for justice & social service

Catholic Social Services Victoria embraces the activities of Catholic Church agencies across a multitude of service delivery modes. Our members are linked together by their implementation of the Church's social mission.

Fr Tony Kerin

As Bishop Tim Costelloe pointed out recently, our social mission is informed by certain theological presumptions that instruct our pastoral practice. The world in which we live is no accident. The Creator brought the universe into being for a purpose, centred on humanity, created in God's image.

Left to our own devices, humans have tended to seek self reliant fulfillment apart from rather than in and through our relationship with God. Yet when we are most helpless in this mire of our own making, God reaches out in Jesus, as one like us who raises us to be like Him. The Church is the instrument offering this gift of salvation to all humankind. We are the means to accomplish this.

Our service to the entire community, not just the Catholic cohort, must be indelibly marked with respect for all people as all are destined to be the recipient of God's gifts. The incarnation of Jesus Christ is God's preferred methodology to reveal Himself to His creation. It is through us not despite us that God's love is manifested. Notwithstanding our faults and failings, our work is the sign and instrument of salvation to all we meet.

People ought then to recognize the Catholic Identity of our agencies in the priority and centrality of this theological underpinning of our practice. The extraordinary attention to the dignity of every human being and the primacy of Christ's example should be tangible in everyone's dealings with us.

There are some who regard CSSV agencies merely as outsourced providers of welfare, parallel to government provision and often with government funding. The challenge for us is to meet the higher expectations of clients, who seek more than this from Catholic social welfare initiatives.

Our attention to our Catholic identity and ethos this past year has been perhaps the most significant accomplishment, in that it guides both our policy and practical decision making.

May the God of justice and mercy be with us and strengthen us in these endeavors.

Very Rev. Tony Kerin
Episcopal Vicar for
Justice and Social Services

'None of us can be committed to putting right all the injustices in the world. But we can decide to act in solidarity with some who are worse off than ourselves. If we act in solidarity only with our own family and friends, we fail to live the Christian life and we can make no claim to be a global citizen.'

Australian Catholic Bishops
Social Justice Sunday Statement, 2007 "Who Is My Neighbour? Australia's Role as a Global Citizen"

chairman

Through practices of generosity, courage, and compassion, these welfare organizations work to enhance peoples' dignity, meet their needs, improve their lives and make a difference to society. In another sense, they translate the Church's social teaching into policy and action.

Bishop Peter Connors,
2009 Advent Pastoral Letter

..to work for a just, equitable and compassionate society

2010 was a busy year at Catholic Social Services Victoria – just look at the range of activities mentioned in the Executive Director's Report. I will not even attempt to summarise them all here. I do want to say at the outset that I believe we are exceptionally well served by Denis Fitzgerald in that role. He has worked with great passion, energy, commitment, intelligence and, I believe, effectiveness to help the church, through our member agencies, to stand with and serve the poor, disadvantaged and marginalised; and to work for a just, equitable and compassionate society. He and his team (Terry O'Shannassy and Emmy Silvius) deserve our congratulations and thanks. And I am pleased to report that Denis' term of appointment has recently been renewed for a further three years.

The year offered a special opportunity: the canonization of Mary MacKillop on 17 October enabled many to reflect on the inspiration and spirit that Mary bequeathed to Catholic social services in Australia. This reached far beyond the Sisters of St Joseph, MacKillop Family Services, and the other direct inheritors of Mary's legacy. And this legacy continues: work commenced in 2010 on a conference, scheduled for October 2011, on Mary's continued relevance for all aspects of Catholic social services today.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, 1882.

Peter Bearsley

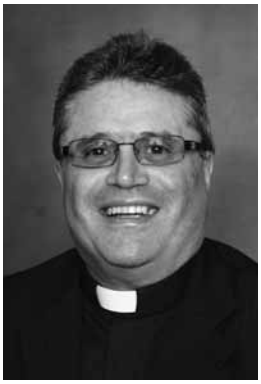
In all aspects of our work as a peak body for Catholic social services providers, we rely on the support of our member organisations. We all share a commitment to our common mission, and at CSSV we rely on the spiritual and material support of these key supporters as we set about implementing it.

Archbishop Denis Hart and those who work with him in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, Bishops Peter Connors of Ballarat and Bishop Christopher Prowse of Sale, have continued their keen support, and have also been central to our efforts to work on behalf of the Church across Victoria.

The sudden death on 28 December of Bishop Joe Grech of Sandhurst ended the year on a sad note.

Bishop Joe was a strong supporter of the role of the Church in service to the community and in working for justice. This was evident in his support for the work undertaken in the Diocese of Sandhurst by CentaCare, the St Vincent de Paul Society and many others, and by his leadership on the national stage as the spokesman for the Church in Australia on migrant and refugee matters. That leadership was acknowledged and appreciated across the general community.

Bishop Joe, and with him the Diocese of Sandhurst, was a source of strong support for Catholic Social Services Victoria. His keen interest in our work, and his guidance in areas of particular interest to him were appreciated: these included the integration of service and work for justice with the spirituality and identity of the agencies working as part of the Church.



Bishop Joe Grech

May Bishop Joe rest in peace, and may all of us be strengthened to continue the work that he was devoted to.

Strategic priorities

Our work in 2010 continued to cluster around the three strategic priorities of policy and advocacy, member support, and fostering a Catholic ethos and identity.

As outlined below, Committees of the CSSV Council focused on each of these areas, and guided the delivery of an active program of submissions, events and encounters in each of these areas. This work program is expanded on by the Executive Director later in this Annual Report.

