



CSSA AWARDS PRESENTATION 2011

**Award Presenters: Mr Tony Davies – CSSA Board Member
Ms Cate Sydes – CSSA Board Member**

The Catholic Social Services Australia Awards were established to bring to light the tremendous work that our agencies do and the outstanding people who work in our services. Those involved in the social services can often be a modest bunch and they do not always recognise the enormous impact they have on the people they assist and the communities they serve.

Today – we have great pleasure in presenting two Awards. Firstly, the Award for Excellence in Service (Individual), also referred to as the Perkins Award and the Award for Excellence in Service (Organisational).

The award is presented in honour of Bishop Eric Perkins, who spent his life committed to the Church's outreach to the poor and was the first Victorian priest to qualify as a social worker.

He was ordained a priest in 1940 and in partnership with Monsignor JF McCosker he had a major impact on national Catholic social policy, through peak bodies such as the National Catholic Welfare Committee and its successor the Australian Catholic Social Welfare Commission.

Winner of THE PERKINS AWARD – the Award for Excellence in Service (Individual) goes to: Mr Ray Reid, CatholicCare Social Services, Parramatta

(Presented by Ms Cate Sydes, CSSA Board Member and Director of Marist Youth Care).

It was clear in going through Ray's nomination that he is a person who has contributed massively all his working life to assisting the vulnerable and disadvantaged in the community through many different ways – counsellor, clinical supervisor, mentor, education, trainer, writer, and, professional development.

For many of us here today who have been around for a while – we have had the great pleasure of working with Ray as a colleague, most notably when he was the Director of Centacare Parramatta – a position he held for just over 20 years. In fact, Ray was the inaugural Director of Centacare Parramatta Diocese appointed in 1986. He remained at the helm of that organisation through until 2007. During that time, Branches were established at Blacktown and then Kingswood. The marriage and counselling services were expanded and additional funding was gained for relationship education, pre-marriage education, problem gambling counselling, family support and pregnancy counselling. Many staff and students have developed professionally under Ray's clinical supervision and training expertise.

In 1996 – he was granted Churchill Fellowship and travelled to the USA and Canada to interview experts in the field of the impact of clerical abuse on Church communities. His report, 'Pain, Hope and Healing' carried significant recommendations to guide Church leaders in assisting communities impacted by clerical abuse.

Assisting people impacted by sexual abuse has been a special work of Ray's – both directly in counselling those who had been abused and also providing training and supervision for others working in this specialised field.

Ray has written many articles and resources covering a variety of subjects including social work practice and Catholic Social Teaching. He provides advice to the Social Work Faculty at the Australian Catholic University and also lectures in the Masters of Social Work course at ACU. He himself has continued to study throughout his working life and has most recently achieved a Masters of Arts in Philosophy.

In 2007, the Parramatta Diocese integrated a number of diocesan welfare agencies under one organisation – Catholic Social Services, Parramatta Diocese – Ray did not choose to apply for the position of Executive Director opting instead to work as a Senior Professional Consultant in this new organisation.

According to his nominator, Senior Manager for the counselling and Education Portfolio at Catholic Care Social Services Parramatta – Ann O'Brien – "We thank Ray for his many years of dedicated service to the community of Western Sydney and acknowledge the professional work he continues to provide. Ray's legacy is that he exists in the minds and hearts of people whose lives he has touched through his presence and his work in its many and varied forms.

Regrettably, Ray is still overseas on leave and can't be here to collect his award today. However, a colleague who works with him at CatholicCare Parramatta, Mr Oscar Modesto, will accept the award on his behalf. (*invite Oscar to accept*).

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The second Award – the Award for Excellence in Service (Organisational) goes to: Kolbe Cottage Respite Service, Centacare Catholic Family Services, Archdiocese of Adelaide.

(Presented by Mr Tony Davies, CSSA Board Member and Director, Centacare Port Macquarie)

This award is presented to the program which is most successfully meeting local community need and Kolbe Cottage provides respite care for families in South Australia who have a child with an intellectual disability.

Coincidentally – support for families with children with disabilities – or the lack of it - received some recent news coverage when the Federal Cabinet visited Tasmania. It was during this forum that some participants called for more support and assistance.

Thankfully, in South Australia, Centacare Adelaide attempted to respond to unmet need in their community and established Kolbe cottage. The respite facility provides care on weekends and school holidays for children and adolescents between 5 and 18 years of age with intellectual disability.

Respite provides opportunities for parents or carers to have a break from caring for their son or daughter and allows them time to spend time with other family members and to recharge energy levels.

Families have been involved in the development of service provision at Kolbe Cottage and are kept well informed of the current happenings and future progress of the service.

In support of the nomination, mother Danielle says, "Respite at Kolbe is a wonderful services where my daughter has learned to socialise, become more independent, make new friends, become a ten pin bowling fanatic and explore new foods all in an environment where she is

supported by genuinely caring, compassionate and professional staff who go above and beyond.”

Fortunately today, we have one of those staff members with us here. I would like to invite Ms Brooke Rule, the Deputy Executive Director of Kolbe Cottage to come to the stage to collect the Organisation’s award.