

First Combined

A N N U A L R E P O R T

CATHOLIC FAMILY WELFARE BUREAU

CATHOLIC MARRIAGE GUIDANCE COUNCIL

1971 - 1972

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Presented at the Annual General Meeting

August 21st, 1972,

Cathedral Chapter Hall,

Victoria Square,

Perth, W.A.

C O N T E N T S.

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INTRODUCTION

The Catholic Family Welfare Bureau and the Catholic Marriage Guidance Council are Diocesan Welfare organizations, directly responsible to the Archbishop of Perth.

Being the first combined Annual Report, a brief historical development of both organizations has been included.

The Director and Staff wish to acknowledge their debt to all individuals, societies and agencies, both statutory and voluntary, that have facilitated their work during the year by their interest and co-operation.

This Report is hereby formally presented to His Grace, Dr L.J. Goody, Archbishop of Perth.

S T A F F.

FAMILY WELFARE BUREAU

MARRIAGE GUIDANCE COUNCIL

Director

Rev. Fr B. Hickey, S.T.L., B.A., M.Soc.Wk.

Senior Social Worker

Mrs B. Kinna, Dip. Soc. Wk.

Eleven Counsellors

Welfare Officer

Mrs B. MacFarlane, Cert.Soc.Stud.
(Edin.)

Secretary

Mrs H. Wignore

Secretary

Mrs C. Schoenmakers

Hon. Psychiatrist

Dr P. Burvill

Hon. Psychologists

Mr R. Bauer, B.A.

Mrs R. Bauer, B.A., Dip. Ed.

Hon. Auditor

Mr K. Hales

Address: 25 Victoria Square, Perth W.A.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

of

CATHOLIC EPISCOPAL MIGRATION AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION,
CATHOLIC FAMILY WELFARE BUREAU,
CATHOLIC MARRIAGE GUIDANCE COUNCIL.

By the end of the Second World War the welfare services of the Catholic Church in W.A. covered a wide range. They included eight child care institutions, four Mission centres for Aborigines, seven hospitals, two homes for the aged, and a number of societies for the poor and needy. Most of these services were under the control of Religious Orders which, to a large extent, operated independently of one another.

The lack of centralized control or planning in the welfare services of the Church was becoming evident.

With the growth of the population of Western Australia, the extension of statutory provisions, and the closer involvement of institutions with statutory bodies, attempts were made to integrate the Church's welfare services in some central authority.

The finished body was the Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association, set up immediately after the war.

The move towards integration and improvement of the services offered, especially in the field of child care and family welfare, has continued since then with the establishment of two other associations, the Catholic Marriage Guidance Council, and the Catholic Family Welfare Bureau.

CATHOLIC EPISCOPAL MIGRATION AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

This Association was set up in 1946 and registered with the Registrar of Companies in 1947. It was founded principally to aid the post-war child immigration programme. Apart from making arrangements for the accommodation of immigrant children in W.A., it engaged in three other fields as well, adult immigration, the handling of state subsidies for children in institutions, and general welfare services.

Adult immigration was left mainly to the Government, but the Association itself sponsored many from European countries who did not qualify for an assisted passage. Money for travel loans was supplied by the International Catholic Migration Commission in Geneva and was repayable without interest or other charge over a period of two years.

Under the Government Sponsorship Scheme, the Association had to guarantee initial accommodation and assistance for the people it sponsored. From 1965 it was able to use Keaney House in North Perth as a migrant hostel. The building had previously operated by the Society of St Vincent de Paul as a hostel for working boys. In the latter years the Association shifted its emphasis from European to Asian migration

In 1964, 108 people were sponsored from India and Burma, in contrast to 29 from the United Kingdom. By 1970 it was no longer possible for any but close relatives to sponsor migrants, and the Association assisted in recommending the sponsors and providing travel loans and re-settlement finance. In 1970, out of 271 sponsorships granted, 246 were from Asian countries and a few from Africa.

