COMBINED

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CATHOLIC FAMILY WELFARE BUREAU

and the

CATHOLIC MARRIAGE GUIDANCE COUNCIL

of the

ARCHDIOCESE OF PERTH

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

1972 / 1973

25 Victoria Square,
PERTH W.A. 6000.

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A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S

The Director and Staff of the Catholic Family Welfare Bureau and Marriage Guidance Council wish to acknowledge sincerely the co-operation they have had from very many people during the year.

They are particularly grateful for the co-operation offered by the various Government Departments, such as Community Welfare, Education and Mental Health, and would like to express their thanks to the respective Directors.

The Director wishes to offer his own special thanks to all members of staff for their conscientious efforts during the year and for the uncritical acceptance of the many demands made on them.

Many volunteers have offered their services for typing, filing and other duties. This generosity is gratefully appreciated and acknowledged.

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S T A F F

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

CATHOLIC FAMILY WELFARE BUREAU

Senior Social Worker: Mrs. B.E. Kinna, Dip. Soc. Wk.

Welfare Officer: Mrs B.H. MacFarlane, Cert.Soc.Stud.(Edin.)

Secretary: Mrs C.C.M. Schoenmakers.

Social Worker, Catherine McAuley Centre: Miss J.A.Loverock, B.A. Dip.Soc.Wk.

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CATHOLIC MARRIAGE GUIDANCE COUNCIL

Secretary: Mrs H. Wigmore.

Lay Counsellors: 8

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DIRECTOR's REPORT:

At the end of its second full year of operation, the Catholic Family Welfare Bureau is becoming more aware of priorities and of those areas in which its efforts must be concentrated.

Child Care remains such a priority. The evidence of family stress and breakdown apparent in the caseload figures gives ample cause for concern about the effects on children. The Bureau has seen the necessity for greater efforts in prevention of family breakdown and the provision of therapeutic residential child care to assist children overcome the effects of family tension. With the increasing disintegration of family life, with divorce and separation rates rising, the challenge is becoming even more urgent to provide adequate preventive services, counselling and treatment facilities.

REFERRALS:

Most of the clients seen by the agency are self-referred, a phenomenom which is rather surprising, considering the recent establishment of the Bureau.

It can also be seen as an indication that the Bureau is fulfilling a real need.

The Department for Community Welfare used the Bureau extensively over the past year. Many of these referrals were requests for child placement. The assessment for placement of children who are not Wards of the State is done by the Bureau.

Many referrals came from priests and religious, a number of them in schools. It is expected to take a considerable time for the Church as a whole to understand fully the work of the Bureau, since a central social work agency is not one of the traditional services offered by the Church in Western Australia.

It is far more used to the provision of direct services, usually residential, to disadvantaged groups, under the control of Religious

..6/-

Orders,

Only recently is it becoming aware of the ways in which it is able to use the knowledge provided by the social sciences in its care for people.

SOCIAL NEEDS:

The caseload of a general welfare agency is in some ways a reflection of current needs in the community.

Three appear to deserve special comment from our own caseload:

a) housekeeping requests.

The difficulties facing men with dependent children are considerable. The traditional source of housekeepers, widows and unmarried mothers, is not as plentiful today, since the rise in social service payments. In addition there is an increasing number of one-parent families, many of them consisting of father and his children.

The need for a long-term housekeeping service is emerging strongly.

b) unemployment

The multiple problems associated with unemployment, financial as well as psychological, tend to increase as the length of unemployment extends. The Bureau has not been able to find employment for very many, and has to rely on a number of personal contacts in the employment field. In most cases the clients have already registered as unemployed, and sought employment elsewhere.

c) Accommodation

For reasons that are not altogether clear the number of people requesting cheap accommodation urgently is increasing. Usually they are family groups. A number are deserted or fleeing wives with children. The emergency accommodation provided by voluntary groups is continually strained and usually unable to take older children.

CHILD CARE CENTRES

Since its inception the Bureau has offered to the various Catholic institutions for children an assessment and planning service.

During the past year 137 cases were referred to the Bureau for assessment.

This work has necessitated the closest co-operation with the institutions, especially with Castledare, Clontarf and Catherine Mc Auley Centre.

The Bureau staff made frequent visits to the Institutions, and were involved in staff discussions, case conferences and group- and individual therapy sessions with the children.

Clontarf experimented with the use of Jackson House, a large cottage on campus, as a group cottage for the smaller children, under the control of a lay couple. The success of this venture has led to the consideration of alternative forms of accommodation to the large Clontarf building.

Castledare has sought to improve its therapeutic techniques for coping with the emotional problems of small boys. It has been aided by psychiatrists, social workers and psychologists from the Government Departments of Mental Health and Community Welfare, as well as by a group of visiting volunteers.
During the May holidays our senior social worker, Mrs Kinna, organized an intensive live-in therapy week at Moore River for the children of Castledare.

Both Clontarf and Castledare have sought to involve people from the community with expertise in child care. This attitude cannot fail to steadily improve the quality of child care offered by Church agencies.

Catherine McAuley Centre have begun a series of steps to update their care and treatment facilities.
They have expanded their day-care section to assist one-parent families particularly. In the residential section they closed the campus school and send the children to local Church and government

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schools. The large building has been remodelled to provide a number of self-contained small units or "wings" where family groups are kept together under the care of an adult. A campus cottage has been opened under a lay cottage mother, and a house has been purchased away from the Centre to become a "scatter" home when suitable parent figures are available.

