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ANNUAL REPORT 2009-2010



Catholic Social Services
Australia

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About Catholic Social Services Australia

Catholic Social Services Australia is the Catholic Church's peak national body for social services in Australia. Our 67 member organisations provide social services to over a million Australians a year in local communities in metropolitan, regional and remote Australia. Catholic Social Services Australia's national office in Canberra operates a policy and research unit informed by this extensive service delivery network which provides over 500 programs nationally.

Our Vision

Catholic Social Services Australia envisages a fairer, more inclusive society that reflects and supports the dignity, equality and participation of all people.

Our Mission

Catholic Social Services Australia advances the social service ministry which is integral to the mission of the Catholic Church in Australia.

Operations

Catholic Social Services Australia draws on the experience of decades of Catholic social service and social policy development in Australia. It serves the Bishops of Australia, Leaders of Religious Institutes, Catholic social service organisations and the broader Church community in advancing the social service ministry of the Church.

Catholic Social Services Australia carries out its mission by interacting with Catholic organisations, governments, other churches and all people of goodwill to develop social welfare policies, programs and other strategic responses that enhance the human dignity of every person and work towards the economic, social and spiritual well-being of the Australian community.

Catholic Social Teaching

Catholic Social Services Australia seeks to embody and promote the core principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

Dignity of the Person

Our vision for society springs from an understanding of the fundamental dignity, sanctity and worth of every human life.

Common Good and Community

People are fundamentally social beings, and how we organise socially, politically and economically has implications for our capacity to grow in community.

Preferential Option for the Poor

The most important measure of the success of our community is the manner in which we direct our resources to assist those people most in need.

Rights and Responsibilities

Our participation in community brings with it both a range of rights and protections and a range of duties and obligations.

Chairman's Report

Fr Joe Caddy

This year saw a marked change in the way that Catholic Social Services Australia supports its members. With the new Job Services Australia contract now well established Catholic Social Services Australia this year finished up its involvement in employment services. Member Agencies involved in employment services now deal directly with the funding body. Consequently the staffing configuration of Catholic Social Services Australia has changed and some long term and loyal employees have now moved on.

This significant change has led to a re-focusing of our work to match our core business. The business of advocating for a fair, just and inclusive society on behalf of those who are most vulnerable remains central to us and over the year we saw a number of important activities and highlights such as the release of our Discussion Paper on Social Inclusion, our Submission to the Inquiry into the future of Australia's income support system, and our hosting of a Parliamentary Breakfast at Parliament House which was well attended by Federal Senators and Members of Parliament.

The year also saw us continuing to advocate on behalf of the concerns of our members. We assisted in creating opportunities for members to put those concerns before key policy makers. For example, the Directors' Parliamentary Forum held at Parliament House in February provided an excellent opportunity for Agency Directors to communicate directly with Ministers, Shadow Ministers and other key people involved in social policy and program development.

We continued during the year to encourage collaborations and to promote networking amongst agencies. Support for State branches is a key strategy in this area as are the regular communications from the Executive Director and National Office staff.

Promotion of the mission and identity of Catholic social service agencies was also highlighted with the

enrichment leave to Rome and the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium. This highly successful project is presented in more detail elsewhere in this report. We are currently working with the University and in conjunction with Catholic Health Australia to develop another program for October 2011.

I am very pleased to report that Members have indicated their overwhelming support of our renewed focus, through both their engagement with Catholic Social Services Australia and their support for new fee arrangements.

I wish to acknowledge the outstanding work of our Executive Director, Frank Quinlan, and his team at the National Office. I would also like to thank my fellow Board Members, in particular Mr Michael Reutens whose term expires in December 2010. Michael brought great depth of reflection as well as considerable wisdom and experience to our deliberations at Board level and he will be missed. This year we also saw the resignation from the Board of Sr Mary Quinlan who served us well as a representative of Catholic Religious Australia. We are currently seeking to replace her in that capacity.

As we move forward we continue our commitment to advocate on behalf of those who are least well off; to promote the interests of our Member Agencies; to assist agencies to maintain and develop the sense of their Catholic mission and identity and to encourage cooperation between members.

Finally, none of what happens at the national level could happen if it were not for the enormous contribution to social wellbeing that is made through the efforts of our Member Agencies - it is there that we owe the biggest vote of thanks.



Executive Director's Report

Frank Quinlan

2009-10 was a long time coming for Catholic Social Services Australia, but it also seemed to pass in a moment.

After so many years of participation in employment services nationally, and after so many meetings, reviews, discussions and decisions we finally wound up our national employment services over the first part of the year. This was a difficult transition for all concerned, but one that has left Catholic Social Services Australia more focussed than ever on its core mission of speaking out for those who are most vulnerable and those that serve them.

For Catholic Social Services Australia this transition has meant many things. Primarily, it has meant that we have said goodbye to a number of long serving staff (all mentioned and acknowledged in other reports) and that the staff who remained have had to adjust to working in a much smaller national office, with fewer people about on a day to day basis. I am tremendously grateful to the dedicated and devoted staff who saw us through this transition, and whose ongoing work is evidenced in the various sections of this annual report.

For our members the transition has also brought many changes. For all our members it has meant considerable change in the financial support provided to the national office. Our new fee arrangements have been very well supported, and with the support of both its members and the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Catholic Social Services Australia is now on a sustainable financial footing. For those members continuing to provide employment services, the change has meant finding new ways of working together and this process is well underway. Many of those members not providing employment services have seen us engaged more closely on issues that affect them.

Through all this transition we have maintained a strong voice to government on issues of concern to our members and those people they serve. The build up to the 2010 Federal Election demonstrated that on issues like mental health, unemployment, low incomes, homelessness and advocacy for the most disadvantaged, Catholic Social Services Australia remains a strong public voice for justice.

We were pleased to welcome Fr Frank Brennan, SJ to his role of Advocate in Residence, in a joint project with Catholic Health Australia, the St Vincent de Paul Society and the ACU's Public Policy Institute.

Catholic Social Services Australia has also remained a strong voice on a range of issues that affect the way our member organisations can do their important work. Earlier this year we took a group of leaders from across the network to an intensive program of reflection and learning on Catholic mission and identity. We partnered on this program with the Catholic University in Leuven, Belgium, and the program proved a boon for those seeking to examine what is particularly "Catholic" about our services and how this might be preserved and nurtured in the future.

Catholic Social Services Australia has also been an active voice for our members on the question of not-for-profit sector reform. Proposed changes in contracting, funding, wages and conditions for our workforce and many forms of regulation and reform are all going to



Frank
Quinlan

have an impact on our members over coming years. Whether it's the Productivity Commission or the Henry Tax Review, Catholic Social Services Australia has been able to give a credible voice to the particular challenges and needs of our members.

While managing the recent transition, Catholic Social Services has also kept a keen eye on the future - both for ourselves and for our members. I have had many opportunities to visit members over the course of the year, and I am always encouraged to find such devoted staff delivering such high quality programs. These visits have provided members with an opportunity to identify future challenges and opportunities and to hear how other members are addressing similar challenges. These visits have also provided Catholic Social Services Australia with an opportunity to contribute to a shared future; one where agencies are likely to be working more closely together and where research and evidence based practice is likely to form an important part of the funding equation.