One of the functions accepted by the Association in the early years of child migration was to handle the applications for subsidies for those children. It later obtained subsidies on behalf of the institutions for wards placed with them by the Child Welfare Department. The pressures of the child migration scheme tended to overshadow the general welfare function of the Association, but from the beginning it was intended to have such a function. In 1948 moves were made to make the Association the central co-ordinating body of Catholic Welfare Services, especially of the institutions. In a letter to the Secretary of the Child Welfare Department in July, 1948, Archbishop Prendiville referred to the lack of co-ordination between the Department and the Institutions that cared for State wards. He sought to improve matters through a central authority:

"As the Institutions increase in number and in size the administration becomes more difficult. It is obvious that the time has come for the appointment of one individual and one organization to represent me in matters affecting not merely State wards, but also Private Cases and Migrant Children being cared for by the Institutions. This being so, I hereby nominate the Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association as the central body and the Rev. C. Stinson as my personal representative."

He also asked that Fr Stinson be present on every occasion that the Child Welfare Department Inspectors visited the Institutions.

In his reply, Mr. McMinn, the Secretary, denied that there was any lack of co-operation between the C.W.D. and the institutions nor could he agree to advise Fr Stinson of each and every visit to the institutions, as it would restrict the free access to wards granted by the Child Welfare Act. However, he welcomed the central body and gave assurances of close collaboration with it.

This reply from the Child Welfare Department put severe limits on the authority of the Association, but the Archbishop subsequently notified all the institutions that they were to accept it as the intermediary with the Department. He further laid down that all subsidies would be paid to them through the Association. The subsequent history of the Association has shown that such arrangements were not very workable. Since the Child Welfare Department dealt directly with the institutions, their officers found it impossible to refer every matter to the Association. Nevertheless the admission of many private cases was taken on by the Association. By arrangement with the Child Welfare Department it found accommodation for Catholic State wards with Catholic families after they left the institution, and made some attempt to keep in contact with them. As the Association usually consisted of a priest-director, a secretary and a typist, little work of this nature could be attempted.

Apart from work with children, which was its major function, and the sponsorship of adult migrants, it also attempted to find employment for clients or offered help in financial and marital distress. This type of work was necessarily limited, not only by the pressure of other work, but also by the lack of professional staff. Considerations such as these led to moves in the late 60's to set up a general agency, which culminated in the establishment in 1970 of the Catholic Family Welfare Bureau.

CATHOLIC FAMILY WELFARE BUREAU.

As the child migration scheme came to an end and private associations were no longer permitted to sponsor migrants to Australia, the Migration and Welfare Association found that its work was becoming increasingly more remote from its original aims. It needed revision in terms of its policy and its future work. At the same time a number of Catholic social workers and welfare officers in statutory agencies were pressing for a central body to co-ordinate the Church's welfare services. Those working in the Child Welfare Department who were in close contact with the Catholic institutions were particularly concerned about the private cases accepted by them.

Since the Migration and Welfare Association had become almost exclusively a migration agency, and did not employ professional staff, it was not able to meet these new demands on it. Furthermore Western Australia was the only State without a Catholic Family Welfare Bureau. Consequently the Director of the Migration and Welfare Association, Fr. W. Foley, held discussions early in 1969 with interested parties with a view to setting up such a Bureau. In June of that year a Provisional Executive Committee was formed, chaired by Fr. Foley.

At the second meeting on 14th July, 1969, a report drafted by Mrs. Barbara Kinna and four other Catholic social workers on the need for the Bureau, was presented. The report noted the lack of co-ordination among the various Catholic institutions and the absence of any evaluation of the type of child they were best equipped to help. It expressed concern over the fate of private cases who were often "dumped" in the institutions by their parents and stressed the need for adequate screening of applicants and follow-up work with their families. It was also suggested that a Bureau might be able to offer social services to Catholic schools where children with problems often went unnoticed until there was trouble with the Law or severe psychological damage.

The migrant families brought out by the Migration and Welfare Association, especially those from Burma and India, often experienced severe re-settlement problems and needed the attention that a Bureau could give. Furthermore, the work of the Catholic Marriage Guidance Council could be expanded to take in family caseworks which the Bureau would engage in. The Bureau would also be a centre that Catholics in general could approach. Often they were at a loss to know where to go with their personal, family or social problems.

