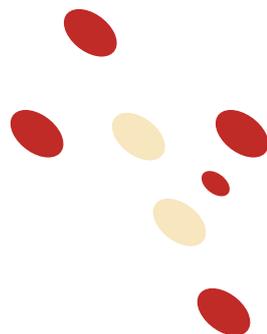




annual report

2008



Catholic Social Services
Victoria

**Episcopal Vicar for
Justice and Social Services**

Most Rev Christopher Prowse DD
Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne

Staff

Denis Fitzgerald
Executive Director

Margaret Casey
Member Support Manager (until October 2008)

Terry O'Shannassy OAM
Member Support and Projects Co-ordinator (from Nov 2008)

Christine Wade
Office Administrator

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CSSV Mission:

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

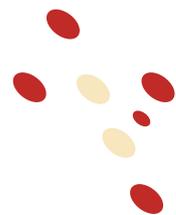
CSSV Vision:

Victoria – a place of justice and compassion

CSSV Objectives:

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.



Catholic Social Services
Victoria

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Designed by Ramesh Weeraratne, Catholic Communications Melbourne

episcopal vicar

In 2007 Archbishop Hart appointed me his Episcopal Vicar for Justice and Social Services. I thought the best manner to begin this important responsibility was to start visiting the communities within the Catholic Social Services network. I have begun this task.

What an inspiration it has been so far!

There are so many talented staff and volunteers, and there are the many and varied who benefit from our outreach throughout Victoria. Of course, we learn so much from them too – the homeless, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, the sick and dying, those with handicaps both mental and physical, the prisoners, the hungry, the depressed and lonely, the unemployed and so on.

All this and so much more has been the work of the Church since the time of Jesus and the apostles. Our Pope, Benedict XVI, phrased it so wonderfully:

Love for the widows and orphans, prisoners, sick and needy of every kind, is as essential to [the Church] as the ministry of the sacraments and preaching of the Gospel. The Church cannot neglect the Sacraments and the Word.

Deus Caritas Est, 2005, n. 22

This work goes on from age to age, and it must adapt to the changing needs of society. Australia saw several changes in 2008:

It was a time of hope.

- The National Apology to Indigenous Australians.
- The Commonwealth commitment to reduce homelessness.
- World Youth Day and the outpouring of concern for the marginalised.
- The work of Catholic Social Services in all its varied works and the wisdom coming from Catholic Social Doctrine.

It was a time of disappointment.

- The State of Victoria's passing of legislation on abortion and artificial reproductive technology was so disappointing. The lack of an ethical political leadership to acknowledge the rights of the unborn and protect family life in our troubled times became most apparent. Our commitment to provide supportive services to mothers and families in need becomes even more urgent.

The close link in our Catholic Tradition between love/mercy and justice is seen as a thread in all our responses to the challenges stated above. As John Paul II phrased it in synthesis:

Love for others, and in the first place love for the poor, in whom the Church sees Christ himself, is made concrete in the promotion of justice.

Centesimus Annus, 1991, n.58

We are called to form one family in which all – individuals, peoples and nations – model their behaviour according to the principles of fraternity and responsibility.

Pope Benedict XVI –
Fighting Poverty to Build Peace,
Message for World Day of Peace,
January 2009, n.12.

Continued on page 4

episcopal vicar (cont.)

In the gospels, we hear Jesus asking us in Australia today: how aware are we of the poverty in our community? How often do we do a good act for someone in need without hope of earthly reward? What changes do we need to make so that all Australians have their basic needs met and are able to participate fully in the life of the community?

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (2008) *A Rich Young Nation: The challenge of affluence and poverty in Australia*, p14.

We have all noticed that today the word “Justice” is used so often in a simplistic manner. It often times refers to something the “government” must do. But, as Pope John Paul continues in his teaching, the work of justice involves us all:

Justice will never be fully attained unless people see in the poor person, who is asking for help in order to survive, not an annoyance or a burden, but an opportunity for showing kindness and a chance for greater enrichment. Only such an awareness can give the courage needed to face the risk and the change involved in every authentic attempt to come to the aid of another.