In addition to these areas of focus, our two general events, the Commissioning Mass and AGM, and our Annual Dinner, were again successful. They contribute to the building up of the shared community of commitment and of endeavour that is the Kingdom of God in action. All of us on the Council are pleased to be associated with all aspects of this work, as collectively we seek to address the demands of justice and the needs of those in our society who are poor and marginalised.

CSSV Council

The governing body for Catholic Social Services Victoria is its Council. It met formally on eight occasions during 2010, and all members also contributed to the work of Council Committees, and to other activities of CSSV.

The full membership of the Council, and of its Committees, is listed later in this Annual Report. The comments here reflect on changes in membership that occurred over the year, and on some particular developments.

Changes in CSSV Council membership

Three of the six elected positions on the Council are filled each year at the Annual General Meeting, which was held on 11 March 2010.

The three retiring members were

- Fr Joe Caddy, CEO of Centacare Catholic Family Services. Fr Joe was reelected to the Council.

- Patrick Gallagher, Community Director at Corpus Christi Community, did not stand for re-election. Patrick's experience in governance enabled him to contribute confidently as a member of Council on a wide-range of issues; and his knowledge of community issues and of the range of Catholic social services organisations was of great benefit to all. The Council was pleased that Patrick continued as a member of the Council's Committee on Member Support, as he continues his management and governance involvement with several of our member organisations.

- Bernie O'Regan had filled a casual vacancy on the Council in 2009. Bernie's contribution to Council built on his wide-experience in social services, most recently with MacKillop Family Services in child support and management. Council particularly valued his confident grasp of governance issues; his understanding of the child and family welfare sector; and the quiet strength and clear understanding that he brought to bear on the major issues of the day.

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... the money you keep locked away is the money of the poor; the acts of charity you do not perform are so many injustices that you commit'.

St Basil (330-379)

chairman (cont.)

Humanity must be increasingly conscious of the links between natural ecology, or respect for nature, and human ecology. Experience shows that disregard for the environment always harms human coexistence and vice versa.

Pope Benedict XVI
World Peace Day Message, 2007

Two members of Council were elected for the first time in 2010: Michael Perusco, CEO of Sacred Heart Mission, and Micaela Cronin, CEO of MacKillop Family Services. As Chair, I am delighted that Michael and Micaela have joined the team. They have both contributed very strongly to the work of CSSV in this past year.

The Chair is elected each year at the AGM. I was pleased to again be re-elected.

Another membership change during 2010 was the appointment of Jamie Edwards, CEO of Centacare Gippsland, to replace Arda Tymensen. Arda had given great service over an extended period, providing a valued perspective from Gippsland, but also from a wisdom built on a lifetime of experience and reflection. Arda was always reliable and down to earth, and demonstrated an admirable commitment to the community and the Church's mission of service.

Two members of Council were re-appointed. Brian Dalton, CEO of the Society of St Vincent de Paul, and Marilyn Webster, Manager, Policy & Research at Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services, accepted reappointment by the Episcopal Vicar as his nominees on the Council. Their experience and knowledge have been invaluable.

Arda Tymensen

Council committees

CSSV members have been well served by the work of the various Committees of Council, all of which were active during the year.

As Chair of the **Governance and Finance Committee** I am grateful to David Beaver, our Treasurer, and to the other members for their conscientious oversight of governance and finance matters. Micaela Cronin was a welcome addition to this group after she joined Council at the March 2010 AGM.

Paul Fogarty chaired the **Member Support Committee**, following the retirement of Arda Tymensen. Jamie Edwards joined the Committee, and Patrick Gallagher, Community Leader at Corpus Christi Community Greenvale, joined as a co-opted member. This group informed the efforts of CSSV to build up a community of interest across the sector.

Fr Joe Caddy continued to chair the **Research, Policy and Advocacy Committee**, which guided the policy and advocacy program, and sponsored the symposium on 'Equipping organisations to respond to people experiencing mental illness'. Michael Perusco joined the Committee during 2010, and Helen Burt, a social services adviser, and Gavin Dufty, Manager of the Policy & Research Unit at the St Vincent de Paul Society, were co-opted to the Committee.

The **Catholic Ethos and Identity Committee** worked under the continued guidance of Br Doug Walsh. Jenny Glare, Manager, Heritage and Information Services, at MacKillop Family Services, was co-opted to the Committee. This group was very active in guiding and assisting reflection and exploration of various aspects of building a Catholic organisation that maximized service to those in need.

Membership of Catholic Social Services Victoria

Our sector

The members of Catholic Social Services Victoria comprise the many social services providers that work as part of the Church. There are no clear lines of demarcation: health and social services overlap, as do social services and education. Looking after the interests of our members therefore requires that we work effectively with other bodies, such as Catholic Health Australia and the Catholic Education Offices.

Nor do State boundaries fit neatly with the way services are delivered and policies are formulated: effective cooperation between CSSV and Catholic Social Services Australia, with its national focus, is essential. I am confident that overlapping membership of the Councils of the two bodies, and active liaison at the executive level, are among the elements of what is a fruitful and efficient partnership.

New members

Griefline, a telephone counseling services with extensive experience and reputation in supporting those suffering grief and loss, rejoined CSSV in 2010, bringing our active, formal membership to 36 organisations. Discussions are underway with several other bodies.

Associate membership

Associate membership is a form of support for CSSV that is open to individuals.

Associate Members may nominate and be nominated for Council positions and be nominated for the position of Chairperson, although they do not have voting rights. They are eligible to be appointed to fill a casual vacancy on the Council. They are also invited to participate in all relevant CSSV activities.