At present, the report stated, these services were not being offered, and it had become a matter of urgency to provide them. In 1967 the Church had sent a priest to the University to obtain special work qualifications. However, the social workers considered the problems were so pressing that the setting up of the Bureau should not wait until he had finished his course.

The report was adopted by the Provisional Executive and accepted as the blueprint for future development.

On 2nd June, 1970, the Bureau was officially set up by a decision of the Provisional Executive Committee, after the consent of Archbishop Goody, who guaranteed a sum of \$4000. for the first year of operation. Since advertisements in Australia and England for a full-time social worker had not been successful, four Catholic social workers in Perth agreed to operate the Bureau on a part-time basis. They made time available after their normal full-time employment. One of them, Miss Margaret Grogan, was appointed senior social worker and took responsibility for the organization of the Bureau. The others were Misses Judith Taylor, Patricia Hansen and Marie Harries.

Because it operated on a part-time basis only, it could not cover all the areas considered desirable. Consequently a list of initial aims and priorities was drawn up, which limited the work mainly to applications for institutional care. A report drawn up after the first ten weeks, outlined the priorities:-

1. Children referred privately (non wards) to Catholic institutions, assessing situations, offering alternatives to placement, if relevant,
2. Social Worker contact with families of children who are not placed,
3. Social Worker contact with families of children who are placed,
4. Social Worker consultation with staff of institutions regarding children who are referred and placed,
5. Integrating work of volunteer groups at institutions, including after-care groups,
6. Consultive work with staff of institutions re policies and functioning,
7. Establishing a comprehensive resource index of relevant Perth Welfare groups, especially Catholic.

The report emphasised that there was no intention of offering a full family service in the initial stages. All requests would be assessed and referred, if possible, to the most appropriate agency.

The Catholic Family Welfare Bureau engaged the services of two psychologists in an honorary capacity, to make psychological assessments of children where considered appropriate.

Offices for the Bureau were taken in the All Saints Memorial Centre, 77 St. George's Terrace, Perth.

The part-time arrangements were to continue only until such time as the Bureau could employ a full-time social worker.

Catholic Marriage Guidance Council

The structure of Catholic welfare organisations in Western Australia was different from most other states, as has been stated, in that there was no Catholic Family Welfare Bureau. The Migration and Welfare Association was concerned mainly with immigration work and the Catholic institutions and offered little regarding family or marital problems. Since 1950 the Archdiocese had conducted conferences for engaged couples (Pre-Cana talks) a number of times each year and had promoted conferences for married couples (Cana Conferences) on a less systematic basis since 1958. A number of lay groups, such as the Catholic Social Apostolate and the Majellan groups, which were concerned mainly with religious formation organised frequent gatherings of married people for discussions of family problems.

When legislation was proposed by the Commonwealth in the late fifties, to give accreditation to, and financially approve, Marriage Guidance Organizations, Archbishop Prendiville asked Fr. J. Russell to study the requirements and investigate the setting up of such an organization in Perth. The other states, which operated a Catholic Family Welfare Bureau, sought approval for the Bureau already established. The Attorney General indicated that he was prepared to consider the approval of one Catholic organization in each State in addition to the existing non-denominational body. The request to Fr. Russell was made by the Archbishop in September, 1960.

Fr. Russell consulted with representatives of agencies in various States. He received encouragement from the Catholic organizations so that similar provisions would exist throughout Australia.

The Matrimonial Causes Act, under which Marriage Guidance Organizations were to be approved, was passed in 1959, but did not become Law until February, 1961.

An organization had to be already in operation before approval would be considered. Fr. Russell then set about seeking likely candidates for training as counsellors, as the legislation would approve voluntary lay counsellors, according to the system already in use in England.

Of the twelve originally chosen, eleven were selected to begin a two-year course. The selection was done by a panel which consisted of a psychologist and a priest. On the 15th November, 1960, the training course began. Its content had been worked out after consultation with the Q.Q. Marriage Guidance Council. Professional people accepted to give the lectures.

The Catholic Marriage Guidance Council was officially set up in November, 1960, at the Catholic Centre, Victoria Square. For the first year, while the counsellors were in training, interviews were handled by Fr. Russell, the Director. In the first two months when the Council's existence was not generally publicised, fourteen cases were referred to it by local Parish Priests.