Centesimus Annus, 1991, n.15

Even as recently as December 2008, Pope Benedict XVI reiterated these prophetic words in his Message for World Day of Peace 2009. He reassured the world that “The Christian community will never fail ... to assure the entire human family to her support through gestures of creative solidarity”. (n.15)

What a beautiful expression – “creative solidarity”. May I thank the Catholic Social Services agencies of Victoria for their witness of “creative solidarity” over the past year. In the coming year, with enormous challenges arising already from the world economic crisis and the Victorian bushfires, may we go forward together knowing that Jesus, the Saviour, is with us at all times.

May God bless you always.

Bishop Christopher Prowse DD

Episcopal Vicar
Justice and Social Services

chairman

The member agencies of CSSV are inspirational in their work to serve the poor, disadvantaged and marginalised. I feel very privileged to be associated with them.

In 2008 CSSV, as a peak body for Catholic community service works, provided leadership and added value to this work of the Church in a number of ways. That work was in pursuit of the following strategic goals that were re-confirmed by Council early in the year.

- **Advocacy** on behalf of disadvantaged people and member agencies, with government bodies and the media, including relationships and collaboration as appropriate with other peak bodies so as to magnify the Church's voice and influence.
- **Member services** including the fostering of networks for mutual cooperation and advantage, education and professional standards.
- **Fostering** a Catholic ethos, identity and profile among our agencies, unpacking and articulating Catholic social teaching, and communicating effectively with the Archbishop and Regional Bishops.
- **Research** both for policy formulation and preparation of submissions in consultation with member agencies and others; and to identify gaps in service to disadvantaged people and communicate these to our member agencies. (One of the outcomes of the review of CSSV that was completed in 2007 (the "2007 Review") was that CSSV would not be resourced for its own research work, so activity in this area was confined to that necessary to underpin advocacy work.)

As outlined in the Executive Director's Report, progress in all of these areas was very satisfying. In our first full year of operations following the review that stretched across the previous two years, it was gratifying to be able to work with members and with like-minded agencies to represent the sector to Government on issues of interest and concern; to strengthen the links across the sector and to strengthen individual member agencies; and to respond to the priorities of members in fostering a Catholic ethos and identity within the sector.

Auspicing

The major outcome of the 2007 Review was that the role of the Bishops of Victoria in auspicing CSSV was made more explicit, with a corresponding funding commitment. Constitutional amendments to be proposed to the 2009 Annual General Meeting reflect this more explicit auspicing. An enhanced relationship with the Bishops formed part of our work in 2008 and this will be built on in 2009.

Membership

CSSV represents all Catholic welfare agencies in Victoria, and most aged care providers. Our 'community of interest' is much wider than this, as there is a heavy overlap between the work of the 'welfare sector' and that of health and education bodies. It is a priority for CSSV to work both to meet the needs of members, and to develop this broader community.

...in advanced wealthy societies, there is evidence of marginalisation, as well as affective, moral and spiritual poverty, seen in people ... who experience various forms of malaise, despite their material prosperity.

Pope Benedict XVI –
Fighting Poverty to Build Peace,
Message for World Day of Peace,
January 2009, n.2..

Continued on page 6

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

Pope Benedict XVI –
Fighting Poverty to Build Peace,
Message for World Day of Peace,
January 2009, n.8.

chairman (cont.)

Changes in membership

Since the end of 2008 there has been one addition to formal membership - Keysborough Learning Centre which, as part of the Parish of the Resurrection, is a Registered Training Organisation that provides English language training for recent arrivals, computer training, and other vocational training for vulnerable and disadvantaged people. There are several other applications in train.

The Sisters of Mercy established McAuley Community Services for Women in 2008, which brought together two former CSSV members: Regina Coeli and Mercy Care. We look forward to McAuley's further expansion into new services for marginalised women.

Life membership

During 2008 Council decided to propose that a category of life membership of CSSV be added, to enable the recognition of individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the work of CSSV and the wider welfare sector. Life members would be selected by the CSSV Council, with a two thirds supporting vote required. Amendments to the Constitution to provide for this new class of membership will be proposed to the 2009 Annual General Meeting.

Finances

As the finance report on page 10 indicates, the Archdiocese of Melbourne continues to be the largest contributor to CSSV income, meeting 58% of revenue in 2008. Member subscriptions, at \$47,648, accounted for 14% of income. A further 14% was contributed directly by the Regional Bishops of Victoria as part of the outcome of the 2007 Review. Catholic Social Services Australia again contributed \$30,000 towards the costs of our member support activities. This is a strong partnership which builds on the synergies that exist between a national and a state focus. These contributions enable CSSV to function – we are very appreciative of them.