The Council in 2010 reviewed this form of cooperation with CSSV. Individuals are invited to apply. There is no set fee, but members are invited to consider a donation to the work of CSSV.

Finances

CSSV's financial position is reported on in this Annual Report.

Our main sources of financial support are the Archdiocese of Melbourne; the Dioceses of Ballarat, Sale and Sandhurst; our member organisations; and Catholic Social Services Australia. This financial support is a key enabler of our work – without it we could not continue in our current form.

These financial supporters are also our key stakeholders, representing as they do the broader Church, and the social services sector. They have our sincere gratitude for enabling us to continue this work.

General acknowledgement

The Catholic social services community and the Church are well served by a wide range of people and organisations that contribute to the work of Catholic Social Services Victoria. Special mention has been made of people from our member organisations, the Bishops of Victoria and others working with the Dioceses and other parts of the Church, and the members of our Council and its Committees.

Later in this Annual Report we also acknowledge with thanks the many people and organisations who have provided sponsorship, material support, and other special assistance.

Thank you to all who have been part of this, our shared mission of service and work for justice.

Peter Bearsley
Chair of Council

To build for humanity a world without fear, we must be without fear. To build a world of justice, we must be just. And how can we fight for liberty if we are not free in our own minds? How can we ask others to sacrifice if we are not ready to do so?

Dag Hammarskjold,
UN Secretary General, 1953-61

executive director

Effective means to redress the marginalization of the world's poor through globalization will only be found if people everywhere feel personally outraged by the injustices in the world and by the concomitant violations of human rights.

Pope Benedict XVI, *Message for World Day of Peace 2009*

...to assist the Catholic Church in Victoria to respond to the Gospel imperatives of service and work for justice

Our Mission

It has been a privilege for me to continue to represent and to serve the Catholic social services sector during 2010, and to work with the gifted and dedicated people in our member organisations and beyond.

Our role at CSSV is to assist the Catholic Church in Victoria to respond to the Gospel imperatives of service and work for justice; to encourage and assist a comprehensive response to the challenge that Christ extended to each of us, as related in St Matthew's Gospel:

> *For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me ... (Matthew 25:35)*

As a peak body, we do this by supporting the work of our member organisations, and by bringing their collective expertise and commitment to bear on some of the key issues that face us as a society, and as a Catholic social services sector.

Our member organisations – which are listed towards the end of this Annual Report – provide services across a wide range of needs and activities. Spread across the State of Victoria, they stand with and serve those who are poor, disadvantaged and marginalised in many ways. Their provision of Gospel-inspired service is inextricably linked with the striving for justice in our society.

Most of the work undertaken by CSSV during 2010 to support these endeavours is reflected on our website – www.css.org.au – and significant documents can be accessed there. This report summarises that work under the following headings:

- Advocacy
- Member support
- Catholic ethos and identity
- Cooperation with others

Denis Fitzgerald

Advocacy

As in previous years, our advocacy work was undertaken in partnership with members who have specific experience or expertise in a relevant area, and under the guidance of the Research, Policy & Advocacy Committee. Some members devote specific resources to public policy research, analysis, advocacy and public comment. Others, though, are unable to commit specific resources, and work for justice through their engagement with others, including CSSV, and through their empowerment and inclusion of those who are marginalised or disadvantaged.

November 2010 Victorian Election

Much advocacy work during 2010 had as a focus the policies that would be adopted following the November 2010 Victorian Election. Following on from our 2009 Political Forum with front-bench representatives from both sides of Parliament, and our reflection on the 2010 Victorian budget, CSSV work in this area during 2010 included:

- An early meeting between CSSV representatives and Coalition leaders on 'law and order' issues; to argue for a broader focus on community safety than was then reflected in opposition policy, and to contest their proposal to eliminate suspended sentences.

- Strategic and detailed contributions to *Your Vote, Your Values*, a Statement by the Catholic Bishops of Victoria to assist voters engage on key issues for the election. This was a significant development, including a strong focus on social justice and community service within the broader statement by the Bishops.

- Significant input into a letter from Heads of Churches to parliamentarians on 'building a safer community', and to the development of a brochure from the Interchurch Criminal Justice Taskforce that considers issues of criminal justice and imprisonment from a broad Christian perspective.

- CSSV hosted a pre-election forum on problem gambling, *Putting Pokies on the Agenda*. Presenters included the Minister for Gaming, the Shadow Minister for Gaming, and several other MPs and candidates who were concerned about the harm caused by poker machines.

Problem gambling

CSSV continued active membership of the inter-Church problem gambling task force, which, led by Mark Zirnsak of the Uniting Church, continued to provide some counter-weight to the industry and related parties who seek expanded gambling activity without full regard for the social cost involved.

A major enquiry by the Productivity Commission was concluded during 2010. This, combined with a renewed interest in problem gambling in the Commonwealth Parliament, has helped ensure a strong focus on enabling gamblers to limit their own financial exposure. The State's continuing dependence on gambling revenue also remains a current issue.

In this, as in other advocacy areas, part of CSSVs role was to inform the various parts of the Church of the issues, and of responses and activity that is called for. A mail-out to parishes of a post-card campaign was one of the ways of building this broader engagement.