In February, 1961, a meeting was held with the newly appointed National Marriage Guidance Officer to the Attorney General, Mr. Les Harvey, regarding an application for statutory approval. The Director was advised to wait until the counsellors were seeing clients before requesting approval. If such approval were given, the Commonwealth would offer finance for running expenses only, not for capital costs. Accordingly, in January 1962, application was made to the Attorney General for approval. It was granted in a communication from the Attorney General dated 10.2.1962. The conditions were that the Agency limit its work to what could reasonably be called marriage guidance and that it furnish quarterly work reports and an annual report and audited statements of receipts and expenditure. The first financial grant of £250. was made during the year 1962/62. From 1963 the annual grant was raised to £1,000. The Archdiocese arranged to cover the other expenses after presentation of an annual budget.

Nine of the original eleven applicants for the course were finally selected. An executive of the Council was set up in September, 1961 and a number of honorary consultants, including doctors, lawyers and psychologists, agreed to assist with advice and further training. In the first full year of operation of the Council, that is in 1962-63, after the counsellors had completed their training, a total of 99 marital cases were dealt with.

The Council also assisted with the conferences for engaged couples, provided speakers and discussion leaders for schools and conducted sex education courses for parents.

After the Catholic Centre was sold in 1961 the Council moved to a two-storey house in 85 Hill Street, Perth and in November 1962 shifted to the All Saints Memorial Centre, 77 St. George's Terrace, Perth.

On 23rd June, 1972 the offices of the Marriage Guidance Council & the Family Welfare Bureau were transferred to 25 Victoria Square, Perth.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

FAMILY WELFARE BUREAU.

The emergence of a new voluntary social work agency in Perth is, I believe, an event of significance. It is only in very recent years in the history of this State that the "people changing" professions of psychology, psychiatry and social work have begun to spread throughout community service organizations.

The great humanitarian revival of last century in especially Britain and the United States, which led to the abolition of slavery and revolutions in the treatment of prisoners, the mentally ill, the sick, the destitute, and abandoned children, has helped the formation of a welfare-minded society. Pressures on Governments have forced them to take a more active role in the care of the disadvantaged, and to provide a more equitable distribution of the nation's resources. The "Welfare State" is a modern creation.

We have inherited that tradition. We have also inherited an individualist tradition of respect for hard work, initiative, and self-help. These two cross-currents, to be found at every point in the welfare stream, are reflected in legislation and public policy. Benefits are provided, but means tests are rigid. Statutory bodies are set up for welfare purposes, but their areas of competence are strictly defined.

These traditions are also evident in the self-help and other voluntary groups set up outside the statutory welfare structure, sometimes complementing it, sometimes overlapping it.

Welfare provisions in Australia do not as yet reflect any thought-out "Welfare State" philosophy, but are the sum of all the statutory and voluntary agencies and societies. At times they work in co-operation. Only too often they resent each other's existence, or try to use the other for their own benefit.

Hostility, suspicion and mistrust of one another, have certainly been part of the development of welfare services in this State. The Church has been part of that development, with its manifold charitable and service activities stretching back to 1846. Experience has shown that the one who suffers most in such an atmosphere is the client.

There are encouraging signs that we have entered a period of closer co-operation among welfare bodies. Were it not so, the Catholic Family Welfare Bureau could not have been started, nor would it be able to function today.

The history of its recent development is to be found elsewhere in this report. Here I wish to describe briefly its priorities and its activities over the past year.

The area of work covered can be loosely divided into four sections:

1. Professional help to existing Church activities
2. Co-ordination of the Church's welfare work
3. Individual and family casework
4. Community development.

1. Professional help to existing Church activities.

Child care has been a matter of deep concern of the Church since the earliest years of its existence in the State. A few yards from here the Sisters of Mercy began in 1846 their first "Benevolent Institution" for children. Since then their work has expanded, without interruption, till today. Other Religious Orders have established homes for destitute, delinquent and emotionally disturbed children.

Aware of the need for special facilities and treatment for many of these children, the Catholic Family Welfare Bureau accepted the responsibility for assessing private applications to Clontarf, Castle-dare and Catherine McAuley Centre, to provide social work service for these children and their families.