Salary, accommodation and related costs accounted for 86% of CSSV expenditure for the year. Total expenditure, at \$337,000, was up 10% on 2007, reflecting a fuller staffing profile over the course of the year. A further increase in 2009 will reflect that all positions are filled for a full year.

Council Membership

Three of the six elected positions on the Council are filled each year, for a two year term. At the 2008 AGM, Fr Joe Caddy, CEO of Centacare Catholic Family Services and Ms Suzanne McManus, of the Practice and Policy Unit of MacKillop Family Services, were reelected, and Mr Patrick Gallagher, Community Leader of Corpus Christi Community Greenvale, was elected to a vacant position.

The following five nominated members were renominated for a further two year period:

- David Beaver, Director of Centacare Ballarat, nominated by the Bishop of Ballarat
- Paul Fogarty, Director of CentaCare Sandhurst, nominated by the Bishop of Sandhurst
- Arda Tymensen, Director of Centacare Gippsland, nominated by the Bishop of Sale
- Br Doug Walsh, fms, nominated by the Conference of Religious Leaders, Victoria
- Marilyn Webster, Manager of Policy & Research at Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services, nominated by the Episcopal Vicar

The Chair is elected by members each year.

In September 2008 Suzy McManus' appointment to Council ceased when she completed her employment with MacKillop Family Services. Suzy's contribution to CSSV involved both membership of Council and a period as a staff member. Her contributions, particularly in relation to policy priorities and cooperation with members on policy work, have been widely appreciated. The resultant casual vacancy was filled by Bernie O'Regan, Manager of Youth and Family Services at MacKillop. Bernie brings to the Council a wealth of experience in community service, in Victoria and Queensland. He also adds to the expertise on Council in the areas of program management and of needs and services in the key areas of youth and family.

Council Operations

Council met nine times during 2008, and was supported by active Standing Committees responsible for Governance and Finance, and Member Support.

In August 2008 the Council established a Working Group on Catholic Ethos and Identity as a response to interest from members and from a range of people working in the sector. As outlined in the Executive Director's report, this Working Group advanced the overall CSSV workplan in this general area, and is still active.

In addition to their governance role, Council members were active in contributing to and participating in a range of CSSV activities, including policy reviews, advocacy representations, briefings, and the preparation of submissions. The March 2008 Commissioning Mass and AGM, and the August 2008 CSSV Dinner were opportunities for Council members to meet a large number of members and stakeholders.

The Episcopal Vicar for Justice and Social Services, Bishop Christopher Prowse DD, is an *ex officio* member of Council. As he outlines on page 3 of this Report, Bishop Chris was active in visiting member agencies, and in supporting staff, volunteers and clients throughout the sector. Bishop Chris' contribution to the mission of CSSV was also extensive, and very much appreciated: through his leadership within the sector; in regular interaction with the Executive Director and other staff members; in his homily at the 2008 Commissioning Mass and his presentation at the 2008 CSSV Dinner; and by providing the opportunity for discussion of broader directions and themes during Council meetings.

During 2008 the Chair of Council and the Executive Director attended the 2008 Catholic Social Services Australia annual conference in Brisbane, as well as other representational events.

CSSV Staffing

There are currently three staff positions at CSSV: the Executive Director, Member Support and Projects Coordinator, and Office Administrator.

Denis Fitzgerald commenced as Executive Director in March 2008. I am grateful for the contribution that Denis has made to all aspects of CSSV's operations. He has injected a new energy, effectiveness and breadth of vision to implementing CSSV's strategic priorities. I believe that, through his work and that of his team, CSSV is now adding real and significant value to the capacities of our member agencies and to the Church as a whole.

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... love for widows and orphans, prisoners, and the sick and needy of every kind, is as essential to her as the ministry of sacraments and preaching of the Gospel. The Church cannot neglect the service of charity any more than she can neglect the Sacraments and the Word.

Pope Benedict XVI –
God is Love (Deus Caritas Est),
2005, n.22.

chairman (cont.)

