



mini MICAH

monthly update for members and friends of Catholic Social Services Victoria

September 2008

Hello, and welcome to *mini MICAH*.

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Recent CSSV News & Developments

Invitation to farewell Marg Casey

After more than six years at CSSV, including a key term as Acting Executive Director, our much-valued colleague Marg Casey is finishing up at CSSV on 19 September. Marg will be sadly missed by CSSV and by many people in our member agencies.

Readers of mini MICAH and others in the Catholic social services community are invited to say thank you and goodbye to Marg at drinks, 4.00pm on Friday 19 September. The venue is the Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert St, East Melbourne. Please RSVP to Chris Wade on 9287 5566 or at office@css.org.au

 **CSSV Dinner:** CSSV's 3rd Annual Dinner was held on 15th August at San Remo Ballroom. It was a great success with 190 people enjoying each other's company, fine food and wine. It is always inspiring to have a room filled with people who work in the sector and to see the way in which they connect as part of the wider Catholic welfare community.

Meeting with Opposition Leaders

On 20 August, Brian Dalton of the St Vincent de Paul Society, Carol Vale of Bethlehem Community and Denis Fitzgerald met with the Parliamentary Opposition leaders, Ted Baillieu, Peter Ryan, Leader of the Nationals, and Mary Wooldridge, spokesperson for community welfare and related areas. A copy of the briefing paper spoken to is at www.css.org.au/papers.html

 **Utility pricing:** Gavin Dufty from St Vincent de Paul Society has agreed to lead a seminar at CSSV on the rapid rise of utility prices in Victoria, on Thursday 18 September, from 9.30 – 12.30pm. This will involve an introduction to the issues and workshop how various agencies can get involved. Some preliminary documents will be distributed to those expressing interest. Please let CSSV know if you or any of your colleagues would be interested in participating.

 **Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities:** a paper is under development that provides background on the Charter, and identifies opportunities and issues for members as the Charter applies to their work. In due course, this might generate material for briefings or workshops for members. Please contact us if your agency has particular experience with the Charter, or has issues that should be taken into account in our analysis of it.

 **Affordable Universal Housing Alliance.**

CSSV has signed up to the Victorian Universal Housing Alliance (AUHA). For further information on the AUHA Platform, please visit the following link
<http://www.vcross.org.au/documents/VCOSS%20docs/Housing/platform-email.pdf>

- 🔗 **Fundraising forum:** a meeting of interested members has been organised for 23rd October to focus on fundraising where more experienced and successful fundraisers will discuss how members might approach things. Please contact us on 9287 5566 or office@css.org.au if you wish to attend.

Around the Sector

- 🔗 Our congratulations go to St Mary's House of Welcome who received a grant of \$600,000 from the Premier towards their redevelopment program.

Who am I?

Each issue, we profile someone in the CSSV community. In this issue, we hear from Louise Greene who is currently working as a consultant with Villa Maria Society and Bethlehem Community.

Q: Tell us about where you work and your role.

I am an independent consultant in the aged care and not-for-profit sector. My work focuses mainly on business planning and development, strategic planning and service innovation. I particularly focus on the not-for-profit sector because you constantly meet inspiring, motivated and committed people. The work they do really makes a difference to the quality of other peoples' lives - and if I can contribute to improving their business then I too am making someone's life better..

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

I work from home and have recently added a new dog to the family. He is very cute but has developed a habit of chewing the edges of any files/folders he finds - so my files are 'dog-eared'!

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

The first step is the hardest - but make a start and you are on your way.

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

Walk my dogs, fold the laundry and cheer on my three boys in their sporting endeavours.

Q: Have you a particular role model?

Jan, who was a former boss and is now a very dear friend. She has recently retired but was particularly inspirational as she encouraged everyone to do their best and to recognise the value of team members.

Q: Which footy team do you support and why?

Melbourne - it was a condition of my wedding vows - and I am still looking forward to seeing them win a flag.

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

Contact us

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

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