As I said at the beginning of this report, the challenges that we have faced over recent years and over the last year in particular could have brought Catholic Social Services Australia to its knees. I am very proud to report that quite the contrary has been the case. As we face a new year we do so with optimism and renewed enthusiasm and on a strong foundation for the future. I would like to acknowledge that this is in large measure due to the staff that stayed with us during some very challenging times; Mary Jamieson, Jackie Brady, John Scollen, Don Arthur, Judith Tokley and Maureen Ghirardello have all worked well beyond any reasonable expectation during difficult times and this is to their tremendous credit.

I would also like to acknowledge our Chair, Fr Joe Caddy, and all the Members of the Board who have continued to provide the organisation with the leadership, care and courage that it required to achieve the very substantial change it has achieved over recent years and for their direct support to me and all the staff of the organisation.



Policy and Public Affairs

Jackie Brady

Director of Government and Public Affairs

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

In consultation with its members and other stakeholders, the Board has identified the following strategic priorities to guide the work of Catholic Social Services Australia:

- Income security
- Employment
- Social participation and inclusion
- Housing and homelessness
- Mental health
- Locational disadvantage

Catholic Social Services Australia has engaged in a broad scope of activities to meet the advocacy objectives of the organisation ranging from submissions to formal inquiries, collaboration with like-minded organisations and participation in a variety of established and consultative networking bodies.

A key highlight of this year's calendar was the release of Catholic Social Services Australia's Discussion Paper on Social Inclusion entitled, *The Social Inclusion Agenda: Where it came from, what it means and why it matters.*

We continued our call for a stronger, fairer safety net to shape the future of Australia's income support system through our submission to the Government Inquiry into Income Management.

We joined forces with the Major Church providers to host a Community Sector Industry Issues Forum to highlight key issues for the social services sector into the future.

We maintained a voice in the public domain through a range of media activities predominantly focused around our work in these areas.



Frank Quinlan and the then Deputy Prime Minister, Ms Julia Gillard.

We kept our members informed about news of the day with the news clipping service and shared the stories and triumphs of our sector through the publication and distribution of Network News.

I wish to acknowledge the professionalism and excellence of the contribution of my former colleague, Ms Judith Tokley, who managed this area of work for the bulk of this reporting period (August - May). Ms Tokley has moved on from Catholic Social Services Australia and I take great privilege in thanking her for the fine work she has conducted on our behalf.

TASKFORCES AND COMMITTEES

Catholic Social Services Australia is regularly invited to participate on Government Taskforces and Committees. Catholic Social Services Australia's membership provides an opportunity to participate either as our network representative and/or to provide expert operational and policy input through these avenues. Our recent representation work includes the following forums:

- Community Response Taskforce (*Chaired by the then Deputy Prime Minister, Julia Gillard*)
- National Roundtable of Not for Profits
- Various National Compact Advisory Groups and Expert Panels
- National Employment Services Association
- Chief Justice Family Law Forum
- Child Support National Stakeholder Engagement Group
- Australian Government Disaster Recovery Committee - Not for Profit Advisory Group
- Centrelink Community Engagement Forum

MAJOR CHURCH PROVIDERS

The Major Church Providers is an alliance of Catholic Social Services Australia, Anglicare Australia, The Salvation Army and UnitingCare Australia established in 2006 in response to emerging issues for the social services sector. Our joint work was central to some of the Government's significant policy announcements during the Global Financial Crisis, including the doubling of funding for emergency relief programs. The alliance has continued as a strong and credible voice for the church and charitable sector on issues of strategic importance to our members and the people we represent. The alliance hosts various forums for directors and senior staff to brief members on emerging issues and to inform our advocacy efforts. Recent activities include a Community Sector Forum held in February 2010 including detailed representations to Government on the value of FBT concessions.

Discussion Paper

Social Inclusion Agenda: where it came from, what it means and why it matters

Launched by Bishop Pat Power at Parliament House Canberra, *The Social Inclusion Agenda* explored the implications of the Commonwealth government's social inclusion agenda. The Paper placed the concepts of inclusion and exclusion into historical context and explained how social inclusion relates to contemporary Catholic social teaching.

As Bishop Power says, for the Catholic social services sector: "social inclusion isn't so much a new idea as a new way of talking about things we've always known".

The Paper invites Australians and their leaders to embrace the spirit of social inclusion – the

willingness to reach out to others in love and friendship rather than in fear or pity or contempt. According to Bishop Power: "It insists that we can never fully achieve inclusion if we divide society into a burdensome and threatening 'them', and a burdened and threatened 'us'.

He went on to say that: "The promise of social inclusion is that it will help all of us – in government, in social services agencies and in the broader community – to think more about the way relationships affect people's well-being."

The Paper shows how the Australian government's social inclusion agenda confronts many issues

Catholic Social Services Australia and its predecessor, the Australian Catholic Social Welfare Commission (ACSWC), have been grappling with for decades.

One example is the *Dropping off the Edge* study authored by Professor Tony Vinson for Catholic Social Services Australia and Jesuit Social Services. Focusing on areas of entrenched disadvantage his study has had a significant impact on the government's agenda. While it did not refer directly to 'social inclusion' the study drew attention to the way problems are linked, the way these linked problems can become entrenched and intergenerational, and the way they can become concentrated in certain neighbourhoods. These are core concerns of the current government's social inclusion agenda.

It is often said that the term 'social exclusion' first appeared in France during the 1970s, but as the paper explains, policy makers, researchers and social services agencies have been grappling with the same set of concerns for far longer.

The paper explains how policy ideas such as early intervention, human capital development, welfare to work, mutual obligation and joined up government had already been discussed and, in many cases, implemented by the late 1960s. In policy terms, there is very little that is revolutionary about the current social inclusion agenda.

There are many aspects to entrenched disadvantage. No single cause can explain them all, and no one solution will make things right. The government's social inclusion agenda promises to add to our knowledge of disadvantage, renew our commitment to dealing with it and better coordinate programs and services. But it does not offer something radically new.

One of the risks of the new social inclusion agenda is that it will raise unrealistic hopes of rapid and significant change. In the past anti-poverty programs that have achieved much but promised more, have been attacked as failures.

For example, as the Paper explains, in the US President Johnson's opponents now depict his War on Poverty as a costly failure while failing to mention that many of the programs they support have their origins in the War on Poverty. Early childhood programs like Head Start are just one example.

With the change of government in the UK, the social exclusion agenda may suffer the same fate. A new government may declare it to be a failure while at the same time picking up many of its key programs and services. Conservative Party leader, and now PM, David Cameron has pledged to retain the early childhood Sure Start program but argues that his opponent's overall approach has failed.

In Australia, the challenge for agencies like Catholic Social Services Australia is to continue to advocate for action on entrenched disadvantage – whatever form of words policy makers use to describe it.

At its heart Catholic social teaching is about putting love into practice. Human well-being is most threatened when people are treated as inconvenient, burdensome and disposable. While policy makers are right to pursue goals like social justice and efficiency, the paper argues that policy must also be tempered by love – an approach that treats others as we ourselves would want and expect to be treated.



Leader of the Opposition, Mr Tony Abbott at the Directors' Forum.

