



Catholic Social Services
Australia

SPEECH

2010 AWARDS

**NORMA PARKER AWARD FOR THE MOST INNOVATIVE PROGRAM –
ORGANISATIONAL**

CANBERRA

MONDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2010

Presented by

BARRY SHEEHAN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CENTACARE TOOWOOMBA

**Check against delivery

NORMA PARKER AWARD FOR THE MOST INNOVATIVE PROGRAM

HIGHLY COMMENDED

SACRED HEART MISSIONS JOURNEY TO SOCIAL INCLUSION

Sacred Heart Mission has been addressing homelessness and disadvantage for 28 years ensuring people have access to necessities including housing, food and healthcare.

They also enable people to connect with their community and develop support networks that sustain and nurture their lives.

They realised about 40 per cent of their clients are trapped in the cycle of homelessness and that the crisis-oriented homelessness service system was managing rather than ending their

homelessness. This approach cost \$30,000 - \$35,000 per person a year.

So the Mission developed a service model that will provide people with the help they need to break the cycle of homelessness and reconnect with the mainstream community.

The Journey to Social Inclusion model builds on the Mission's work with people who are homeless. And it draws heavily on the understanding of chronic homelessness developed by a number of eminent researchers.

J2SI shows a long-term, well resourced and intensive service model can permanently end a person's chronic homelessness. It also shows the economic benefit of ending a person's chronic homelessness.

The ultimate aim is to see the model replicated across Australia and in doing so, significantly reduce the number of Australians who are currently trapped in the cycle of homelessness.

It took three years to develop the pilot which started in November last year. The biggest challenge was to raise the \$3.8 million needed for the pilot of 40 people.

The three year program will involve 40 people who have been either consistently homeless for more than a year or who have had several episodes of homelessness over the past three years.

The program will spend \$30,000 per person over the next three years and will show that a long-term, well resourced and intensive service can permanently end a person's chronic homelessness.

We look forward to an update next year on the program's progress.

It gives me great pleasure tonight to present this award to Michael Perusco, CEO of Sacred Heart Mission

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