Rural and regional Victoria

CSSV made a substantial submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Disadvantage and Inequity in Rural and Regional Victoria. The submission presented high level findings of 'Dropping off the Edge', and built on consultations with staff of CSSV members in Ballarat, Bendigo, Bairnsdale and Trafalgar. CSSV representatives, including David Beaver from Centacare Ballarat and Anne Dark, Ballarat Regional President of the St Vincent de Paul Society, appeared before the Inquiry in Ballarat on 12 May, where we highlighted the need for a focus by Governments at all levels on the provision of basic services, and attention to specific needs, in rural and regional Victoria. Our input was given good coverage in the report that emerged in October 2010.

Out of home care

A series of adverse reviews kept the plight of this vulnerable group in the public view during the year. CSSV continued to support the calls of members for improved administration and resourcing, and welcomed the broad-ranging review that is now underway. A breakfast presentation in late 2010 by Micaela Cronin, CEO of MacKillop Family Services, alerted a broader group to the importance and complexity of the issues facing these children.

Homelessness, Aged Care

These are both areas where CSSV members are very active.

CSSV focused its input to the Productivity Commission enquiry on Aged care and support on the provision of care to people who have been homeless. Recurrent funding is not flexible enough to provide the care that is needed, nor to fund the innovative services that are needed to reach out to these vulnerable groups. Additional capital funding is urgently needed, as is specific recognition in the funding process of those organisations that have expertise and experience in working with people who are homeless.

The submission, based on a consultation with members involved in this area, complemented the analysis of Catholic Health Australia. It supported their objective, that all Australians, irrespective of socio-economic status, personal circumstances and location who are in need of aged care and support, have access to quality aged care services.

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Modern people listen more willingly to witnesses than teachers, and if they do listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.

Pope John Paul II,
Evangelii Nuntiandi, 41

executive director (cont.)

How can the baptized claim to welcome Christ if they close the door to the foreigner who comes knocking? 'If anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?' (1 John 3:17).

Pope John Paul II, *message for World Migration Day 2000*

Disability care and support

A Breakfast Briefing by Bruce Bonyhady of Yooralla initiated a series of consultations with member organisations and with carers associated with Catholic social services on proposal for a National Disability Insurance Scheme.

This led to a Productivity Commission submission which strongly supported the concept. The key features of this scheme include that it be consumer directed and responsive, and that it address the needs of people with disabilities regardless of their location or the cause of their disabilities, in the context of an efficient and viable framework for ongoing funding. The CSSV submission complements a submission to the enquiry by the Australian Bishops Conference.

One of the points of emphasis of the CSSV submission is that reform needs to be underpinned by a strategy to enhance community attitudes toward the right to inclusion and support of people with disabilities and their families. In support of this, CSSV was active in communication with other parts of the Church to apprise them of the issues at stake, and of the need for broad understanding and support for the full participation in our society of people with disabilities.

Criminal justice issues:

2010 saw a continued focus on criminal justice issues. This is part of a long tradition of a Church voice in this arena, where there is a risk that the only voices that will be heard are those whose concept of justice is much narrower than that preached in the Gospels, and whose prescriptions are unlikely to make our community truly safer.

In 2010, CSSV joined with other Churches in forming an Interchurch Criminal Justice Taskforce, under the auspices of the Social Questions Commission of the Victorian Council of Churches. As mentioned above, this group was instrumental in the heads of Churches in Victoria engaging politicians on how best to build a safer community, and it issued a brochure that was distributed to all Churches, prior to the Victorian election. CSSV chairs this taskforce.

CSSV joined the Smart Justice coalition, and kept in contact with a number of others active in this area. Regular contact was maintained with Corrections Victoria, and with other Government authorities.

We also kept in close contact with member organisations active in this area, and particularly with prison chaplains. This included visits to several locations, including the Judy Lazarus corrections centre, which houses an innovative transition program. Further work to contribute to the transition process for those leaving prison is planned.

In late 2010 the Victorian Government introduced legislation to further curtail the use of suspended sentences. Work commenced at CSSV at that time on what will be the first of a series of interventions by CSSV and the Interchurch taskforce intended to ensure that judges retain sufficient flexibility in sentencing to ensure that a just result can emerge.

Human Rights

CSSV continued to be consulted by various parties on a range of human rights issues, particularly those that involved the dignity of the human person, and other key themes from Catholic social teaching. Freedom of religion was also a factor in a number of human rights engagements and discussions.

CSSV engaged with several reviews and proceedings, including:

- Review of the *Guardianship and Administration Act* 1986 by the Law Reform Commission
- Finalisation of the *Equal Opportunity Act* 2010
- Review of Victorian hate crimes legislation by Hon Geoff Eames QC
- Interpretation of the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act* 2006.

Member support

CSSV works to establish a community of shared identity within Catholic social services. Such a community is better able to foster cooperation and initiatives, to assist individual agencies, and to maximise the impact of our services generally on those within the Victorian community who are most in need.

These goals were pursued through some specific projects and through a range of gatherings and briefings on matters of interest.

Commissioning Mass and Annual General Meeting

On 11 March the annual Commissioning Mass was held for the first time at All Saints Church, Fitzroy, with Bishop Tomlinson as the principal Celebrant. This was followed by the Annual General Meeting in the parish hall, and then by supper at St Mary's House of Welcome, across the road in Brunswick St. Representatives from our member agencies and friends of CSSV celebrated our work within the Catholic social services sector as well as pledging to continue to better the lives of the most vulnerable in our society.

Melissa Brickell, Coordinator of Aboriginal Partnerships at MacKillop Family Services, was our guest speaker at the AGM. Melissa spoke on the sharing of vision and commitment that is needed for effective interaction between Catholic social services and Indigenous Australians.