CONFERENCES AND FORUMS

Catholic Social Services Australia hosts regular forums, including the National Conference, to inform and to seek feedback from members on key issues. These gatherings also provide a valuable opportunity for the sector to come together as a national body. For example recent events include:

- 26 October 2009
Directors' Day - Parliament House Canberra
- 24 November 2009
Catholic Social Services Australia Family Network Meeting
- 8-9 February 2010
National Conference - Old Parliament House Canberra
- 8 February 2010
Annual Awards Presentation - Old Parliament House Canberra
- 8 February 2010
Annual McCosker Oration: Fr Frank Brennan SJ AO
- 10 February 2010
Parliamentary Forum - Parliament House Canberra

- 18 February 2010
Community Sector Industry Issues Forum (jointly hosted by the Major Church Providers)
- 19 February 2010
Jonathan Greenblatt Presentation Forum (jointly hosted with the United States Studies Centre, University of Sydney)
- 7-9 April 2010
ACU Identity and Mission Colloquium (jointly hosted with the Australian Catholic University, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Caritas Australia, the Catholic Institute of Sydney, Catholic Religious Australia and the National Catholic Education Commission)

PUBLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Daily news clipping service to members
- Annual report
- NetworkNews – electronic newsletter keeping members in touch with members
- Website development (National and NSW/ACT)
- Contacts database
- Member surveys

MEDIA AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS SUPPORT TO MEMBERS

- Develop media strategies
- Media liaison
- Develop media releases
- Advice on government relations strategies
- Appointments with Federal politicians and staff

POLICY AND MEDIA ACTIVITY

Discussion Paper

10/02/2010

The Social Inclusion Agenda: Where it came from, what it means and why it matters

Submissions

29/01/2010

Submission to the Senate Community Affairs Committee Inquiry into the Social Security and Other Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform and Reinstatement of Racial Discrimination Act) Bill 2009: *Income Management and the future of Australia's Income Support System - A stronger, fairer safety net?*

29/01/2010

Submission to the Commonwealth Government 2010-11 Pre-Budget Submission.

Directors' Forum – Parliamentary Breakfast





Minister for Housing, Tanya Plibersek, speaking as part of the Housing and Homelessness panel at the National Conference.

Opinion pieces

07/05/2010

Beating poverty is up to the Government

17/12/2009

Irresponsible Reporting Misleads on Welfare
Quarantining

15/07/2009

Communities represent more than dollar values

Media Releases

31/05/2010

Australians in need lost in the maze of bureaucracy and politics

11/05/2010

Federal Budget fails to deliver on the promise of social inclusion

16/03/2010

Income Management Legislation Not Possible Under
New National Compact

10/02/2010

Speech Launch - Social Inclusion Paper - Bishop Pat
Power - Parliament House Canberra

10/02/2010

Speech Parliamentary Breakfast - Father Joe Caddy -
Parliament House Canberra

25/11/2009

Catholic Social Services Australia Cautions Against New
Quarantining Arrangements

16/11/2009

Statement from the Catholic Church on the National
Apology to people who suffered in institutional care

20/10/2009

Transcript Doorstop Parliament House - Major Church
Providers - Government Must Maintain Social Housing
Commitments

19/10/2009

Joint media release Major Church Providers - Possible
Stimulus Package Cut Backs Must Not Target Social
Housing

24/09/2009

Catholic Social Services Australia Delegation Heads for
Belgium

07/07/2009

Fair Pay Commission Deals Dud Hand to Poorest
Workers in Good Times and Bad

Membership and Governance

Mary Jamieson
Manager

This year the immense changes within Catholic Social Services Australia led to many additional activities to the regular functions of the Corporate Services and Membership and Governance units.

Major activities included managing the five week overseas Catholic Social Services Australia/Catholic University of Leuven professional enrichment program, implementing the new membership fee arrangements and managing the redundancy process resulting from the decision not to contest for the new national employment contracts post 30 June 2009.

Associated with the decision not to contest national employment contracts was the large project of national employment contract closure which involved finalising contractual obligations relating to the employment programs. This was undertaken in close association with the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and our member agencies. Whilst the bulk of this work was undertaken pre-June 2009 activity continued through to December 2009. The success of this project was made possible through the goodwill and cooperation of all our member agencies involved in delivery of employment contract services. It is also noteworthy that many of our members were also facing major organisational change during this period.

The Catholic Social Services Australia Board noted this historic event by passing the following resolutions:

“The Catholic Social Services Australia Ltd Board, as the holders of the various national employment contracts, acknowledges the tremendous work of the Catholic Social Services Australia network in the effective delivery of employment services over the course of the last decade.

The Board notes the very positive and lasting impact this work has had on so many of Australia’s most vulnerable citizens.

The Board notes with particular appreciation the long term achievements of Mr Phil Murray and the many other staff from the national office and across the network who have provided such dedicated service over the term of the various contracts.

The Board offers its encouragement and assistance to members of the network who continue to offer these programs in future.”

The reduction in staff and change in operational focus necessitated a comprehensive review of administrative procedures and systems with new streamlined processes implemented to meet the ongoing needs of the National Office. This has resulted in the outsourcing of IT and Financial Services.

I sincerely thank and acknowledge the work of my former colleagues in the Membership and Governance and Corporate teams over the past twelve months. Norma Taylor finished up in October upon completion of contractual obligations relating to employment services; Maureen Ghirardello left in May to pursue further career aspirations and Margaret Clark, Sue West, and Terry Greaves served their last day of employment with Catholic Social Services Australia on 30 June 2010. It was difficult saying so many farewells and we wish them every success in their future endeavours. Catholic Social Services Australia will remain indebted to each of them for their hard work, dedication and commitment over many years to the work of the organisation.

New Members

During the year Catholic Social Services Australia welcomed three new members to our network of member organisations:

- Rosemount Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services, NSW
- Sisters of Mercy Grafton
- St John of God Healthcare – Social Outreach and Advocacy Services

State Activities

The Catholic Social Services Australia Board renewed its commitment to strengthening state structures through the allocation of funding grants to support the operations of state structures to the NSW/ACT Branch and to Catholic Social Services Victoria. Both state branches have been very active during this reporting period and a summary of their activities is provided below by the respective Branch operations managers.

Catholic Social Services NSW/ACT

Executive Officer, Ms Claire O'Neill

Collaboration between Catholic agencies

This has been a period of growth and change for the Branch. In November 2009, the Bishops of NSW and the ACT agreed that CSS NSW/ACT and the Catholic Social Welfare Committee (CSWC), originally the direct link to the NSW Bishops on social welfare issues, would merge as one. Bishop Terry Brady, the Bishop's Delegate on CSWC has now joined the CSS NSW/ACT Executive in order to retain a direct link to the Bishops. As a result of this the Branch began a review of the current structures in order to gain a greater understanding of how the Catholic voice on welfare can best be delivered. There has been ongoing discussion regarding the need for increased collaboration among Catholic social

service agencies in the NSW/ACT Network, in order to more effectively fulfil the Mission of the Church. At the request of the NSW/ACT Bishops and Branch members, the CSS NSW/ACT Branch initiated a process for identifying models which had the potential to strengthen such collaboration. A Working Party was delegated to develop a proposal to be presented to the NSW Bishops at their March 2011 meeting. This has been an ongoing, important piece of work for the Branch this year that will identify a way forward for agencies in the Network.

Advocacy in the build up to the 2011 State Election

NSW will hold a State Election in March 2011 and most of the CSS NSW/ACT Branch advocacy activity has been directed at engaging both the Government and Shadow Cabinet in discussion of key areas of concern in the run up to the Election. Discussions with key ministers and shadow cabinet at Branch meetings culminated in the March 2010 Catholic Social Services Political Forum. Directors, Board Members and executive staff of CSS NSW/ACT member agencies gathered at NSW Parliament House. The Political Forum provided Directors with the opportunity to meet key policy makers and discuss the issues affecting the delivery of social services in NSW. The event was hosted by the Minister for Community Services, the Hon. Linda Burney and opened by Bishop David Walker, Diocese of Broken Bay. We were also lucky enough to have a keynote address by Julian Disney, Chair of National Anti-Poverty Week, who spoke passionately of the appalling and widening gap between the mainstream and those living in poverty and looked at strategies that the not-for-profit sector should adopt to help reduce this. Catholic Social Services hopes to build on the success of this Forum by making it an annual event.