Last year 113 applications for institutional care were received. Of these 57 children were placed in institutions, other arrangements being made for the remainder.

The Bureau co-operates with the staff of these institutions, the Department for Community Welfare and other agencies, to provide child care of the highest quality.

It will be evident from the caseload statistics found in the Appendix of the Report that most of the Bureau's work is at present concerned with children. Last year 160 request for child care were received. Most of these were for institutional care. The other requests were for foster care, boarding schools, day care, or the employment of a housekeeper to look after children at home.

2. Co-ordination of the Church's welfare work

The Church's many charitable works developed as the need arose, through a multiplicity of autonomous groups, with little centralized control. The Bureau sees itself ideally placed to help the various organizations work closer together, to plan future services based on perceived needs, and to update continually the quality of service offered. There is before His Grace the Archbishop at this moment a proposal to establish an appropriate structure to carry out this work. It is accepted that planning will take into account other bodies in the field, both statutory and voluntary.

3. Individual and family casework.

As a general agency the Bureau offers assistance in a wide variety of problem areas. Apart from the 160 requests for child care, another 179 cases were dealt with by the Bureau. They included child guidance, marital problems, unmarried mothers both during pregnancy and after, requests for finance, housing and employment, problems relating to physical health, mental health, old age, and other general problems.

Referrals to the Bureau have come from institutions, priests, Catholic schools, Child Welfare Department, hospitals and other statutory and voluntary bodies.

Although a Catholic agency, its services are by no means limited to Catholics. Last year approximately one third of all cases were not of the Catholic Faith.

A similar distribution of migrants to non-migrants was found. Among adults the proportion of Australian born adults to others was 2 : 1; for children, almost 4 : 1.

4. Community development

This work cannot be easily represented in statistical terms.

In the Catholic community the Bureau has sought to make its work known by frequent publicity in "The Record" and through schools and parishes. It has sought to involve volunteers in the work of the Bureau in a variety of ways, as foster parents, emergency drivers, child minders, outside contacts with institutions, and clerical assistants.

Whenever the approach has been directed to a Parish group or society, the response has been extremely encouraging. At times a local parish group has assisted to look at the special needs of its own neighbourhood, and work out how best the members could respond to those needs, whether they be the problems of the aged, unmarried mothers, deserted wives, Aborigines, youth, or whatever. It is one of the aims of the Bureau to regionalize its activities and to involve as many people as possible at the local level.

In the general community the Bureau is represented on a variety of bodies such as the Child Care Committee and W.A.C.O.S.S. Its worst enemy would be isolation from the rest of the welfare effort.

One feature of the Bureau's work that needs to be mentioned is the facilities for short term care of children. It is universally recognized that institutional care is not appropriate for babies and small children, however committed the staff may be. They cannot ensure the mothering and constant stimulation that babies need. To cater for the needs of such children the Bureau now has a number of excellent families throughout the community that accept them for periods of from a few days to four or five months. Money may or may not be available for such work.

At this moment we have four children placed with families. I wish to thank those families for their generosity and for the help they give to children in need.

Many hospitals and welfare agencies in the community are aware of this resource and frequently call upon it.

From my own brief experience in the Bureau I would like to select a number of points that I believe merit special attention.

1. There is an appallingly high marriage breakdown rate in Western Australia. One authority recently estimated it as one in every three marriages. I would suggest that it could be even higher. Divorce figures are roughly one to every ten marriages. Many more separated couples go through the Married Persons Summary Relief Court, while other marriages split up without going through court.

Adults can perhaps cope with the effects of marriage instability, although the incidence of mental illness must give us pause. However children cannot. Too many victims of their parents' battles come before us.

2. Community provisions for the emotionally disturbed child are inadequate. Statutory facilities cannot cope, while voluntary provisions such as those provided at Castledare and Clontarf are limited through lack of finance. It is in the interest of the society as a whole that more money be provided for the care of such children, whether they are wards of the State or not.
3. The one-parents family finds it nigh impossible to keep the family unit together. Deserted wives are almost always trapped in a poverty bracket from which they cannot escape.

Last year 77 single parents approached the Bureau to seek care for their children.