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Members and friends of CSSV gather for the 2010 AGM.

Sr Toni Matha, Melissa Brickell from MacKIllop Family Services and Julie Edwards from Jesuit Social Services at the 2010 AGM.

Social exclusion is about income but it is about more. It is about prospects and networks and life-chances. It's a very modern problem, and one that is more harmful to the individual, more damaging to self esteem, more corrosive of society as a whole, more likely to be passed down from generation to generation, than material poverty.

Tony Blair 1997

executive director (cont.)

"When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.

Leviticus 19: 33 – 34

Annual Dinner

The CSSV Annual Dinner attracted 200 guests from a wide range of members and other parts of the Church community. The atmosphere throughout the evening was a tribute to, as one participant put it: the very strong sense of community and being part of a big group of people committed to working together.

Guest speaker Elizabeth Proust spoke about the development of a mission focus in agencies. Reflecting on her experience in a number of organisations, she offered the following advice on mission development:

- Engage your people
- Keep it simple
- Make it meaningful for internal and external stakeholders
- Senior people have to live the values
- You can't outsource mission development

Breakfast Briefings

Our Breakfast Briefing series continued during 2010 to provide convivial forums for engagement with topics that ranged across the fields of interest of our members and friends. Each of the briefings related to projects or initiatives that CSSV or member organisations are involved in.

Briefings for the year were:

- Associate Professor Beth Crisp, 24 February 2010, on Spirituality in Catholic social services.

  Beth's presentation and the subsequent discussion highlighted that there are many aspects to the interaction of spirituality and social services. The hope is that each of us will be informed and stimulated to follow up some aspects to develop our own engagement, and to enable us to better engage with others, be they clients or colleagues.

- Bruce Bonyhady, Chair of Yooralla and of Philanthropy Australia, 13 April 2010, on the proposal for a national disability compensation scheme.

  The CSSV submission to the Productivity Commission on this topic (see above) developed out of this briefing session.

- Sr Brigid Arthur, from the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project, 2 June 2010

  Sr Brigid spoke on asylum seekers in Victoria today. A focus during the briefing on the lives of individuals who are traumatised by these legal and political structures challenged all of us to renewed effort to seek reform.

Sr Josephine Dubiel hosts a Josephite table at the 2010 CSSV annual dinner.

- Jacqui Remond, Catholic Earthcare Australia, 15 July 2010

  Jacqui developed the theme of Protection and Care for our Environment, around Pope Benedict XVI's World Day of Peace message: "If you want to cultivate peace, protect creation." This message teaches us that integral human development is linked with the obligations which flow from human relationships.

  Jacqui Remond's Breakfast Briefing was followed by a separate workshop in which she encouraged participants to explore their relationship with God's creation and ask themselves how they can contribute to its care. Principles of Catholic social teaching, such as the dignity of the human person, the common good, subsidiarity and solidarity were linked with caring for the environment.

- Micaela Cronin, CEO, MacKillop Family Services, 14 December 2010

  Micaela spoke and led discussion on the topic of protecting vulnerable children. The wealth of experience among those present added to the occasion. Micaela's challenge to us as a community was to give a higher priority to care for this most vulnerable group.

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How we engage with our communities has a huge bearing on the common good. How aware are we of the needs of our neighbours? Do we know of good works in our local community and are we willing to lend a hand?

Australian Catholic Bishops
Social Justice Statement, 2010

Top left: Carol Vale (right) responds to the Breakfast Briefing by Bruce Bonyhady (left) on the National Disability Insurance Scheme proposal.

Top right: Sr Jenny Sheehan (right) responds to the Breakfast briefing by Jacqui Remond (left) on Protection and Care for the Environment.

Bottom: Jacqui Remond from Catholic Earthcare Australia leads a workshop at CSSV in July 2010.

executive director (cont.)

You must not be content with tiding the poor over the poverty crisis: you must study their condition and the injustices which brought about such poverty, with the aim of a long term improvement.

Blessed Fredrick Ozanam

Other members' forums

Briefing for members on handling of allegations of abuse within the Church, 20 May 2010

Sr Angela Ryan spoke on the national 'towards healing' program for handling complaints about abuse in Church organisations, and Francis Moore, Business Manager of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, spoke on arrangements in place in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. It was an informative exchange, and useful for all participants.

Nurturing the Founding Spirit, 8 July 2010

This was a symposium on sustaining the mission and spirit of our organisations. A range of speakers presented on the experience and learning of particular organisations, and a series of workshops enabled participants to reflect on how this might impact on their own work. Recommendations from this day led to several of the other activities noted on the next page.

Sr Angela Ryan and Francis Moore confer at the Briefing for CSSV members on the handling of allegations of abuse.

Participants of the "Nurturing the Founding Spirit" seminar in discussion.

Best practice forum on mental health interaction with other services, 9 September 2010

The forum, on Social Inclusion dimensions of mental health, saw around 50 participants challenged by speakers from government, service providers and a former MP who had suffered from mental illness. The broad group attending appreciated the energy and insight of the speakers and panel members. Feedback was very positive.

Top: Panel discussion on Mental Health and Social Inclusion – from left: Martin Turnbull, Professor Ruth Webber, Neil Cole and Marilyn Webster.

Bottom: Sr Joan Healy leads discussion among Religious who are active in social services.

Gathering of Religious working in Catholic social services, 21 September 2010

Sr Joan Healy led an opening discussion at this second annual gathering, intended to recognise the contribution of Religious active in these areas of service, to offer support, and to gain from their experience and insight.