The following Members of Parliament participated in the Political Forum:

- Linda Burney, Minister for Community Services, Minister for the State Plan
- Nathan Rees, Member for Toongabbie

- Greg Smith, Shadow Attorney General, Shadow Minister for Justice
- John Aquilina, Member for Riverstone
- Tony Kelly, Minister for Planning, Infrastructure and Lands
- Graham West, Minister for Juvenile Justice
- Andrew Constance, Shadow Minister for Ageing & Disability
- Mike Baird, Shadow Treasurer
- Pru Gowrad, Shadow Minister for Community Services & Women
- David Borger, Minister for Housing
- Kevin Humphries, Shadow Minister for Western NSW, Shadow Minister for Mental Health, Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
- Lee Rhiannon, Greens Member
- Jillian Skinner, Deputy Leader of the Opposition
- Peter Besseling, Member for Port Macquarie (Independent)
- Alison Peters, Director of NCOSS

Submission to the NSW Liberals & Nationals Social Policy Framework

The NSW Liberals and Nationals developed their pre-election social policy framework, 'Smarter, Stronger, Healthier, Safer' late last year and requested feedback from the community. Following a number of meetings with key shadow ministers, CSS NSW/ACT put forward their submissions and recommendations to the NSW Opposition. This was an excellent opportunity to directly influence policy in NSW.

The NSW New Child Protection System Goes Live

From 24 January 2010 the NSW Government introduced its new child protection system in NSW. These changes are part of the NSW Government's \$750 million action plan *Keep Them Safe*, developed in response to Special Commissioner James Wood's

12 month inquiry into child protection services in NSW. The changes affect thousands of workers who come in contact with children. CSS NSW/ACT has been actively involved in working with government on these new measures. We have also been keeping a watching brief to see how the reforms are affecting the sector and the branch is a member of the '*Keeping Accountable Campaign*' which comprises peak bodies whose members are involved in working with children and families.

Working Groups

The NSW/ACT Branch continued to convene a number of working groups on topics relevant to members. There are some standing working groups: the Youth Network; the Quality Assurance Working Group; and, the Ageing & Disability Working Party, where agencies share expertise, knowledge and practice wisdom across specific program areas. This is an opportunity to engage with the key stakeholders from the relevant government departments and ministers on specific areas of concern and the working groups also facilitate training opportunities for members.

Catholic Social Services Victoria (CSSV) Executive Director, Mr Denis Fitzgerald

Catholic Social Services Victoria assists the Church in Victoria in its gospel-inspired mission of compassionate service and work for justice, and complements the broader range of Catholic Social Services Australia work with a focus on Victorian issues and members. This report highlights themes and developments over 2009/10. Most items referred to are covered in more detail on www.css.org.au.

Our advocacy work included:

The Victorian Political Forum in December 2009 enabled members to engage with senior Ministers and Opposition frontbenchers on our priorities and current issues.

CSSV's problem gambling advocacy continued as part of the inter-Church gambling taskforce, which provides counter-weight to an industry that does not have full regard for the social costs of its activity.

The Branch added its voice to calls to remedy deficiencies in the administration of child protection in Victoria and supported wider community ownership of our responsibility to this very vulnerable group of young people.

Our dialogue on homelessness urged an increase in the stock of public housing; and the funding of services to complement the provision of shelter.

We welcomed the 2010 Victorian Budget as increasing services and benefits to many sectors of the community. But we need a long term commitment to meeting the needs of the most vulnerable in our midst.

Our dialogue with Government on criminal justice focused on respecting the dignity of those in prison in Victoria, and on advocating for rehabilitation and support services. CSSV now chairs an Interchurch Criminal Justice Taskforce which ensures that the Churches have a voice in focusing the Government on building a community that is truly safe.

The State Government's Inquiry into Disadvantage and Inequity in Rural and Regional Victoria afforded us the opportunity to highlight through our submissions the need for a focus by governments at all levels on the provision of basic services and attention to specific needs.

Our submission to the 2009 Review of the Victorian Equal Opportunity Act argued that:

'In order to effectively carry out this work, our mission on behalf of the church, Catholic organisations need to be able to adopt employment practices that will reflect the religious nature of our organisations ... That does not mean that all of our senior people need to be Catholic – some of our distinguished leaders in the sector are not Catholic – but it does mean that we need a critical mass within the leadership group of the organisation to retain affiliation with the Catholic Church.'

This submission was made within a framework of support for human rights built on the dignity of each person.

Member support

The development of a community of shared commitment to service and justice has remained a priority for CSSV. So too has the promotion of cooperation and initiatives within the sector, and assistance to individual agencies.

A regular update for members and friends – our *miniMICAH* series – was complemented by regular publication of items in the Catholic media, and on our website.

Our *Breakfast Briefing* series continued to bring together and inform members. Topics included:

- post-bushfire community development
- the Encyclical 'Caritas in Veritate'
- Child Safety Commissioner
- Spirituality in Catholic social services
- Why Australia needs a national disability scheme

Barrister Julian McMahon spoke at our Annual Dinner in August 2009, challenging us to take human rights seriously, and to engage with the community on this. The promotion of true human rights is an important way of implementing the gospel imperatives of respect for others and work for justice. And, if we aren't engaged, we can be reduced to complaining from the sidelines about the course of the debate. At our annual Commissioning Mass in March 2010, Melissa Brickell spoke on developing the vision and commitment that are needed to work effectively with Aboriginal communities.

Catholic ethos

All of our work aims to help those active in the sector to reflect and act on the implications that their Catholic identity has for their work. In particular:

Catholic social teaching underpinned our public policy analysis, as reflected in various submissions and statements.

A paper on *counselling in a Catholic agency* was delivered to the National Colloquium for Catholic Bioethicists in January 2010. This highlighted the need for continued dialogue within agencies and more broadly to ensure that people and processes are in place to maintain a continued focus on mission, and particularly in recruitment and in staff formation.

Reflecting on the 2009 Catholic Social Services Australia Leuven Leadership Enrichment Program, CSSV delivered a morning of reflection in May 2010 for staff of the Archdiocese of Melbourne on the relationship between spirituality and mission of an organisation.

In September 2009 we organised a gathering of some 20 Religious women and men who are associated with Catholic social service programs. A focus of the meeting was the impact of the charism of Religious Congregations on the organisations they are associated with. Further events are planned to build on this.

It has been my privilege to represent Catholic Social Services in Victoria during this period and to work with such a dedicated and gifted group of people.

Mission and Identity

Catholic Social Services Australia's inaugural International Enrichment Program and Study Tour was conducted in September and October 2009. Representatives from our member organisations travelled to Leuven and Rome where they engaged in an intensive leadership program that serves to clearly articulate and reconfirm the basis of our Catholic mission. Evaluation has indicated strong support for this type of program and work with Catholic Health Australia to develop a program for a 2011 study tour continues.

Catholic Social Services Australia Board Member and Group Leader Professor John Warhurst has written the following report documenting his reflections on the trip.