According to the teaching of the Gospel, we are not owners but rather administrators of the goods we possess: these, then, are not to be considered as our exclusive possession, but means through which the Lord calls each one of us to act as a steward of His providence for our neighbour.

Pope Benedict XVI –
Message for Lent, 2008, n.2.

Terry O'Shannassy OAM commenced in November 2008 as Member Support and Projects Coordinator, replacing Margaret Casey. Terry has been active for decades in Catholic welfare and education work - his most recent role was with Centacare Catholic Family Services managing the Personal Support Program. Terry has already contributed actively in member liaison, presenting Catholic social services to the wider Catholic community, and working towards a continuing contribution on such issues as homelessness and advancing pastoral care in the residential aged care sector.

In September, Margaret Casey left CSSV after seven years, during which she played a key role in building up the community of Catholic social services providers. In addition to her work as Acting Executive Director for an extended period in 2007/2008; Marg's achievements at CSSV included the implementation of a range of sector development activities including breakfast briefings, a women's retreat, and gatherings where staff from various agencies could share their experience and reflections. She was also responsible for coordination of various Catholic chaplaincies in Victoria, where her work included membership of the Health Care Chaplaincy Council of Victoria. More generally, Marg played a major role in keeping CSSV running, and in providing valued support to members, to the Council and to other stakeholders. Margaret has since taken up the position of Volunteer Coordinator at Shekinah Homeless Services, which is a network of agencies, within Catholic Social Services, that provide accommodation and support to homeless people. So, while Marg has been sorely missed, she is still very much within the CSSV umbrella.

Chris Wade, the Office Coordinator, supported the work of CSSV, our Council and our members in a wide range of ways – organizing functions; preparing documents; maintaining databases; undertaking mailouts; managing calls; etc. She is a most valuable asset to us, keeping the wheels turning smoothly. Without her, CSSV would be much less effective.

Conclusion

I believe we can be proud of CSSV. In this busy, messy, competitive world, it is a privilege to be associated with the contribution of the Catholic social service community, and of Catholic Social Services Victoria in particular, to building a society of justice and compassion.

Peter Bearsley

Chair, Catholic Social Services Victoria

executive director

Catholic social services in Victoria covers a wide field of activity, spread across the State.

Our members¹ range from the state-wide operations of the St Vincent de Paul Society, to the single-location respite and development centres of Corazon and Kewn Kreestha.

The services provided cover a wide range of needs and activities: aged care, disability care, refugee settlement, mental health, youth and family support, domestic violence, health and prison chaplaincies, youth justice support, employment services, drought and bushfire relief, pregnancy support, adoptions and permanent care services, homelessness services, support for families of those in prison, respite services, special education programs, support for indigenous communities, drug and alcohol counselling, etc.

As new needs emerge, so too does a response from the Catholic social service community. Bushfire relief and community rebuilding is a recently developed priority.

And the provision of Gospel-inspired service is inextricably linked with the striving for justice in our society. Some members devote specific resources – analysis, advocacy, education, witness – to establishing a more just society, by impacting on Government policies and programs, community attitudes and activities, and personal understanding and actions. Others promote justice-in-action through their witness, and through their own reaching out to, and their empowerment and inclusion of, those who are marginalised or disadvantaged.

Within the Catholic Church, these works of service and work for justice are not limited to the member agencies of CSSV, or to the organised health, education and other agencies or organisations within the Church. As Pope Benedict XVI reminded us in his 2005 Encyclical, *God is Love*, “Love of neighbour, grounded in the love of God, is first and foremost a responsibility for each individual member of the faithful, but it is also a responsibility for the entire ecclesial community at every level: from the local community to the particular Church and to the Church universal in its entirety. (n 20)’

Cooperation with others

CSSV’s role is to assist the Catholic Church in Victoria to respond to the Gospel imperatives of service and work for justice. Our small staff contingent does this in close partnership with our members, and with the members of our Council – very little of what we do could be achieved without the knowledge and commitment of these key people.

There are also many others, individuals and organisations, who are part of this work, to whom we are also very grateful. They include:

- Archbishop Denis Hart of Melbourne, Bishop Peter Connors of Ballarat, Bishop Joseph Grech of Sandhurst, and Fr Peter Slater, Administrator of the Diocese of Sale. Their support and guidance is highly valued.
- The many supportive people from Parishes, Religious Congregations and Dioceses that we interact with. These include CSSV personnel, and other people who have been active in the sector over the years, whose availability for advice and support is very much appreciated.