Sr Joan inspired the gathering with a presentation on 'calling' and 'vision' in an environment that has changed enormously since most of those there had entered religious life. Joan included a reflection on her own work in Australia and then in Cambodia, and each participant added to the richness of the reflection. Sunrise, not sunset, was the prevailing optimistic spirit.

There was a strong recognition that it was the current and future leaders of our organisations who need to be the focus of much of our work on Catholic ethos and identity, but that, supplementary to that, continued recognition of the work of individual Religious was valued.

"Recruitment for Mission" Monday 8 November 2010

This was a practical workshop on how our Catholic identity and ethos can impact on recruiting our staff, volunteers, etc. Led by Robyn Roberts and Julie McQueen from Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services, the workshop engaged a range of representatives from member and related organisations. It focused on the practicalities of mission integration, in light of the broader issues that provide the context to this.

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On the one hand, charity demands justice: recognition and respect for the legitimate rights of individuals and peoples. It strives to build the earthly city according to law and justice. On the other hand, charity transcends justice and completes it in the logic of giving and forgiving....

Pope Benedict XVI, *Charity in Truth*

executive director (cont.)

The essential dignity of every person is the basis for human rights, as the Bible infers from the very first chapter of the Book of Genesis. This has been recognised by the Catholic Church from the beginning, even if sadly at times serious offences against those rights have been committed in the Church's name or by individual Catholics.

Catholic Bishops of Australia
A Pastoral Letter to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Fr Mark O'Brien OP presents at a lunchtime dialogue on Justice and Mercy in the Old Testament.

Lunchtime Dialogue on Biblical Justice, Tuesday 23 November 2010

Thanks to Fr Mark O'Brien OP for his lecture and discussion on "The ties that bind: Exploring the relationship between justice & mercy in the Old Testament". The session was greatly appreciated by a good sized gathering. The public debate on 'law and order' in the run-up to the Victorian election added currency to the discussion.

The contribution of St Mary MacKillop to Catholic social services today

Reflecting on Mary's role as a founder of Catholic social services in Australia, CSSV, as well as a number of individual member organisations, participated in a festival in the Exhibition Gardens on the afternoon of Sunday 17 October 2010, the day of her canonisation in Rome. It was a great day.

Following on from that, CSSV, MacKillop Family Services, the Australian Catholic University and the Sisters of St Joseph are cooperating in a conference planned for 13, 14 October 2011 on Mary's contribution to Catholic social services, and on what impact she might have today on the many people and organisations that are active in this field.

Cooperative projects to advance our shared mission

Cooperation between Centacare organisations

Ongoing work by CSSV with Centacare agencies has set in train the establishment of a new body to enable closer cooperation between the Centacares in their interaction with Government progressed.

Emmy Silvius at the CSSV display to mark the canonisation of Mary MacKillop.

Research into post-disaster community building

CSSV has continued its liaison with Professor Ruth Webber of the Quality of Life & Social Justice Research Centre at Australian Catholic University on evaluation/review of post-bushfire community responses, and in particular the work being done by the various Centacare agencies. Several reports and papers for publication have now emerged from that work, and CSSV has organised appropriate dissemination of the findings as they evolve. CSSV also continued active liaison with the Archbishop's Bushfire Fund on this and other matters.

Advancing assistance to asylum seekers

Following the breakfast briefing by Sr Brigid Arthur, and in light of the Government policy commitment to allow asylum seekers who are unaccompanied minors or families with children to reside in the community, several Catholic community service groups have been meeting to work to increase the contribution that the Catholic community can collectively make to this vulnerable group. A number of specific projects have already emerged.

Catholic ethos and identity

Our work in this area continued to build up in 2010, following an active program the previous year. The role of CSSV is to work with member organisations in thinking through what it means to be a Catholic agency, and in following through on the implications of this. Much of the work described above under 'advocacy' and 'member support' also supports our work on Catholic identity – our connection with the Church and Catholic social teaching influences all our work, and this influence is reflected in the priorities that emerge from our dialogue with stakeholders. The sections below thus outline only part of our effort to contribute in this area – the Annual Report as a whole should give the broader picture.

Papers

Two substantial papers emerged, built on consultations within the sector – both are available on the CSSV website.

The first was a paper presented to Catholic Bioethics Association on features of ***counselling in a Catholic agency***, which concluded that there were distinctive features of the staffing and the approach to counselling that could be expected from a Catholic agency. A key finding was that dialogue is needed within agencies and more broadly to ensure that people and processes are in place to maintain a continued focus on mission, and particularly in recruitment and in staff formation.

On 18 May 2010 Jenny Glare of MacKillop Family Services and I led a 'Day of Reflection' for staff on the Archdiocese of Melbourne on the theme of ***spirituality and mission***. This focused on the connection between our personal spirituality and our shared spirituality, and the vitality of the mission of a Catholic organisation. The main point is that we should collectively nurture this connection.

Dialogue with member organisations on Catholic ethos and identity

There are several forums where this dialogue is undertaken. One is the Catholic Ethos and Identity Committee of the CSSV Council; others include the various members events described in the earlier section of this report.

A new forum is a network group of people with responsibility for mission. An initial meeting on 19 November was appreciated by participants, who agreed to meet regularly. This faith-based forum is a support network, which can provide a range of like-minded contacts, experiences, reflections and resources for practitioners in various organisations.

Links with the broader Church

Ensuring effective liaison between the social services sector and the Church as a whole remains an important priority for CSSV.