Catholic Social Services Australia Leuven Leadership Enrichment Program

Professor John Warhurst

Catholic Social Services Australia Board Member

Catholic Social Services Australia network members undertook a most successful professional enrichment program over five weeks in Europe in September-October 2009. The 23 member group included 17 senior staff and board members directly part of Catholic Social Services Australia with the other members drawn from other parts of the Australian church. The program was led by Catholic Social Services Australia chairperson, Fr Joe Caddy, and CEO Frank Quinlan. The aim of the enrichment program was to offer participants the chance to reflect thoroughly on pastoral and social care in theory and practice, to learn from diverse examples in various European settings, and to examine Catholic identity in the contemporary world, all with a view to further developing ourselves and our agencies within Catholic Social Services Australia.

The main part of the program was a four-week special accredited course in the Belgian city of Leuven developed in association with the Faculty of Theology, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KUL). This intensive program on Catholic Identity and Pastoral and Social Care ran from September 21st to October 16th. It combined a daily lecture timetable, sometimes extending into the evenings, conducted by senior members of the theological faculty and guests, regular workshop sessions to which each member of the group contributed and an extensive series of visits to church, government and civil society organisations.

Each of the four weeks involved four days in Leuven, based in the Irish College and, for classes, in the KUL Faculty of Theology, one day trip by bus within Belgium and one two-day international trip by train to cities in the neighbouring countries of France, The Netherlands and Germany. The Belgian cities visited included the

capital Brussels, Ghent, Ypres, Antwerp and Bruges. Foreign cities included Paris, Amsterdam, and Aachen.

The professional development also focused on the collective group experience as individuals shared their personal intellectual and emotional responses to the program. Central to the experience was the spiritual dimension of personal growth and development. Camaraderie and friendship bound us all together in a way none of us will ever forget. The priests, deacons and religious sisters in our party helped us to organize regular Masses as part of our schedule. We also participated in Masses in Notre Dame cathedral in Paris and Cologne cathedral as well as in other chapels and churches.

There was also some time, though never enough, for tourism and for shopping interspersed between a physically and intellectually strenuous schedule. Inevitably even these diversions were a bonding experience. The trips to Bruges and, especially, Ypres, stand out in this regard. The day trip to the Flanders Fields shrines and cemeteries, German, British, Australian and Canadian, in and around Ypres were also highlights of the trip. Despite heavy rain for part of the day it was an unforgettable experience capped by a sing-along on the bus trip home.

The Leuven program was structured into four week-long segments: Fundamental Reflection on Catholic Social and Pastoral Care; Pastoral Care and Management, Leadership and Spirituality; The Catholic Character of Pastoral and Social Care: Focus on Specific Groups; and Catholic Identity and Pastoral Care Between Past and Future.

It is impossible to do justice to the full range of 'events' that made up this program. There were more than fifty separate formal occasions that featured in the final course review, not to mention the many more informal ones. Each participant would have their favourite experiences. But none would dispute the incredible range of topics and visits. From the poorest street-level agencies to the most exalted advocacy groups and university departments, church and secular, we had our minds and our hearts

"I have a richer understanding of the complexity of Catholic Identity, how essential it is to incorporate this in our agencies and how proud we can be of the community services work we do in this country."



Study Tour group's visit to Ghent

stretched. We all fell in love with the medieval university town of Leuven. We were conscientiously and warmly served by our course coordinator Prof Annemie Dillen and our workshop director, Anne Vandenhoeck, as well as by the other faculty staff, many of whom took it in turns to act as our guides on our various travels. We were invariably enthusiastically welcomed by our hosts during our visits, all of whom had gone to a great deal of trouble to make a group of interested foreigners welcome. We always tried not only to be appreciative but also to compare our models, strategies and experiences for their benefit too in the spirit of exchange. When eventually we took our leave and left Leuven for home, or a family holiday in Europe, on Saturday and Sunday October 17th and 18th, we were tired but happy, stimulated and indelibly changed forever.

Associated with the Leuven program for all but two participants was an important complementary prelude in Rome, where most gathered together to attend a

General Papal Audience on September 16th. Even before this those who had arrived met with Cardinal Cordes, President of Cor Unum. In the three days following we experienced a Mass in and tour of St Peter's Basilica, a Scavi Tour, a meeting with Cardinal Martino, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, staff of Caritas Internationalis, members of the San't Egidio Community, at which we were joined by the Australian Ambassador to the Vatican, Tim Fischer, followed by an evening community prayer service; and a guided tour of St Paul's Outside the Walls. On Sunday September 20th we flew together to Brussels and then on to Leuven by chartered bus.

None of the above, a huge logistical exercise, could have been achieved without the administrative team in the Catholic Social Services Australia office, especially Maureen Ghirardello and Mary Jamieson, who worked above and beyond the call of duty. We are all hugely indebted to them.



Beginning a guided tour of St Peter's Basilica, Rome



Ancient books in the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven Library

"This was a most worthwhile experience which far exceeded my expectations. Personally, it enriched me spiritually beyond words. From a leadership aspect it challenged me leading a faith-based agency in a secular society and I have some clear strategies for strengthening the 'heart' of the agency."

Visit to Broderlijk Delen in Brussels



Group meeting with Cardinal Martino at the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Rome



Business and Network Development

John Scollen

Membership and Network Support Officer

The beginning of 2009-2010 had the family services network abuzz when the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) commenced a nation-wide consultation. There was speculation that these discussions could result in a great upheaval of the federally funded family services programs.

Since the actual consultation phase there have been few developments, with much on hold ahead of the Federal Election. There has been some roll over in funding but nothing like the gloom that was on the horizon early in the year. The political landscape seemed to dominate the bureaucratic one and one could speculate that the change in Labor leadership and the early Federal Election held things up in FaHCSIA.

The reason for this change of pace is relatively irrelevant. The discussion will start up again sometime in the future as contracts are nearing the end of their term. However, what we did see from the network was a sense of urgency to pull together any loose threads that may exist and tighten for the changes ahead.

This threat, or opportunity, created a more imminent reason to look for opportunities to work together with a more coordinated focus. The Victorian Centacares were the first to consider a collective State push with a united, coordinated and focused approach to service delivery into the future. The four Victorian Centacares commenced discussions which has seen them draft a constitution for consideration by the State Bishops and agency Directors in a plan to push forward with a model of service that would link with the strengths of each agency and provide coverage of services across the

state in a more coordinated manner. They then brought Centacare Tasmania into the fold to link the South East Centacare agencies.

New South Wales and Queensland have also been exploring their options for State based approaches to working with each other and with Government. The initial feedback from Government was positive but they do not wish to see the local flavour for service delivery lost in the process. All this work is in progress but once achieved it will become a great strength for the network as future business opportunities come up across a range of federal and state funding opportunities.

Support for agencies as they go through the tender process has remained one of the big demands for this office. Over the past 12 months there have been a number of tenders that agencies have explored and these are very time consuming for them. As a collective group of agencies we continue to try and help staff in this preparation but we must keep renewing our skills in this space if we are to compete with other larger players. We also need to find better ways to capture this knowledge and the State based approach may help with this.

One of the highlights for the year was the work undertaken in developing and then being asked to facilitate the Child Inclusive Practice Forum which was held in Melbourne in 2009. The forum was a joint sector run event which was held the previous year on a smaller basis in Tasmania. Over 150 practitioners attended the two days and listened to speakers from a number of different agencies providing services to children and families. The concept of the forum was to be very practitioner focused and share practice ideas. There were a number of Catholic Social Services Australia members who presented at the forum including from Centrecare Inc Perth and Centacare Melbourne. The forum was a wonderful success and really showcased the great work agencies are doing across Australia.