[The Church] cannot and must not replace the State. Yet at the same time she cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice. She has to play her part through rational argument and she has to reawaken the spiritual energy without which justice, which always demands sacrifice, cannot prevail and prosper.

Pope Benedict XVI –
God is Love (Deus Caritas Est),
2005, n.28(a).

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1 See list of members on page 15.

executive director (cont.)

The recent crisis demonstrates how financial activity can at times be completely turned in on itself, lacking any long-term consideration of the common good.

Pope Benedict XVI –
Fighting Poverty to Build Peace,
Message for World Day of Peace,
January 2009, n.10.

- The many justice, health, education and other Catholic agencies in Victoria – including the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, the various Catholic Education Offices, the Office for Youth in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, the Pastoral Planning Offices of the Dioceses of Ballarat and Sandhurst, etc, etc.
- Colleagues from other Churches, including the Social Issues Commission of the Victorian Council of Churches, leaders of other social services peak bodies, and members of the Inter-Church Gambling Taskforce.
- Research bodies such as the Social Justice Flagship at Australian Catholic University, and the Pastoral Projects Office of the Australian Bishops Conference.
- The Victorian Council of Social Services, the Council for Homeless Persons, and the other sector peak bodies operating in Victoria.
- Various coalitions and committees that focus on particular issues, etc: The Meeting Point Project that focuses on the nexus between education and welfare is one such body.
- People who joined us for short periods in 2008 to work on particular CSSV projects: Toby O'Connor, Jo Robertson, Shannon Donohoo.
- Catholic Social Services Australia, which part-funds our work, and which is the main conduit for advocacy etc at the national level for the Catholic social service sector.

In this broad field, two people stand out. Peter Bearsley, the Chair of the CSSV Council, and Bishop Christopher Prowse, Episcopal Vicar for Justice and Social Services. Both have key roles within the structure of CSSV and in the Catholic social services sector. In addition to their more formal responsibilities, each of them provided valuable and welcomed support, guidance, and direction as appropriate. Their wisdom, commitment and availability made such support all the more valuable.

What we did

CSSV, as well as its members, could always do more than what current resources will permit. So, a key issue must be to determine what can most usefully be done with the resources that are available.

As the Chairman's report points out, the strategic priorities adopted by the Council continued to be advocacy, member services, fostering a Catholic ethos among member agencies, and, to the extent needed to support policy, advocacy and research. Much of what was done overlapped these broad categories. This needs to be kept in mind as the activity in each area is reported on.

We also need to be mindful that, within these broad categories, flexibility is always needed. The Global Financial Crisis continues to grow steadily, and to impact on society and on agencies in ways that were not envisaged even six months ago. The impact of the Victorian bushfires in terms of loss and suffering, and the requirements for relief and long term re-building, could not have been foreseen. There will always be emerging priorities that thrust themselves on organisations such as CSSV – we need to work to deliver an agreed work program, but be flexible enough to respond as the world changes. The constant requirement is to effectively prioritise, while retaining focus and remaining within our ability to make an effective contribution.

Advocacy on public policy issues involves a range of players in Victoria. Peak social sector organisations are active in their own specific fields, and a number of individual agencies are active in their own areas of interest and expertise. CSSV seeks to represent the priorities and interests of the Catholic social services sector in cooperation with others, where appropriate, and particularly in areas where we can represent the views of the sector in ways that would not otherwise be advanced.

The principles that have evolved within Catholic social teaching are one of the streams that inform our analysis. The experience of member agencies is another. Both are important if our voice is to be credible and well directed.

Activity during 2008 included general briefings and interaction with members of Parliament and others on a broad agenda, including the general budget priorities, geographical spread of disadvantage, Mental health services, Human rights and life issues, Homelessness, Disability funding, Problem gambling, Refugee settlement, Prisoner wellbeing and utility pricing, including the impact of climate change. These representations built on the work and experience of members, and on our own analysis, with various inputs being more or less important in particular areas. Representations to Members of Parliament and to heads of Government Departments were made jointly with the leaders of other major Church welfare bodies in Victoria on the implications of the Global Financial Crisis, and the need for Governments to renew their focus on the needs of the vulnerable. Submissions were made to a number of enquiries, etc: the 2020 Summit, on general social and economic priorities; mental health services; homelessness. These are all areas where CSSV members are actively engaged, and are leaders in the Australian response to the disadvantaged and marginalised.

