

mini MICAH

May 2007

Hello, and welcome to *mini MICAH*.

What's been happening

- Γ Jesuit Social Services held their 30th anniversary fundraising dinner at Flemington Racecourse on 28th April with approximately 700 people attending. Martin Flanagan was the guest speaker and Paul Kelly entertained those present. Congratulations JSS - a great night was had by the representatives of CSSV who attended.
- Γ CSSV is working on a state-wide initiative to develop a working relationship with people in the country affected by drought and bushfire - and sometimes both! Representatives of the Archdiocese and regional dioceses, parishes, St Vincent de Paul and the Department of Human Services have been meeting to discuss ways in which the city can be of assistance, not imposition, to the country. More on this next issue.
- Γ The Victorian State budget was handed down on 1st May with our sector receiving funding for public and community housing, ongoing funding for delivery of early intervention framework for vulnerable children, and disability services.
- Γ Shekinah Homeless Services featured in the Melbourne Archdioceses' publication *Kairos*. It's great that our welfare agencies are receiving a wider profile within the Church community.

What's coming up

- Γ Centacare Ballarat has moved in to new premises and will have an official opening of their new premises on 18th May. We wish them well in the new 'home'.
- Γ Project Dreaming Tracks is conducting Ngapartji-Ngapartji [working both ways], a cross-cultural art exhibition for Reconciliation Week, 15 - 27 May, at St Francis Church Pastoral Centre. For further information please call 9471 1410.
- Γ Minister Bronwyn Pike will officially open the new Anna House facility at Regina Coeli Community on 9th May.

Who am I?

Each issue, we profile someone in the CSSV community. In this issue, we hear from Tony McCosker, from St Mary's House of Welcome.

Q: Tony, please tell us about where you work and what you do.

I am Chief Executive Officer at St Mary's House of Welcome, a Day Centre and psychiatric rehabilitation centre for people who experience homelessness and social isolation in the inner city of Melbourne

Q: Tell us something interesting or funny that has happened at your work recently?

I was recently informed that Fiji was an interesting place to visit as its population was made up of 75% Fijians and 50% Indians!

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

An old piece of advice which I still struggle to stick by: “leave your work at work”.

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

Mostly bush walking, reading, movies and the company of family

Q: Have you a particular role model?

Nelson Mandela has inspired me with his determination and courage. Jean Vanier, along with Dorothy Day, inspire me to be present to the disadvantage in our community.

Q: Which footy team do you support and why?

The Swans. Being brought up on that other code, I was christened into AFL later in life. I just happened to be living in Sydney when South Melbourne relocated.

Send us your news – any information on what your agency is doing will be greatly appreciated.

mini MICAH thrives on news! Send your news, updates, and any items of interest to miniMICAH@css.org.au.

Catholic Social Services Victoria

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