Of this group 22 were deserted or widowed fathers. Their plight is perhaps one of the most difficult problems we are faced with. They find it almost impossible to engage a permanent housekeeper, and, in any case, many could not afford one. They are faced with the almost inevitable disintegration of their family.

Too often the Bureau is party to the complete break-up of the family, scattering the children over a number of institutions.

Alternatives are not readily available. We need more day care centres at reasonable cost, and we need staffed after-school centres for the older child. Nor would it be unreasonable for the Government to subsidize such father in order to keep the family unit together.

Institutions are still necessary, but only for the grossly handicapped, the emotionally disturbed child and the child that needs special training. They are not for the normal child who is deprived of home life by unfortunate social circumstances.

4. There is an acute need for long term private foster homes to complement our child care provisions. The Bureau is preparing a campaign to recruit foster parents, although it knows it will face severe financial difficulties, as the parents of fostered children may not be able to pay for their care.

In the coming year the Bureau envisages a period of further expansion with the employment of another full-time social worker. It will extend its work into three areas as yet scarcely touched, mental health, aboriginal family training, and migration.

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Those that have helped the Bureau over the past year are many - too many to be mentioned by name. I wish to express my sincere thanks to them all.

The Bureau stretches its budget to the limits. Most of the money is supplied by the Archdiocese of Perth. I wish to thank His Grace, the Archbishop, for his interest and encouragement, and assure him that the money is well spent.

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MARRIAGE GUIDANCE COUNCIL

The Marriage Guidance Council works in close co-operation with the Family Welfare Bureau. Agreement has been reached for a constitutional link between the two organizations, although the precise formula has not yet been determined. It seems obvious that two organizations concerned with family relationships which share the same Director, should join forces and combine resources.

While the Family Welfare Bureau has been concerned mainly with family groups, the Marriage Guidance has focussed its attention on the marital relationship. The counsellors become involved in the most intimate aspects of married life. They find themselves close observers of the exchanges, often vicious, between marriage partners. They soon become adept in spotting what have been sardonically called "games" that people play.

Their role is to facilitate communication, or protect people from each other when communications are all too clear. They enable people to see what they are doing to each other and why. Hopefully they assist married people to gain insight into themselves and lead them to make the best choices open to them even if it means the end of their marriage.

We have eleven counsellors at present on the active list. They are all married people, men and women, who have successfully completed almost two years of training. They give generously of their time for which they are not recompensed financially. The importance of the work and the desire to offer their talents in the service of others shows an admirable spirit of dedication.

In November last year a group of new counsellors completed a training course in marriage counselling. Of the original twenty three applicants nine were successful. Of these, three have withdrawn for personal reasons. The work is demanding, emotionally draining, and not always rewarding. So many clients approach the Council as a last resort, hoping, perhaps, for a miracle to save the marriage.

Marriage counselling has spread throughout Australia as a rather unique movement. Based on the British model, the counsellors are volunteers, and yet intensive training is required. The Attorney General's Department, which must approve Marriage Guidance Organizations before they can operate, requires high standards.

The spread of professionals throughout both statutory and voluntary agencies poses, it is true, a threat to voluntary counsellors. For that reason an Association of Counsellors has been formed in W.A. with the object of keeping standards at a high level and furthering education and research. Membership of the Association comes from our own Council and our sister albeit big sister organization, the Marriage Guidance Council of W.A.

Until January this year the Council was under the supervision of Fr James O'Brien, then Acting Director. He was asked to accept the position for two years while the present Director was completing a social work course at the University. During that time the work of the council was ably carried out. He was responsible for framing the course for the

new counsellors and for bringing it to its successful conclusion. We are very grateful for his time, energy and ability, and recognize the considerable worth of his contribution.

In February of this year two counsellors travelled to Canberra for a workshop on joint counselling. They found the days well spent and brought us back the benefit of their discussions.

Regular monthly meetings of the counsellors were held during the year for discussion of cases, selected aspects of counselling and policy making.

The counsellors also deal with people preparing for marriage either on an individual basis or by participating in the Conferences for Engaged Couples. A total of 304 engaged couples attended the five conferences held during the past year. The counsellors assisted in organizing the conferences and leading group discussions.

