

Update for members and friends of Catholic Social Services Victoria

Today, 20 June, is World Refugee Day. The [UNHCR](#) reports that 43.7 million people are now displaced worldwide. Within this total are 15.4 million refugees, 27.5 million people displaced within their own country by conflict, and nearly 850,000 asylum-seekers.



Refugee Week, from June 19 to 25, is an opportunity to reflect on our own response to this continuing tragedy: as an individual, as a supporter of programs and agencies working to support refugees and asylum seekers, as a participant in the Australian political system.

Congratulations to the many CSSV members and supporters who are active in service and advocacy for these vulnerable members of our community, including the recent initiatives for asylum seeker support led by MacKillop Family Services and by CatholicCare. (Adrian Foley, adrian.j.foley@optusnet.com.au, is a contact point for anyone interested in contributing, or in further information.)

Upcoming CSSV activity

- ✚ 6 July 2011 Breakfast Briefing, 'A contemporary reflection on the case against euthanasia'
- ✚ 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 9 June: Robyn Rose
- ✚ Mission network meeting: 19 May
- ✚ Women's retreat: 27 - 28 May
- ✚ Farewell and thanks to Emmy Silvius
- ✚ Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities
- ✚ Criminal justice advocacy
- ✚ Problem Gambling
- ✚ Minimum wages in Australia

Sector initiatives

- ✚ 14th July, Jesuit Social Services 'Just Leadership' Breakfast
- ✚ 19 July, Churches and Social Policy Conference
- ✚ Briefing from Griefline
- ✚ 16-22 October, Anti-poverty week
- ✚ Shekinah Ball
- ✚ Communities in Control Conference.
- ✚ Vinnies CEO Sleepout
- ✚ Resources
- ✚ Volunteers



Upcoming CSSV activity

June 19 - 28: visit to Melbourne by Fr Greg Boyle SJ

Author of 'Tattoos on the Heart – the Power of Boundless Compassion.' For 25+ years he's lived with young men and women involved in gangs in LA. Fr Greg is involved in a series of public-access events during his visit:



- Thursday 23 June, 12.30 – 2.00pm, An [invitation](#) to **join Jesuit Social Services staff in conversation**
- Thursday June 23, 2011, 6.30pm – 8pm, **encounter with Fr Bob McGuire, Child Safety Commissioner Bernie Geary**
- Friday June 24, 6.00pm, 'Tattoos on the Heart': **The Power of Boundless Compassion'**
A Helder Camara [Lecture](#)
- Saturday 25 June, 11am—2pm, includes Lunch, **A chance to sit down in a circle with Greg Boyle SJ.**

Breakfast Briefing Wednesday 6 July: Professor Margaret Somerville



"A contemporary reflection on the case against euthanasia"

7.15am for 7.30am-8.45am, Tickets: \$20 at the door

RSVP Friday 1 July to catherine.mcgovern@cam.org.au, or tel 9926 5791

CSSV Annual Dinner - Friday 19 August at Leonda, Hawthorn

Please note this in your diaries – for CEOs, Board members, and leaders generally in the Catholic social services 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: Reflections on justice issues today in light of Luke's Gospel

12.00 - 1.30pm. Bring a Sandwich - Tea and Coffee provided
For further details please contact carmen.montalto@css.org.au

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





Mary MacKillop Conference (continued)

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.

Enquiries: Margaret Allen, tel 0418 776 987, margaret.allen@me.com

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

Breakfast Briefing Thursday 9 June 2011: Robyn Rose

Thanks to Robyn Rose, Manager of ACCESS Employee Assistance Program, for her Breakfast Briefing on Thursday 9 June. Robyn's presentation on

Keeping Faith with our workers in faith based organisations was well received, in an environment that more than compensated for the cold Melbourne morning outside. Robyn would be happy to follow up with others who are interested –

robyn.rose@ccam.org.au .



“Rest for your Soul” - Weekend of spiritual renewal for women

Thanks to Emmy Silvius and facilitator Carol Dyer for a successful retreat on 27, 28 May. Feedback was positive - the online [write up](#) gives a strong sense of what was achieved. Thanks too to the Janssen Spirituality Centre for the venue and support.



Farewell and thanks to Emmy Silvius

Emmy Silvius finished work with CSSV at the end of May. During her two years with CSSV Emmy made a valued contribution in a range of areas, including organising the recent successful Women's Retreat. Emmy will certainly be missed as she not only brought much energy and passion for justice & equality into her work, but she also showed compassion and patience when listening to callers needing assistance in a variety of areas.

We wish Emmy all the best as she pursues other opportunities to contribute in the areas of spirituality, pastoral care and social justice, and to apply her enthusiasm to learn and address current issues within the sector. Emmy's ongoing contact details are: phone 0420 330 786 and email: eagle@dodo.com.au.

Review of Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities

Introduced in 2006 and fully operational in 2008, the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities is currently under review by the Parliamentary Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee. CSSV is developing a submission in consultation with members, aimed at re-iterating the importance of strong support for human rights, and looking at ways of making the Charter more effective in this. Queries or suggestions can be directed to Denis Fitzgerald, dfitzgerald@css.org.au, tel 9287 5569. Submissions need to be lodged by 1 July.



Criminal justice advocacy

The Victorian Government has recently announced further steps to advance their community safety agenda. Through the Sentencing Advisory Council they are seeking comments on a proposal to apply statutory minimum sentences for assaults involving gross violence. This would be a significant development in sentencing law, particularly in relation to juvenile offenders.