While we did not have the large tender we were expecting in Family Services there were a number of smaller tenders that agencies did seek help on to various degrees. These included:

- Community Aged Care Workforce Development (Cacwd) & Better Skills For Better Care (Bsbcc) Tender
- Respectful Relationships
- Proceeds Of Crime
- Youth Connection
- Family Violence
- Development Of Multi-Disciplinary Training Package In Family Violence
- Personal Helpers And Mentors
- Mental Health Community Based Tender
- Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy
- Early Years Parenting Support

The development of forums for members is a role that the office also has and this year we have continued to work with the Families sector and especially the Family Relationship Centre Managers as they continue to develop the work undertaken by that network. Additionally the links made with the Personal Helpers and Mentors programs seems to have started a more unified approach to service delivery. Each of the agencies involved are willing to share resources and provide opportunities to strengthen the collective. Mental Health and Housing remain a priority for future forums.

Finally, the work in working with the network as a whole continues to be time-consuming and more often than not very rewarding. Taking case studies to meetings with Ministers, Departments or meetings such as the Chief Justice Forum helps us as we try and create an awareness of what is happening to real people across Australia.

Thank you to the members who have contributed to strengthening the network by responding to emails, providing policies and procedures on request, by asking questions, appearing on committees and in a myriad of other ways.

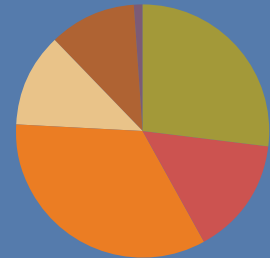
Financial Report

Trevor Murphy, Treasurer

Catholic Social Services Australia 2009-2010

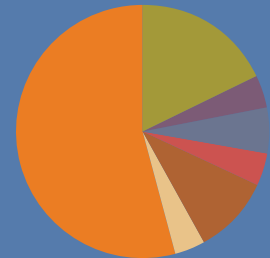
INCOME

Management & administration fee	27%
ACBC funding	15%
Membership fees	34%
Mission and Identity	12%
Other Operating Revenue	11%
Donations	1%



EXPENDITURE

Staff expenses	54%
Administration	18%
Computer & equipment expenses	4%
Consultancies	6%
Promotion, printing & telecommunications	4%
Travel	10%
Governance	4%



Treasurer's report

Trevor Murphy

Mention is made elsewhere in this Report that members are to be congratulated for the manner in which they embraced the need to increase their financial support for Catholic Social Services Australia to ensure that the national voice of the Catholic Church on behalf of disadvantaged people should not be weakened.

Of course, the impact of the introduction of these changes in arrangements varied across the 67 members. Making room for the increases in local budgets, previously established priorities and strong commitments to helping clients meant that 2009-2010 was always going to be a year of transition.

The period of transition did not only apply to our support base but also to the National Office itself. Because Catholic Social Services Australia was no longer holding employment services contracts, the opportunity was taken as the year progressed, to use the consequential reduction in workload as an incentive to review the existing office processes in general and "technical" systems and procedures in particular. The rationale for doing so was to harvest the benefits of making current practices less complex and also to adopt out-sourcing where it was clear that benefits from doing so would reduce the overall cost of running the office.

Additionally, the redundancy program (and the associated payments) which started in the previous financial year continued in 2009-10. The combined effect of an absence of employment services contract work, the review of work practices and out-sourcing where appropriate, has meant that staffing levels have been reduced by over 70 per cent when compared with earlier periods. The overall effect of these factors was to end the financial year with a substantially smaller deficit than was budgeted.

But against that background, the research, advocacy and representation work has been maintained. Notwithstanding the internal structural changes, the expertise, commitment and long hours which staff (including from members' offices) bring to these tasks have ensured that the Catholic viewpoint continues to be heard.

This Report is filled with examples of this organisation's activities in advocacy and representation over the last 12 months. If one was to look at the list of key political figures who attended, met and spoke with Directors and staff from Catholic Social Services Australia at the National Conference and the Members Only Parliamentary Forum in February I believe that in itself provides an indication of the high level of regard in which this organisation is held.

In summary, a leaner Catholic Social Services Australia which is making use of cost savings to good effect, can look forward to the 2010-11 financial year with optimism. It is very important that recognition of the organisation by decision-makers as a respected source of social policy advice continues and an increasing membership together with the financial support of existing members through the new fee arrangements should make that possible.



Catholic Social Services Australia National Conference

Following on from the successful format adopted at last year's Conference, this year's National Conference in February 2010 was opened up to the public, government and broader social services sector in its first two days whilst retaining a membership only focus on day three.

On 8 and 9 February nearly 100 participants gathered at Old Parliament House in Canberra to hear from a range of speakers all focused on the theme: *Review and Reform: Where to from here?* Among those speaking were the Minister for Housing, the Hon. Tanya Plibersek; Dr Richard Denniss from the Australia Institute, Professor Peter Shergold from the Centre for Social Impact; the Commonwealth Ombudsman at the time, Professor John McMillan; Eric Sidoti, Director of the Whitlam Institute and Robert Stanton from the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM).

The Public Forum also gave Catholic Social Services Australia the opportunity to showcase the work of the network via a series of nine Agency presentations across the program.



Dr Richard Denniss from the Australia Institute

Day 3, 10 February 2010, was a Parliamentary Forum for Catholic Social Services Australia Members only. Starting off the day with a Parliamentary Breakfast at Parliament House followed by a series of rolling presentations and meetings with a range of Federal Politicians including: the Prime Minister, the Hon. Julia Gillard (Deputy Prime Minister at the time); the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Tony Abbott; the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon. Jenny Macklin; Shadow Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon. Kevin Andrews and Australian Greens Senator Rachel Siewert – to name a few.

A few key highlights of this year's Conference were the launch of Catholic Social Services Australia's paper on Social Inclusion at the Parliamentary Breakfast, *Social Inclusion Agenda: where it came from, what it means and why it matters*, which has been reported on in more detail earlier in this report; the McCosker Oration delivered by Fr Frank Brennan SJ AO; and the presentation of the 2010 Catholic Social Services Australia Awards.

Thanks to our conference sponsors:



Above: Greens Senator Rachel Siewert addressing Parliamentary Forum participants.

Opposite Page:

Top: Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin at the Members Only Parliamentary Forum day.

Bottom: Dr Peter Shergold from the Centre for Social Impact engaging with Conference participants.





Parliamentary Forum participants gathering in the foyer of Parliament House.

The 2010 Catholic Social Services Australia Awards

The 2010 Catholic Social Services Australia Awards were held on 8 February 2010 during the Catholic Social Services Australia National Conference in Canberra.

The Awards recognise and promote the work of Catholic Social Services Australia Member Organisations and of individuals working in the broader social services sector.

Three awards were announced - two are open exclusively to member organisations, and a third which is open to all individuals working in the social services sector.

Each winner received a trophy and a cheque for \$750.

Catholic Social Services Australia acknowledges the generous sponsorship contribution from Catholic Church Insurances (CCI) who have supported this important event now for nine consecutive years.



AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE (ORGANISATIONAL)

This award is presented to the program delivered by a Member of Catholic Social Services Australia which has most successfully met or is meeting the needs of a local community.

WINNER: Centacare Brisbane's Catholic Prison Ministry

Started in 1985 in St Mary's Church in South Brisbane this program for prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families, has grown to a comprehensive service that helps more than 50,000 people each year. These clients are some of the most highly disadvantaged and marginalised people in the community. They experience high levels of mental health problems, homelessness, abuse, discrimination and unemployment. They have struggled with numeracy and literacy skills and historically come from dysfunctional families and lack positive role models.