During the year a number of the counsellors addressed school groups and led discussions with parents and Parish Groups on various aspects of marriage.

Faced with a rather grim picture of widespread marriage stress and a high breakdown rate the necessity for marriage preparation can hardly be over-emphasised.

When we look at the caseload for the year we see a picture of tragedy and unhappiness. The happily married don't come to us.

A total number of 162 marital cases were dealt with by the Council. Of these, 40 approached the Council after the marriage had broken up. Desertion or separation was the most frequent presenting problem. In 55 cases the clients admitted to having sexual problems. 14 of them gave sexual difficulties as their reason for coming.

Excessive drinking, mostly by the husband, was a problem in 39 cases.

It is difficult to know whether excessive drinking, or for that matter, sexual maladjustment was a cause or a symptom of marital distress. Certainly their presence only made the marriage situation far more complicated.

Financial difficulties were present in 36 cases. This high figure may have something to do with the current economic recession.

When we look at the presenting problems and the associated problems listed in the Appendix of the Report, we find reason to be very concerned about the health of Australian marriages.

Marriages appear to be extremely fragile, and to be associated with a high degree of psychiatric disturbance.

From our figures two problems commonly advanced as the reason for much marital disharmony, that is, birth control and religious conflict, seem to be quite minor. Far higher are sexual difficulties, lack of communication, excessive drinking and in-law interference.

Marriage guidance is gradually gaining acceptance in the community, but it is obviously still seen as an admission of failure by many who approach a counsellor when it is too late.

The Council wishes to thank all those who have assisted during the year, Mr Peter Bubb, clinical psychologist, Dr Peter Burvill, psychiatrist, Dr Jock Bownes of the University Department of Psychology, Mrs Thomas Mayer, analyst, Mr Eric Atkinson, head of the Department of General Studies at the Institute of Technology, Fr Joseph Russell, former Director, and Mr Ken Hales, our honorary auditor.

APPENDIX I

GENERAL STATISTICS - C.F.W.B.

CASELOAD

Reason for referral:

Requests for child care	160
Child guidance	23
Marital difficulties	17
Unmarried parenthood	
- during pregnancy	7
- after childbirth	6
Financial problems	13
Requests for housing	25
" " employment	27
Problems relating to physical health	18
" " " mental health	6
" " " old age	6
Other problems	3
	<u>40</u>
TOTAL NO. OF CASES	339
	<u> </u>

Note: Numerous other requests for employment, housing, etc. that did not constitute a "case" were referred to the most appropriate agency.

REQUESTS FOR CHILD CARE (in detail)

Institutional care	113
Foster care	11
Boarding school	10
Housekeeper (live-in)	24
Day care	2
	<u> </u>
	TOTAL
	<u>160</u>

OUTCOME:

Placed in institutions		
Clontarf	15	
Castledare	8	
Cath. McAuley Centre	34	
		57
Placement in foster home (emergency)		9
Day care		10
Live-in housekeeper		3
Preventive work		44
Withdrawal of request		27
		<u>160</u>

MARITAL STATUS OF PARENTS

Married, living together	72
De facto basis	11
Separated by agreement	8
Separated by desertion (stated)	
-wives 36	
-husbands <u>20</u>	
	56
Divorced, without partner	8
Unmarried	2
Widowed	<u>3</u>
	160
TOTAL	<u>160</u>

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF CLIENTS (including partners and children)

<u>Australian-born</u>	<u>Born elsewhere</u>
Men 184	97
Women 193	98
Children <u>221</u>	<u>68</u>
TOTALS <u>598</u>	<u>263</u>

SOURCES OF REFERRAL

Institutions	
. Clontarf 6	
. Castledare 11	
. Cath. McAuley Gen. <u>36</u>	
	53
Priests	32
Catholic schools and religious	18
C.N.D.	22
Other Statutory bodies	45
Hospitals	16
Voluntary bodies	26
Self and friends	<u>127</u>
	339
TOTAL	<u>339</u>

