

STATE ELECTION 2006: **SPHERES OF INFLUENCE**

WEDNESDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2005

HOTEL Y, 489 ELIZABETH STREET, MELBOURNE

For Victorian agencies working to address poverty and disadvantage, the 12-month lead up to a State Election presents an opportunity for strategic lobbying.

The 'how', 'why', 'where' and 'what' issues will be explored at this one day conference organised by Catholic Social Services Victoria.

Understanding Spheres of Influence will examine the vexed issue of 'selling' poverty alleviation to the broader community. The opening panel of speakers will address this from their own spheres of influence: the Collins Street boardroom; the academic perspective based on qualitative research on how those who are not poor view the poor and reflections from a street worker on educating school students and city workers about the existence of poverty and related social problems in the CBD.

The day has a strong rural context, in recognition of the depth of poverty there which many in metropolitan Melbourne do not experience. There are uplifting stories of what can be achieved with willpower and engaged communities and plenty of insights into the way forward.

Hear Deputy Premier, John Thwaites and Opposition Leader, Robert Doyle on their Parties' plans in relation to addressing disadvantage.

Select from a range of workshops on:

- The ways different communities are tackling issues of disconnection and disadvantage
- Community partnerships; what effective ones look like
- Maximising one's own sphere of influence with the media and gaining community and political support for an issue
- Sparking creativity in tackling entrenched issues and inspiring agencies to consider new approaches
- Specific issues such as obstacles which block the supply of affordable housing; innovative models to engage with the homeless and mentally ill; how to negotiate a path out of Victoria's reliance on gambling revenue; helping female offenders re-establish lives in the community

Patrick Gallagher
Executive Director

Register soon to ensure entry into workshops of your choice.

MORNING

9.00

Welcome and introduction

9.10

Acknowledgement of traditional owners
Vicki Walker, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry

9.15 - 10.40

Panel presentation followed by discussion on influencing the poverty debate within different spheres of influence
Mark Peel, Senior Lecturer, History Dept, Monash University
Samara Pitt, Community Worker, Urban Seed
Simon McKeon, Executive Chairman, Macquarie Bank

10.40 - 11.00

Morning tea

11.00 - 11.45

Deputy Premier, John Thwaites, Outline of Bracks Government's A Fairer Victoria; the ongoing steps, including time for questions

11.45 - 1.00

Concurrent Workshops - attendees to choose one of the following:

W1

All aboard - engaging campaigns which put poverty and disadvantage on the political agenda

Annie O'Rourke, Executive Director, Media Team Australia
Russel Howcroft, Chairman, Advertising Federation of Australia

W2

Being the bridge - spanning the gap between service agencies and communities. Lessons from Bendigo agencies working with disadvantaged communities

Fred Langenhorst, Bendigo Access Employment
Troy Matisons, Bendigo Community Health Service

W3

Intergenerational Equity: Who's feeling squeezed? Spending patterns and pressures for different groups

Gavin Dufty, St Vincent de Paul
Second speaker to be confirmed

W4

Affordable Housing

Lessons, pitfalls and the way forward
Jan Berriman, CEO, Melbourne Affordable Housing
The NIMBY's obstacle. Can we change a community mind set?
Planning laws that meet all community needs.
Gary Spivak, Housing Development Officer, City of Port Phillip

AFTERNOON

1.00 - 1.40

Lunch

1.40 - 2.25

Leader of the Opposition, Robert Doyle, Outline of Liberal Party's vision for tackling disadvantage and poverty, including time for questions

2.25 - 2.40

Afternoon tea

2.40 - 4.00

Workshops - attendees to choose one of the following:

W5

Education, health and engagement: in rural communities

Rural community sustainability: A unique university/community partnership in Southern Grampians Shire
Kaye Scholfield, Community Partnerships & Projects, RMIT University, Hamilton Campus
Healthy Farm Families Project
Susan Brumby, Western District Health Service

W6

Tackling difficult areas: Identifying the measures that make a difference

Mental health/homelessness initiative, a partnership between Sacred Heart Mission and The Alfred Psychiatric Department
Michael Perusco, Sacred Heart Mission
Helping women offenders post release to establish meaningful lives. Findings from Women and Welfare After Prison research project
Rosemary Sheehan, Monash University

W7

Community development: More inspirational stories from the bush and Melbourne's growth corridors.....

Something out of left field: How a dog made a difference in a country town

Deborah Howcroft, Rural Mainstreet Project, Casterton

Epping: How A Community development model connected the communities of Epping

Michelle Harmer, Centacare

W8

Electronic gaming machines and disadvantage: The imperative to re-think gaming policies

James Doughney, Senior Research Associate, Victoria University
Gabiella Byrne, former gambling addict and proponent of The Third Way, a meeting place alternative to pokies venues

4.00 - 4.15

Conclusion

REGISTRATION

Name _____

Organisation _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Special dietary needs _____

WORKSHOPS

(Please number boxes with preferences):

I would like to attend:

Morning Workshops		Afternoon Workshops	
W1		W5	
W2		W6	
W3		W7	
W4		W8	

PAYMENT

Cost: CSSV members: \$55
 Non members: \$75

A tax invoice/receipt will be issued upon receipt of payment

To register please complete this form and return with your cheque made payable to:

Catholic Social Services Victoria
PO Box 146
East Melbourne Vic 8002

Please return as soon as possible to avoid disappointment, as numbers are limited.

For further information contact:

Marg Casey, Catholic Social Services Victoria

Ph: 03 9287 5566, Fax: 9287 5567, Email: office@css.org.au.