



Catholic Social Services
Australia

SPEECH

2010 AWARDS

EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE ORGANISATIONAL (MEMBERS)

CANBERRA

8 FEBRUARY 2010

Presented by

MICHAEL REUTENS

BOARD MEMBER, CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES AUSTRALIA

**Check against delivery

THE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE ORGANISATIONAL (MEMBERS)

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Tonight I have great pleasure in announcing one of two highly commended nominations in this category.

Marymead Child and Family Counselling Service is an early intervention program that targets families in the Canberra and regional community with infants or young children under eight who are showing behavioural or emotional difficulties or difficulties that affect the caregiver-child relationship.

The program was established in March 2006, initially sponsored by Marymead to meet specific needs not available elsewhere in the community.

Many existing health, community and welfare services specifically exclude children with behavioural and emotional problems and very few services had the skills or capacity to do relationship focused work with families of infants or young children.

Marymead is a team of experienced professionals with backgrounds in psychology, infant mental health, paediatric medicine, early childhood education, maternal and child health nursing, school counselling and adult education.

They have provided services to over 200 families in just over four years and are recognised as a centre of excellence by doctors, care givers and parents, locally. The service has also been rated 'world class' by a visiting international specialist in the area of infant and early childhood mental health.

The service attracts federal and ACT government support and the sponsorship of several Canberra clubs and benevolent groups including Canberra Southern Cross Club, Calvary Private Hospital, the Inger Rice Foundation and the CFMEU.

It gives me great pleasure tonight to present this award to HILARY MARTIN, Marymead's Executive Director.