Catholic Prison Ministry is a case management model which actively works with up to 400 prisoners and ex-prisoners and 900 court attendees and family members at any one time. Over 100 volunteers support and advise families, defendants and victims in 9 courthouses in south east Queensland.

The Family Support Program provides counselling, advocacy and practical support for the families of people in prison; Liferaft is a peer support program for families and friends of prisoners; Prison Visitation Services are extended to all prisons in South East Queensland; and the Offender Reintegration Support Service helps prisoners with pre and post release needs.

Benefits to the community include reduced welfare payments, significant reduction in the cost of the justice and penal system and savings in physical and mental health costs. Catholic Prison Ministry has been acclaimed as best practice by a broad range of people and organisations.

Catholic Prison Ministry believes prison must be an absolute last resort, that the criminal justice system must aim to bring about reconciliation and restoration – not incrimination and retribution. It believes justice is a community responsibility – that social inequalities and injustices give rise to crime, and that people will usually make the choice to live a lawful lifestyle if they are supported in an environment that provides for their basic needs and affirms their self worth.

HIGHLY COMMENDED:

Marymead Child and Family Counselling Service

MaristYouth Care's Aboriginal Trainee Support Worker Project for Western Sydney.

PERKINS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE (INDIVIDUAL)

This award is presented to an individual who has shown outstanding commitment to service. The award is open to people from our agencies and also to people in the wider community. The award is presented in honour of Bishop Eric Perkins, who had a major impact on national Catholic social policy.

WINNER: David Helmers, Executive Officer of the Australian Men's Sheds Association (AMSA)

Centacare Hunter Manning has auspiced the Lake Macquarie Shed Project and more recently the Hunter Valley Shed Cluster Group and the Australian Men's Shed Association. David Helmers has project managed all three programs. David's commitment, creativity and passion have taken the project from the locally-based Lake Macquarie Shed Project to a regional and a national body. The Lake Macquarie Shed Project is a unique effort involving Federal, State and local government; businesses, employment services and training providers; not for profit organisations and the community.



Perkins award winner, David Helmers.

The Shed helps unemployed youth, mature aged unemployed people, retirees, young offenders and early school leavers by using skills of older people, providing mentoring opportunities, creating positive, dynamic community partnerships and helping participants to prepare for further education, training and employment.

David's extraordinary capacity for community engagement is central to the success of all three projects. His relationship with shed volunteers, the business community, prospective partners, government agencies, members of parliament and the shed community throughout Australia is unique.

HIGHLY COMMENDED:

Fr Leo Donnelly, Port Macquarie Parish Priest

Ms Josie Gregory, Advocate for Women and Children Experiencing Domestic Violence, Centacare Broken Bay.

Catholic Social Services Australia Board Member, Barry Sheehan, presents the Norma Parker Award to Janice Redford, CEO of Catholic Community Services.



NORMA PARKER AWARD FOR THE MOST INNOVATIVE PROGRAM

This award highlights outstanding achievement by a member of Catholic Social Services Australia which offers programs that set trends and benchmarks in their area of service. The award is presented in honour of Norma Parker, who co-founded Australia's first professionally organised child and family welfare agency.

WINNER: Catholic Community Services' Severe Domestic Squalor Project

The Severe Domestic Squalor project provides support to people living in environments that are so unclean that their health, ability to receive services or their ability to live independently in the community is jeopardised. The

project also aims to educate service providers working in the community about how to respond when situations of squalor are encountered.

As a result there is a decrease in the consequences of living in squalor such as reduced safety, health and fire risks, and clients became less isolated from the community. They also had less risk of eviction.

In the twelve months to July 2009 the Project, which has been widely acclaimed by local government and local health services, ran 32 training sessions for 748 people and an estimated 1,000 calls for advice were received on the squalor hotline.

Highly Commended: Sacred Heart Mission's "Journey to Social Inclusion" Project



McCosker Oration

**Fr Frank Brennan SJ AO, Professor of Law,
Public Policy Institute, Australian Catholic University**

On Monday 8 February 2010, Fr Frank Brennan SJ AO, Professor of Law at the Australian Catholic University (pictured left), presented the McCosker Oration at the Catholic Social Services Australia Annual Awards ceremony held at Old Parliament House in Canberra.

Will a Charter of Rights erode religious freedom?

It's fashionable to be dismissive of religion in contemporary Australia, said Father Frank Brennan in his 2010 McCosker Oration. He said that if secularists demand that views informed and animated by religious tradition should be shut out of the public square, Australians can never hope to live in a truly democratic society.

Last year Father Brennan chaired a committee charged with reporting back to government on the community's thinking about human rights protection in Australia. Since the committee's report has been released a number of church leaders have expressed concern that a human rights act could threaten religious freedom.

Father Brennan said that the major areas of concern are the impact of religious vilification laws in Victoria; the compulsory referral clause in the Victorian Abortion bill; and the exemptions for church bodies from the discrimination laws.

Some church leaders fear that a human rights act will accelerate the secularising effect of the soft left "liberal" agenda, said Father Brennan. He argued that "Those concerns would prove to be misplaced if a human rights act could be designed to ensure that parliamentarians have due regard for freedom of religion and conscience, including the conscience of the religious citizen who is out of sympathy with any prevailing soft left liberal agenda."

"The way forward", said Father Brennan, "is for us to insist in the public square on the need for all players to respect the right of all persons including religious people to freedom of

conscience and belief, for us within our church community to respect the consciences and dignity of all including those who are gay or lesbian, encouraging everyone to form and inform their conscience and to that conscience be true, and to provide public advocacy grounded in our daily contact with the poor, informed by the richness of our Church tradition, and co-ordinated by credible Church voices in the public square."



Board to 30 June 2010



Fr Joe Caddy

Chair, Executive Director
Centacare Melbourne

Appointed by the Australian Catholic
Bishops Conference

Reappointed for a further three years
in November 2009



Sr Mary Quinlan RSJ

Catholic Religious Australia representative
(ceased May 2010)



Prof John Warhurst

Deputy Chair

Appointed by the Australian Catholic
Bishops Conference

Reappointed for a further three years in
November 2009



Mr Michael Reutens

Elected by Member Organisations



Mr Trevor Murphy

Treasurer

Appointed by the Australian Catholic
Bishops Conference



Mr Barry Sheehan

Director, Centacare Toowoomba
Elected by Member Organisations



Mr Tony Davies

Director, Centacare Port Macquarie

Appointed by the Australian Catholic
Bishops Conference

Reappointed for a further three years in
November 2009



Ms Cate Sydes

Director, Marist Youth Care
Elected by Member Organisations



Bishop Patrick Power

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference
Bishops Commission for
Health and Community Services



Bishop Terry Brady

Bishops Commission for Health and
Community Services (alternate member)

Board Meetings 7 July 2009
10 August 2009
10 November 2009
16-17 March 2010
18 May 2010
3 June 2010

Annual General Meeting

Catholic Social Services Australia – 26 October 2009
Catholic Social Services Australia Ltd – 26 October 2009

The Catholic Social Services Australia By-Laws provides authority for the Board to establish Working Parties from amongst its members and other persons co-opted by the Board. The composition and operations of each of the three current committees include:

Membership Committee

Chair: Prof John Warhurst
Members: Fr Joe Caddy, Mr Trevor Murphy,
Ms Cate Sydes, Mr Frank Quinlan

Established by the Board in July 2009, the Membership Committee is responsible for the broad range of matters relating to Catholic Social Services Australia membership including assessing applications for new membership and membership fee issues and making recommendations to the Board on these issues.