Written and personal representations were also made on a number of legislative or policy proposals, including a private members bill that sought to legalise physician-assisted suicide (the Bill was defeated); and the Abortion Law Reform Act 2008, which was enacted. In both cases there was recognition by all parties that there were human rights issues at stake, but differing views about what were authentic human rights. In both cases the Catholic tradition informed our analysis, and added to the debates.

Advocacy on a range of problem-gambling related issues and proposals was undertaken with other members of the Inter-Church Gambling Taskforce, which is chaired by Dr Mark Zirnsak of the Uniting Church.

An advocacy voice extending beyond decision makers resulted in two editions of the respected Micah magazine, and in a series of articles, that appeared largely in the Catholic media, on specific issues as well as on general Government priorities, the Global Financial Crisis, etc. A greater effort in these important areas is envisaged in 2009. The contribution of the editorial advisory committee at Micah is much appreciated: thanks to Anne Tuohey, now with St Vincent de Paul Aged Care and Community Services Ltd, and Marcelle Mogg, the Director of Mission at St Vincent's Health.

Research was another of the strategic priorities. One of the outcomes of the 2007 review of CSSV was that CSSV would not be resourced for its own research work, so research work in 2008 was focused on underpinning advocacy work; liaison with research areas at the Australian Catholic University, Victoria University, etc; and dialogue with members and others who have their own research capabilities.

Continued on page 12

The gap between rich and poor has become more marked, even in the most economically developed nations. This is a problem which the conscience of humanity cannot ignore since the conditions in which a great number of people are living are an insult to innate dignity and as a result are a threat to the authentic and harmonious progress of the world community.

Pope John Paul II – *Message for World Day of Peace*, 1993, n.1.

executive director (cont.)

In today's globalised world, it is increasingly evident that peace can be built only if every one is assured the possibility of reasonable growth: sooner or later the distortions produced by unjust systems have to be paid for.

Pope Benedict XVI –
Fighting Poverty to Build Peace,
Message for World Day of Peace,
January 2009, n.14.

Member services activities are a priority CSSV function. They include offering support to specific members, and the fostering of cooperation and a spirit of fellowship within the network. They are thus a key underpinning of advocacy work, and they contribute directly to the fostering and deepening of a sense of Catholic identity among member agencies. Regular contact with member agencies is our bread and butter. The Executive Director and each of the Member Support staff during the year undertook a wide range of visits to members, as part of an ongoing program to ensure awareness of and responsiveness to members' needs and priorities. We participated in many of the celebrations and events that members organised. In many cases, interaction with clients as well as staff and volunteers was inspirational. These visits were complemented by the monthly e-letter, MiniMicah, and other, more focused despatches to members.

Renewed effort was devoted to regional Victoria, through agency visits, contact with the Bishops and Diocesan officials, and use of the regional Catholic media. In dialogue with members and with the Dioceses, we plan to have at least one event in each Diocese in 2009 to support the work of Catholic social service there.

An annual Commissioning Mass (held in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting) and, in more recent years, an Annual CSSV Dinner, are features of our member engagement. The 2008 Commissioning Mass was the first to be celebrated by Bishop Prowse, in his role as Episcopal Vicar for Justice and Social Services; and was followed by an address during the AGM by Francis Moore, then quite new in his role as Business Manager for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Bishop Chris' highlighting of Gospel-inspired compassion and justice as key features of Catholic social services, and Francis' tale of the inter-weaving of social service into the life of the Church in Victoria were well received.

The Annual Dinner, on 15 August 2008, attracted around 200 leaders and supporters of Victorian Catholic social services. In the after-dinner presentation, Bishop Prowse drew together the various themes that emerged during World Youth Day, and the centrality to our work of the challenge to marry the 'vertical' dimension of our relationship with God, and the 'horizontal' dimension of the love of our neighbour: two dimensions of the same reality. It was a good night.