Our liaison with the bishops of Victoria and their Dioceses remains central to our effectiveness, and is a priority for the Council and for staff. We are blessed in the support that we receive.

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For the Church, charity is not a kind of welfare activity which could equally well be left to others, but is a part of her nature, an indispensable expression of her very being.

Pope Benedict XVI, *God is Love*

executive director (cont.)

On the one hand, charity demands justice: recognition and respect for the legitimate rights of individuals and peoples. It strives to build the earthly city according to law and justice. On the other hand, charity transcends justice and completes it in the logic of giving and forgiving.... Charity always manifests God's love in human relationships as well, it gives theological and salvific value to all commitment for justice in the world.

Pope Benedict XVI, *Charity in Truth*

The Church is multi-faceted, so our liaison work needs to reflect this: Religious Congregations are a priority, as are Catholic health and education works, and the wide range of organisations at national and state level that impact on the work of our members. Such liaison is both inspiring and challenging, and has made a significant contribution to our work in 2010.

Our colleagues at Catholic Social Services Australia add a national dimension to our outlook, which is supplemented by our links with a range of other Church bodies.

Parish liaison is also central, in that the link between the service work of the Church and its work for justice, on the one hand, and its worshipping communities on the other, needs to be fostered – without such a link, both will be the poorer, and less effective.

Catholic media is a very useful way of connecting with Parishes. CSSV has a fortnightly column in Kairos, the journal of the Melbourne Archdiocese, and individual member organisations and leaders are also featured there. There has been some exposure in each of the other Victorian dioceses. We are grateful to all of these outlets for their assistance.

2010 saw two mail outs to parishes throughout Victoria, and this is planned to continue. A broader program of engagement is also in train.

Cooperation with others

The preceding sections, and the Chairman's report, have given an indication of the range of people and organisations that Catholic Social Services Victoria seek to work with. Without such linkages, we could not carry out our mission.

The linkages with many elements of the Catholic Church and community have been mentioned. So too have our member organisations.

Inter-Church cooperation remains important. Committees and taskforces of the Victorian Council of Churches are important forums for this, and we have also established helpful links across the social services space, with Uniting Care and Anglicare.

Parliament and Government generally have been mentioned; links with the media are important, and need to be strengthened.

The wide-ranging not-for-profit sector generally is a necessary and valued part of our work, particularly the Victorian Council for Social Services and the various sector peak bodies in Victoria.

So too are our financial sponsors, who are listed at the end of this Annual Report, and all those others who have made special contributions of time or treasure.

The people I work with most closely need special mention and explicit thanks:

- My colleagues Terry O'Shannassy and Emmy Silvius
- Episcopal Vicar Fr Tony Kerin, and Chair of Council Peter Bearsley
- The Chairs of our committees, the individuals who have been so helpful on particular projects and activities, our Council members
- The leaders of our member organisations
- The Bishops and other Church leaders, whose support enables us to move forward with confidence.

Through the intercession of St Mary MacKillop may we all be strengthened in our response to Christ's call to serve those most in need,

Denis Fitzgerald
Executive Director

CSSV Income and Expenditure, 2010, and previous periods:			
	2010	**2009**	**2008**
Income			
Membership fees	$69,560	$62,591	$47,648
Grants from regional Dioceses	$48,000	$48,000	$48,000
Support from Archdiocese of Melbourne	$212,245	$235,511	$194,662
CSSA support	$23,500	$30,000	$30,000
Other	$27,599	$23,975	$17,200
Total	**$380,904**	**$400,077**	**$337,510**
Expenditure			
Staff and related costs	$282,497	$286,223	$244,419
Other operating	$98,407	$113,854	$93,091
Total	**$380,904**	**$400,077**	**$337,510**
Net result	-	-	-

CSSV's net financial result

CSSV budgets to break even for the year. In 2010, expenditure and other revenue levels were such that the full amount of the Archdiocesan support was not required to be drawn down, and was $34,893 less than budgeted.

Income

- The Archdiocese of Melbourne continues to be the largest contributor to CSSV income, its $212,245 contribution meeting 56% of revenue in 2010. This was down slightly from the 59% met from this source in 2009. As was the case in each of the previous two years, the Dioceses of Ballarat, Bendigo and Sale each contributed $16,000.

- Member subscriptions, at $69,560, accounted for 18% of income, up from 16% in 2009. Membership fees in 2010 were at the same levels as in 2009.

- The contribution from Catholic Social Services Australia of $23,500 fell from the $30,000 contributed in recent years. A further reduction is budgeted for 2011, as a revised CSSA expenditure policy takes full year effect. This contribution towards the cost of the member support function continues to be appreciated by all parties.

Expenditure

- Salary and related costs accounted for 74% of CSSV expenditure for the year, up from 72% in 2009.

- Total expenditure, at $380,904, was down 5% on 2009, due largely to a reduction in operating overhead costs.

Trust fund

CSSV maintains a Trust Fund that can be used for the purposes of the organisation. The balance in the Fund at 31 December 2009 was $115,362. $5,000 from the Trust Fund was transferred to CSSV income during 2010.