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1971 TO 1971

RECEIPTS

1972 June 30 To Disposal Subsidy

6,000.00

" G.N.D. Subsidy

423.70

" Bank Interest

50.43

" Donations

2,005.02

\$8,456.95

DISBURSMENTS

1971 July 1 To Balance

193.98

RECEIPTS

" Director 2,340.00

" Welfare

Officer 2,445.00

" Secretary 915.57

" Casual help 119.30

" Fax 445.30

6,261.17

" Telephone

" Stationery

" Postage

" Petty cash

" Books & Journals

" Office equipment

" Car and mileage

" Fares (Sydney

Conference 220.00

" Sundries 389.96

" Balance 217.67

\$8,456.95

STATISTICAL REPORTCATHOLIC MARRIAGE GUIDANCE COUNCIL (W.A.)CASE LOADMARRITAL

Cases current at beginning of year	.....	10
Old cases renewed	.....	15
New cases	.....	<u>162</u>
TOTAL:	.....	187

INTERVIEWS:

Husband alone	.....	116
Wife alone	.....	166
Joint	.....	91
Other	.....	<u>3</u>
TOTAL:	.....	376

OUTCOME:

Problem apparently solved	.....	13
Relations improved	.....	78
Referred elsewhere	.....	20
No improvement	.....	40
No evaluation possible	.....	<u>36</u>
TOTAL:	.....	187

SOURCE OF REFERRAL (New cases only)

Self referred or friends	.....	119
Priest	.....	27
Other Church source	.....	4
Legal	.....	3
Medical	.....	7
Other Marriage Guidance Organization	.....	<u>2</u>
TOTAL:	.....	162

PRE-MARRITAL

Individual counselling	.....	30 persons
Engaged couples conferences (5 per year)	.....	304 "
TOTAL:	.....	<u>334</u>

PROBLEM AREAS (New marital cases only)

PRESENTING PROBLEMS
(stated by client)

Desertion/or Separation	....	40
Lack of communication	....	26
Sexual problems	....	14
Excessive drinking	....	11
Continual quarrelling	....	9
Imminent breakdown of marriage	....	9
Birth control	....	8
Mental ill-health	....	6
Adultery	....	5
Jealousy	....	5
General moral problems	....	5
Financial worries	....	4
Physical violence	....	4
Problems with children	....	4
Loneliness	....	3
Religious conflict	....	2
Excessive gambling	....	2
In-law interference	....	2
Cultural differences	....	1
Homosexual tendencies	....	1
Mental cruelty	....	1

ASSOCIATED PROBLEMS

Sexual difficulties	....	40
Financial difficulties	....	36
Excessive drinking (husband)	....	27
Psych. treatment (wife)	....	22
In-law interference	....	20
Work dissatisfaction (husband)	....	15
Cross-cultural tensions	....	15
Psychiatric treatment (husband)	....	14
Infidelity (husband)	....	12
P/M pregnancy	....	12
Infidelity - wife	....	11
Birth control (wife)	....	8
Attempted suicide (wife)	....	5
Birth Control (husband)	....	4
Bad physical health (husband)	....	3
Bad physical health (wife)	....	3
Work dissatisfaction (wife)	....	3
Excessive gambling (husband)	....	2
Problems with children	....	2
Cruelty	....	1
Excessive drinking (wife)	....	1

APPENDIX IV

CATHOLIC MARRIAGE COURAGE COUNCIL (N.A.)

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1 JULY 1971 TO 30 JUNE 1972

<u>RECEIPTS</u>		<u>PAYMENTS</u>	
1972 Jan 4	To COMMO Refund	1971 July 1	By Balance
		1972 June 30	By Salaries
1972 June 30	" Commonwealth Subsidy	" Director	1,620.00
	2,080.00	" Secretary	<u>398.80</u>
	" BC Bishop of Perth Grant 2,000.00	" Rent	1,436.00
	31.00	" Telephone	143.55
	" Donation	" Stationery	33.65
		" Postage	8.91
		" Fares	
		" Counsellors' Fares	142.10
		" Counsellors' Workshop Canberra	508.20
		Less refund	<u>506.20</u>
		" Office Equipment/Furniture	11.16
		" Maintenance Office machines	5.70
		" Petty Cash	32.84
		" Balance	201.83
	<u>\$ 4,219.27</u>		<u>\$ 4,219.27</u>