A program of 'breakfast briefings' was re-instituted late in 2008. At one breakfast gathering Michael Perusco from Sacred Heart Mission led a discussion on the Commonwealth's social inclusion agenda. At another, Professor Peter Sheehan from Victoria University lucidly and insightfully put into perspective various elements of the Global Financial Crisis. These mornings were welcomed by those who attended, and will be continued in 2009.

There were a number of gatherings of members, to share experience on particular topics, or to inform a submission or representation. These included sessions on social inclusion, homelessness (several), disability services, refugee services, fundraising. In each case CSSV generally and the members who attended were indebted to those members who shared their knowledge and expertise so generously.

Fostering a Catholic ethos and identity overlaps all of the other strategic priorities – it helps inform our advocacy agenda, and is a key element in our member support work.

As the Chairman's report notes, Council established a Working Group on Catholic Ethos and Identity. Under the auspices of this group, Br Doug Walsh met with relevant personnel in those member agencies that were auspiced by a Religious Congregation. Those interviews reaffirmed the role of Religious working within the sector, and highlighted their need for recognition and support. A work program has emerged: among other things, work is underway on a project to analyse and reflect on the implications of Catholic identity for the engagement and development of new staff in the sector.



We joined with other Catholic justice agencies active in Melbourne in hosting a reflection on justice in the 'Days in the Diocese' week prior to World Youth Day; and took part in a number of other service-oriented WYD events. CSSV reflections on the service and justice dimension of the World Youth Day experience were carried in the Catholic media.

CSSV has worked closely with Bishop Prowse in organizing a series of seminars in March 2009 on 'Strengthening Catholic Identity in health, welfare and education agencies in the Archdiocese of Melbourne.' This exercise highlights the shared interests across a wide range of Catholic agencies, and enables the work done within the Catholic social services sector to be of service to other parts of the Church.

Catholic social teaching underpins much of what is done in the sector, and provides a framework for reflection and analysis of our work. The development by CSSV of a 'presentation kit' on Catholic social teaching is well underway. This will be available for use to facilitate consideration of these principles by members, Boards, etc.

2009 is well underway as this report is being completed, and Victoria has been ravaged by bushfires. CSSV members have joined all parts of the Australian community in expressing solidarity with families and communities that have suffered loss or have been affected in other ways.

The Catholic community across Victoria is committed to a sustained effort to meet the pastoral, welfare, educational and other needs of affected communities, and to the rebuilding of those communities over the coming years. Relevant Catholic agencies are developing a coordinated approach to draw on expertise across the sector to inform and deliver a broader community development response in the affected communities.

As 2009 progresses we look forward to building on 2008 and the preceding decades; and to working with our members and the many others with whom we cooperate as they stand with and serve the poor, disadvantaged and marginalised.

May we together be ever more deeply inspired by the Gospel teaching:

"Whatsoever you do to the least of my people, that you do unto me." (Mt 25.40)

Denis Fitzgerald
Executive Director

Our hearts
and minds
are yearning
for a vision of
life where love
endures, where
gifts are shared,
where unity is
built, where
freedom finds
meaning in
truth, and where
identity is found
in respectful
communion. ...
Let this be the
message that
you bring from
Sydney to the
world!

Pope Benedict XVI – Address at
Welcoming Celebration during
World Youth Day, Sydney,
17 July 2008.

CSSV Income and Expenditure, 2008, and previous periods:			
	2008	2007 (part)	2006 - 2007
	12 months	11 months	12 months
	Jan-Dec 08	Feb-Dec 07	Feb 06-Jan 07
Income			
Membership fees	\$47,648	\$43,170	\$41,145
Grants from regional Dioceses	\$48,000	-	-
Archdiocese of Melbourne grant	\$194,662	\$165,161	\$202,313
Catholic Social Services Australia grant	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$15,000
Other	\$17,200	\$43,034	\$108,568
Total	\$337,510	\$281,365	\$367,026
Expenditure			
Staff and related costs	\$244,419	\$166,868	\$220,328
Other operating	\$93,091	\$114,497	\$146,698
Total	\$337,510	\$281,365	\$367,026
Net result	-	-	-

CSSV's financial year

The financial year now runs from 1 January to 31 December, in line with the financial year of the Archdiocese of Melbourne. 2007 was a transitional year – finances for that year are reported for the 11 month period from 1 February to 31 December 2007. In prior periods, the financial year ran from 1 February to 31 January the following year. Reported aggregates for recent years are thus not strictly comparable.