Another development is an on-line survey, to run for four weeks starting in July, to seek the views of the community on the adequacy of sentencing in Victoria. On 31 May the *Herald Sun* [presented this](#) as a joint endeavour with the Government, in terms that raised questions about the objectivity of their involvement:

Readers of the Herald Sun, which has long campaigned against alcohol-related assaults, have been asked by the Coalition to take part in delivering its promised review on law-and-order issues.

Community expectations are often frustrated by soft sentencing that puts an emphasis on the offender's rehabilitation, rather than punishment for crimes that destroy the lives of victims and their families.

Where is the justice? These four words are voiced by many who have suffered from violent crime.

These developments have the potential to focus on punishment at the expense of justice, effectiveness and longer-term community safety. In addressing these immediate issues, CSSV will continue to work with members, the interchurch Criminal Justice Taskforce, and others active in criminal justice advocacy to work for a criminal justice system that has a broader focus, and which seeks to build a safe community based on justice and compassion for all who are involved – victims, offenders and the community.

Problem Gambling

Primarily as a member of the Victorian Interchurch Gambling Taskforce, CSSV has continued active advocacy to address problem gambling, including on the current proposal to introduce mandatory pre-commitment arrangements for poker machine use. We appeared earlier this year before the Commonwealth Parliamentary Committee considering pre-commitment regimes, and met recently with the Victorian Minister, Michael O'Brien MP, to discuss Victoria's approach to the proposed Commonwealth pre-commitment requirements – Mr O'Brien opposes mandatory pre-commitment. A recent article in *Kairos* - 13 May 2011 '[Pokies: Protecting the vulnerable](#)' – was part of a strategy to inform the Victorian Catholic community on these matters.

Minimum wages in Australia

Brian Lawrence, Chair of Australian Catholic Commission for Employment Relations, has been active in building on Catholic social teaching in **advocacy for a higher minimum wage for families**. Click for a [paper](#) that draws on Catholic social teaching to underpin the ACCER's submission to the current Fair Work Australia national wage case, and for a [response](#) by Brian to the national wage case outcome. CSSV has been working to support Brian's analysis and advocacy: a recent [CSSV media article](#) summarised the principles and the issues involved.



Sector initiatives

Jesuit Social Services 'Just Leadership' Breakfast Series

Just Imagine - 14th July 2011

www.justleadership.org.au for further information.



Churches & Public Policy, a Conference on Tuesday 19 July 2011

Social Policy Connections extends an invitation to a one-day conference 'Advancing human wellbeing in a changing society' at the Abbotsford Convent.

Key speaker: Dr Robert Fitzgerald AM, plus Dr John Falzon and other leaders in social services & public policy

[Click here](#) for further information.



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: The Hilton on The Park, East Melbourne Vic, 3002

[Click here](#) for registration and further details

Anti-Poverty Week, 16-22 October 2011

Anti-Poverty Week aims to strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship around the world and in Australia. It also seeks to encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems, including action by individuals, communities, organisations and governments. One way to engage is to sponsor an event, and let others know about it. Register an event [here](#).

Shekinah Ball



The social needs of 150 of Melbourne's homeless were again addressed by the annual Shekinah ball. Most of the usual suspects from the leadership of the [Shekinah network of homelessness services](#), put on their best outfits, with many participants donning fancy dress for this special night. A lively atmosphere amply supported by the band encouraged much dancing and sharing of stories. Special thanks to Marg Casey and her band of family, friends and benefactors who gave so willingly of themselves to make the night a success.



Communities in Control Conference

The annual gathering at Mooney Valley Race Course on 30, 31 May attracted a very large group, many travelling from interstate for the event. Presentations are available [online](#): Particularly interesting were presentations from Hugh MacKay on basic human desires, and Phil Ruthven on discernable social trends and the changes that they will engender. Joan Kirner was honoured by the inaugural Social Justice Oration named after her. Congratulations to Fr Joe Caddy for his continued strong leadership of this vibrant conference.



Some members might be interested in following up on the social sector banking arrangements offered by Westpac, a sponsor of the conference - www.westpac.com.au/socialsectorbanking

Vinnies CEO Sleepout

Executive Director of Catholic Social Services Victoria Denis Fitzgerald was one of many who joined the Vinnies 'CEO Sleepout' held in Melbourne and capital cities across Australia on Thursday 16 June, to help raise money and awareness of homeless people. [Click here](#) to find out more about the sleepout, which has raised close to \$4 million. Thanks to the many who contributed through sponsorship and encouragement.



Resources for prayer and reflection

Catholic Health Australia has foreshadowed an upgrade to its website to provide greater resources and links assisting prayer and reflection. This includes 'Pray As You Can' which can be accessed by clicking [here](#). To make a suggestion, please contact Susan Sullivan at susans@cha.org.au

Volunteers and Equal Opportunity

From 1 August, the Victorian Equal Opportunity Act will apply to volunteers. Volunteering Victoria has produced an information pack to assist organisations in identifying and carrying out their responsibilities under these arrangements – click on icon to access.



EOA Information Pack.pdf

Contact CSSV

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

<p><i>Denis Fitzgerald</i> Executive Director dfitzgerald@css.org.au 9287 5569</p>	<p><i>Terry O'Shannassy</i> Member Support and Projects toshannassy@css.org.au 9287 5570</p>
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