Fundraising Committee

Chair: Ms Cate Sydes
Members: Other members as required
(from amongst the membership
and beyond) possibly 3 to 4 members

The Fundraising Committee, still in its early stages of development, will be responsible for developing a strategic plan for Catholic Social Services Australia, exploring opportunities for fundraising to support the delivery of programs and services by Catholic Social Services Australia and its members.

Finance and Risk Committee

Chair: Mr Trevor Murphy
Members: Mr Tony Davies, Mr Barry Sheehan.
Two external members to be appointed.

The Finance and Risk Committee assists the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities relating to finance and risk matters, including the financial reporting process, systems of internal accounting and financial controls, oversight of the external auditor, risk management and internal controls and legal and regulatory requirements.

Bishops Commission for Health and Community Services

The Bishops Commission for Health and Community Services promotes the life and mission of the Catholic Church in Australia in the areas of social services and health and aged care. Catholic Social Services Australia as the Secretariat for the Commission continued to assist the Commission in fulfilling its tasks.

Chairman

Bishop Patrick P Power

- **Members**
Bishop Terence J Brady
Bishop Anthony C Fisher OP
Bishop Joseph Oudeman OFM Cap
Bishop Leslie R Tomlinson
Bishop David L Walker

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Government and Public Affairs

Jackie Brady

Director

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Don Arthur

Policy Officer

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Network and Business Development

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Membership and Governance & Corporate Services

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Margaret Clark

Administration Officer

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Sue West

Administration Officer

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John Pettit

IT Support/Network Administrator

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Terry Greaves

Finance Officer

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Catholic Social Services Australia Member Organisations

As at 30 June 2010 (67 Member Organisations)



Member Organisation

NSW/ACT

Boys' Town Engadine	Salesians of Don Bosco
CatholicCare Hunter-Manning	Diocese of Maitland/Newcastle
CatholicCare Sydney	Archdiocese of Sydney
CatholicCare Wollongong	Diocese of Wollongong
Catholic Community Services	Public Juridic Person
Centacare Ballina (St Francis Xavier's Parish)	Diocese of Lismore
CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn	Archdiocese of Canberra/Goulburn
Centacare Casino (St Mary's Parish)	Diocese of Lismore
Centacare Catholic Family Services Broken Bay	Diocese of Broken Bay
Centacare Catholic Family Services Wagga Wagga	Diocese of Wagga Wagga
Centacare Catholic Social Services Parramatta	Diocese of Parramatta
Centacare Coffs Harbour	Diocese of Lismore
Centacare Family and Community Services Bathurst	Diocese of Bathurst
Centacare New England North West	Diocese of Armidale
Centacare Port Macquarie	Diocese of Lismore
Centacare Wilcannia Forbes	Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes
Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes NSW	CLRI (NSW)
Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul	Trustees of the Daughters of Charity
Good Grief	Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart
Rosemount Good Shepherd Youth & Family Services	Good Shepherd Sisters
Marist Youth Care	Marist Brothers - Sydney Province
Maronite Community and Social Services	Maronite Eparchy of Australia
Marymead Child and Family Centre	Archdiocese of Canberra/Goulburn
Sisters of Charity in Australia	Congregation of the Religious Sisters of Charity
Sisters of Mercy Grafton	Sisters of Mercy - Grafton Congregation
Trustees of the Sisters of Mercy Parramatta (including St Michael's Family Centre Ltd; St Mary's House Campsie; and Mamre Plains Ltd)	Sisters of Mercy - Parramatta Congregation
Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart NSW Congregation Leadership Team	Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart
St Anthony's Family Care, Croyden	Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart
St Francis Social Services	Franciscan Friars - Order of Friars Minor
St Joseph's Cowper	Sisters of Mercy - Grafton Congregation
St John of God Casa Venegas	St John of God Brothers
Trustees of the Presentation Sisters (Wagga)	Presentation Sisters

Central

Catherine House Inc.	Sisters of Mercy, Adelaide
Centacare Family Services Adelaide	Archdiocese of Adelaide
CatholicCare NT	Diocese of Darwin
Centacare Port Pirie Diocese (Whyalla)	Diocese of Port Pirie
South Australia Province of the Sisters of St Joseph, (including St Joseph's Family Care Centre and 'Ain Karim')	SA Province of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart

Southern

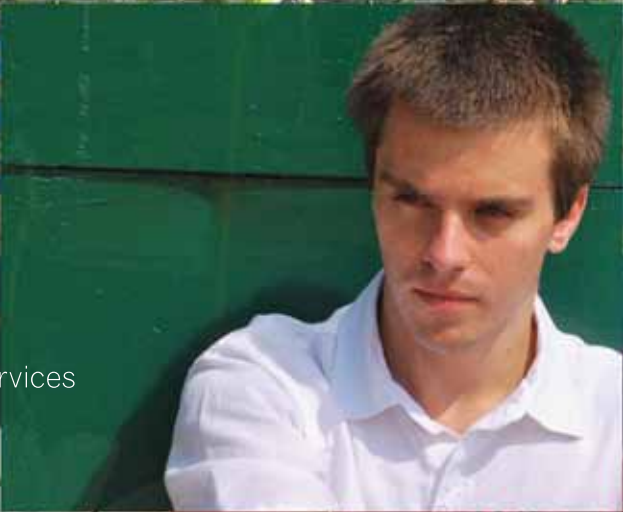
Catholic Society for Marriage Education	Lay Association
Centacare Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Inc	Diocese of Ballarat
Centacare Catholic Family Services Melbourne	Archdiocese of Melbourne
Centacare Gippsland (Sale)	Diocese of Sale
Centacare Sandhurst (Bendigo)	Diocese of Sandhurst
Centacare Tasmania	Archdiocese of Hobart
Jesuit Social Services	Jesuits Society of Jesus
MacKillop Family Services	Sisters of Mercy, Christian Brothers and Sisters of St Joseph
Marriage Education Program (Inc.)	Lay Association
Sacred Heart Mission (St. Kilda)	Archdiocese of Melbourne
Sts Peter and Paul Centacare, Nth Melbourne	Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy

Western

Catholic Marriage Education Services (Perth)	Archdiocese of Perth
Centacare Employment and Training Perth	Archdiocese of Perth
Centacare Geraldton	Diocese of Geraldton
Centacare Kimberley	Diocese of Broome
Centrecare Inc. Perth	Archdiocese of Perth
MercyCare	Sisters of Mercy - Perth Congregation
Personal Advocacy Service	Catholic Archdiocese of Perth
St John of God Healthcare - Social Outreach and Advocacy	Sisters of St John of God
St Patrick's Community Support Centre (Fremantle)	Archdiocese of Perth

Queensland

Bridgeworks Employment and Training	Sisters of Mercy - Brisbane Congregation
BoysTown	De La Salle Brothers
Centacare Brisbane	Archdiocese of Brisbane
Centacare Cairns	Diocese of Cairns
Centacare Rockhampton	Diocese of Rockhampton
Centacare Toowoomba	Diocese of Toowoomba
Centacare Catholic Family Services Townsville	Diocese of Townsville
Mercy Family Services (Qld)	Sisters of Mercy - Brisbane Congregation
North West Qld Indigenous Catholic Social Services (NWQICSS)	Diocese of Townsville
Sisters of Mercy Brisbane Congregation Leadership Team	Sisters of Mercy - Brisbane Congregation



Catholic Social Services
Australia