Charity goes beyond justice, because to love is to give, to offer what is "mine" to the other; but [charity] never lacks justice, which prompts us to give the other what is "his", what is due to him by reason of his being or his acting… Not only is justice not extraneous to charity, not only is it not an alternative or parallel path to charity: justice is inseparable from charity, and intrinsic to it.…

Pope Benedict XVI,
Charity in Truth

council & membership

CSSV Council

Very Rev. Tony Kerin PP EV
Episcopal Vicar for Justice and Social Services

Mr Peter Bearsley (Chairman)

Ms Carol Vale (Deputy Chair)
Coordinator
Bethlehem Community Inc

Mr David Beaver (Treasurer)
Director
Centacare Ballarat

Fr Joe Caddy
Chief Executive Officer
Centacare Catholic Family Services

Ms Micaela Cronin
Chief Executive Officer
MacKillop Family Services
(from March 2010)

Mr Brian Dalton
Chief Executive Officer
St Vincent de Paul Society

Mr Jamie Edwards
Director
Centacare Gippsland
(from March 2010)

Mr Paul Fogarty
Director
CentaCare Sandhurst

Mr Patrick Gallagher
Community Director
Corpus Christi Community Greenvale
(until March 2010)

Mr Bernie O'Regan
Manager, Family and Community Services
MacKillop Family Services
(until March 2010)

Mr Michael Perusco
Chief Executive Officer
Sacred Heart Mission
(from March 2010)

Ms Johanna Snelleman
Chief Executive Officer
Marillac

Ms Arda Tymensen
Director
Centacare Gippsland
(until February 2010)

Br Doug Walsh fms OAM
Representative of Catholic Religious Victoria

Ms Marilyn Webster
Social Policy and Research Manager
Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services

CSSV Council:
Membership of Committees

Governance and Finance Committee
Peter Bearsley (Chair)
David Beaver (Treasurer)
Micaela Cronin (from May 2010)
Brian Dalton
Denis Fitzgerald
Bernie O'Regan (until March 2010)

Member Support Committee
Paul Fogarty, Chair (from May 2010)
Arda Tymensen (member and Chair until February 2010)
Jamie Edwards (from March 2010)
Patrick Gallagher (from July 2010)
Terry O'Shannassy OAM
Carol Vale
Br Doug Walsh fms OAM

Research, Policy and Advocacy Committee
Fr Joe Caddy (Chair)
Helen Burt (from June 2010)
Gavin Dufty
Denis Fitzgerald
Patrick Gallagher (until March 2010)
Terry O'Shannassy OAM
Michael Perusco (from March 2010)
Johanna Snelleman
Marilyn Webster

Catholic Ethos and Identity Committee
Br Doug Walsh fms OAM (Chair)
David Beaver
Denis Fitzgerald
Paul Fogarty
Jenny Glare (from May 2010)
Terry O'Shannassy OAM
Carol Vale

CSSV Members
Bethlehem Community Inc
Catholic Chaplains' Association for Health Care
Catholic Homes
Catholic Solo Parents
Centacare Ballarat
Centacare Catholic Family Services
CentaCare Sandhurst
Centacare Gippsland
Corazon
Corpus Christi Community
Early Education Program for Hearing Impaired Children
Edmund Rice Camps
Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services
Griefline
Jesuit Social Services
John Pierce Centre for Deaf Ministry
Kewn Kreestha
Keysborough Learning Centre
Larmenier Child and Family Centre
Little Sisters of the Poor – St Joseph's Home for the Aged
MacKillop Family Services
Marillac
McAuley Community Services for Women
Office for Justice & Peace, Archdiocese of Melbourne
Pregnancy Support Service, Frankston
Project Dreaming Tracks
Sacred Heat Mission St Kilda Inc
Shekinah Homeless Services Inc
Sisters of Charity Community Care Limited
Sisters of Nazareth (Nazareth House)
Society of St Vincent de Paul
Southern Cross Care (Vic)
St Mary's House of Welcome Ltd
Villa Maria
Wellsprings

CSSV Life members
Rev Kevin Mogg AM PP
Sr Toni Matha AM ibvm

acknowledgements

Acknowledgements

In carrying out its mission, Catholic Social Services Victoria relies on the input of many people and organisations, as mentioned in the various parts of this annual report.

Special mention has been made of people from our member organisations, the Bishops of Victoria and others working with the Dioceses and other parts of the Church, and the members of our Council and its Committees. Financial contributions from our member organisations, the Dioceses of Victoria and Catholic Social Services Australia have also been highlighted.

In this section, we also acknowledge with thanks the sponsorship, material support, and other special assistance, received from the following:

Aboriginal Catholic Ministry
Adrian Foley
All Saints Parish
Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation
Australian Catholic University
Catholic Church Insurances Ltd
Catholic Communications Melbourne
Catholic Development Fund,
Archdiocese of Melbourne
Catholic Education Office, Melbourne
Catholic Social Services Australia
cdm communications
Centacare Catholic Family Services
Church Resources
Fuji Xerox
Gadens Lawyers
Helen Burt
Janet Cribbes
Kairos Catholic Journal
Margaret McCarthy
Marketing Connecting Networking
Mastercare
Ministry to Priests
Sr Angela Reed
Sr Josephine Dubiel rsj
Sr Mary O'Shannassy sgs
St Bernard's College
St Mary's House of Welcome
Teknocorp Electronic Security Systems

The following members and friends who gave presentations of various sorts during the year are also thanked and acknowledged:

Associate Professor Beth Crisp
Bruce Bonyhady
Carol Vale
Elizabeth Proust
Fr Andy Hamilton SJ
Fr Mark O'Brien OP
Jacqui Remond
Julie Edwards
Marilyn Webster
Melissa Brickell
Micaela Cronin
Michael Perusco
Neal Murphy
Neil Cole
Professor Ruth Webber
Robyn Roberts
Sr Brigid Arthur csb
Sr Helen Toohey csb
Sr Joan Healey rsj
Sr Pamela Moloney rgs

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

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