CSSV's net financial result

The net financial result is affected by the reporting of the grant from the Archdiocese of Melbourne. CSSV budgets to break even for the year. In 2008, as in recent previous years, expenditure and other revenue levels were such that the full amount of the Archdiocesan support was not required to be drawn down. \$9,871 of the 2008 budgeted grant was not drawn down.

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 2008 was \$125,112. No expenditures from the Trust Fund were made in 2008.

Income

- The Archdiocese of Melbourne continues to be the largest contributor to CSSV income, its \$194,622 contribution meeting 58% of revenue in 2008.
- Member subscriptions, at \$47,648, accounted for 14% of income.
- As part of the outcome of the 2007 Review the Regional Bishops of Victoria contributed directly to the revenue of CSSV for the first time in 2008 - they contributed \$48,000, equivalent to 14% of revenue.
- The contribution from Catholic Social Services Australia of \$30,000 towards the cost of the member support function continues to be appreciated by all parties.

Expenditure

- Salary, accommodation and related costs accounted for 86% of CSSV expenditure for the year.
- Total expenditure, at \$337,000, was up 10% on 2007 (after adjusting for the 2007 reporting year containing only 11 months), reflecting a higher proportion of positions filled over the course of 2008.

council & membership

CSSV Council

Most Rev Christopher Prowse DD

Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne
Episcopal Vicar for Health and Social Welfare

Mr Peter Bearsley (Chairman)

Mr David Beaver

Director
Centacare Ballarat

Fr Joe Caddy (Treasurer)

Chief Executive Officer
Centacare Catholic Family Services

Mr Brian Dalton (from March 2007)

Chief Executive Officer
St Vincent de Paul Society

Mr Paul Fogarty

Director
Centacare Sandhurst

Mr. Patrick Gallagher

Manager Corpus Christi Community

Ms Suzy McManus (till August 2008)

Policy and Research Coordinator
MacKillop Family Services

Ms Helen McPhee

General Manager Development Services
Southern Cross Care (Vic)

Mr. Bernie O'Regan (from Nov 2009)

Manager Family and Community Services
MacKillop Family Services

Ms Johanna Snelleman

Chief Executive Officer
Marillac House

Ms Arda Tymensen

Director
Centacare Gippsland

Ms Carol Vale

Coordinator
Bethlehem Community Inc

Bro Doug Walsh FMS

Representative
Conference of Leaders of Religious
Congregations Victoria

Ms Marilyn Webster

Social Policy and Research Manager
Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services

CSSV Members

Bethlehem Community Inc
Catholic Chaplains' Association for Health Care
Office for Justice & Peace, Archdiocese of Melbourne
Catholic Solo Parents
Centacare Catholic Family Services
Centacare Ballarat
Centacare Sandhurst
Centacare Sale
Corazon
Corpus Christi Community
Early Education Program for Hearing Impaired Children
Edmund Rice Camps
Good Shepherd Aged Services
Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services
Jesuit Social Services
Kewn Kreestha
Keysborough Learning Centre
Larmerier Child and Family Centre
MacKillop Family Services
Marillac House Ltd
Project Dreaming Tracks
Sacred Heart Mission St Kilda Inc
Shekinah Homeless Services Inc
Sisters of Charity Community Care Limited
Society of St Vincent de Paul
Southern Cross Care (Vic)
St Mary's House of Welcome Ltd
St Vincent's Health
Villa Maria Society

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.

In this section, we acknowledge with thanks the subscriptions paid by our members, and additional financial and material support from the following:

Archdiocese of Melbourne
Australian Catholic University
Catholic Church Insurances Ltd
Catholic Communications Melbourne
Catholic Development Fund, Archdiocese of Melbourne
Catholic Social Services Australia
Church Resources
Consult Point Pty Ltd
Dioceses of Ballarat, Sale and Sandhurst
iCare Solutions
MacKillop Family Services
Ministry to Priests, Archdiocese of Melbourne
St Vincent's Health

I was hungry and
you gave me food,
I was thirsty and
you gave me
something to drink,
I was a stranger and
you welcomed me...

Matthew 25:35ff



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Victoria

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