None of these moves would have been possible but for the open and encouraging attitude of the Sisters of Mercy's Provincial Council, and the employment of a social worker, placed at the centre, Miss Jenny Loverock..

FUTURE NEEDS

The Bureau staff is at present working to capacity. They are barely able to meet current demands, let alone expand their activities.

However, expansion is necessary if the Bureau is to fulfil its mandate in social welfare. Ways and means are to be explored so that sufficient funds are available for more staff.

Some of the areas of need already apparent are:

a) Programmes for Catholic Schools in personality development and family life, such as parent/child discussions. Present requests cannot be met.

b) At the Parish level the need is obvious for greater family life education, marriage preparation courses and courses for parents on child development and emotional disturbance.

c) Detection of children with emotional problems at Catholic Primary Schools, is becoming urgent. Many such problems remain unnoticed until they become major and much more intractable. "School welfare" is an area of enormous expansion which the Bureau can do little more than note at present.

d) Regionalization of services is another unmet demand. It remains an ideal, but one cannot see when it will become a reality. However in the past year a number of initiatives have been taken in Broome Diocese to bring together those Church groups engaged in child care.
For obvious reasons the services of the Bureau will of necessity be concentrated in the Metropolitan Area.

REV. FR. B.HICKEY
DIRECTOR.

..9/-

CATHOLIC MARRIAGE GUIDANCE COUNCIL

DIRECTOR'S REPORT.

This year saw another rise in caseload, with a proportionate increase in the number of interviews.

The rise was to be expected in view of the higher breakdown rate in the community generally and the wider acceptance of marriage guidance by families under stress.

Eight voluntary counsellors graduated from the academic section of the Counsellor's Course to begin counselling under supervision of the more experienced counsellors.

Some of them found that they were not entirely suited to the work after a degree of practical experience, and subsequently withdrew. Others found that their skills developed with practice and their commitment to the work increased as a result.

Such is the increasing pressure of work on the agency that the time is rapidly approaching when the employment of a full-time person will become a necessity.

A submission was made to the Attorney General's Department for the required funds. Negotiations are still proceeding.

During the year frequent discussions were held with the voluntary counsellors, taking different forms seminar style, case conferences, discussions on special topics, and planning talks.

The links with the Family Welfare Bureau are inevitably growing stronger. It is difficult often to separate marital guidance from family caswork. From a theoretical point of view the two ought not be separated. The working relationship established is that the Council accepts cases where the major focus is on the marital relation-

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ship, whereas the Bureau accepts cases where the focus appears to be on the children or on some social problem that the family has.

It is obvious that the distinction cannot always be clearly made. This argues for a very close liaison between the two organizations.

In February, 1973, the Conference of Marriage Guidance Organizations (COMGO) held a workshop for supervisors in Canberra. I represented this Council.

Each participant brought to the Conference a taped interview of a supervision session. Under the guidance of Dr H. Zerov, valuable assistance was given to all in the field of supervision of counsellors and students.

In addition one was able to gain a wide knowledge of supervision techniques adopted in other agencies throughout Australia.

The Council originated with voluntary counsellors and part-time staff. It has continued in that manner through the years, and has coped with the rising caseload and with changing approaches to marriage guidance.

I wish to pay a sincere tribute to the counsellors for their generosity and dedication in offering their time and their skills to people in trouble.

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APPENDIX 1.

CATHOLIC FAMILY WELFARE BUREAU

GENERAL STATISTICS

(1.7.72 - 30.6.73)

CASELOAD.

Nature of referral:	Main problem	Associated Problem.
Requests for child placement	137	
Child guidance	38	19
Marital difficulties	39	152
Unmarried parenthood -		
during pregnancy	18	5
after pregnancy	8	18
Financial problems	40	98
Requests for accommodation	18	35
Requests for employment	60	36
Problems relating to physical health	3	60
" " " mental health	28	70
" " " old age	1	
Excessive drinking	4	43
Sexual difficulties		22
Problems relating to homosexuality	7	7
" " " offences against the law	13	31
Other problems	36	
No. of cases	450	

OUTCOME of Child Placement Requests.

		Short term	Long Term
Placed in Institutions			
Clontarf	17	2	15
Castledare	26	7	19
Cath.MacAuley Centre	62	41	21
Other	7	6	1
Day Care	5		
Preventive work	8		
Referred elsewhere	3		
Withdrawal of request	9		
TOTAL	137		

..12/-

APPENDIX II

CATHOLIC MARRIAGE GUIDANCE COUNCIL

GENERAL STATISTICS

(1-7-72 / 30-6-73)

CASELOAD

Marital:	Cases	
	New cases	191
	Renewed cases	21
	Total	222

Pre-marital	
New cases	25
TOTAL NO. OF CASES	247

INTERVIEWS

Husband alone	124
Wife alone	204
Joint	151
Other	41
Pre-marital	68
Total	588

ENGAGED COUPLES' CONFERENCES

6 Conferences
average 70 persons per
conference = 420

TOTAL CASELOAD

1972/1973

CATHOLIC FAMILY WELFARE BUREAU	450
CATHOLIC MARRIAGE GUIDANCE COUNCIL	247
	697

..13/-

APPENDIX 111

CATHOLIC FAMILY WELFARE BUREAU

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1 JUL 72 TO 30 JUN 73

1973			1973				
To Balance		$665.63	Jun 30	By Salaries			
" Diocesan Subsidy		13000 .00		Director	$200.00		
" C.W.D. Subsidy		158.00		Welfare Officers	6094.16		
" Donations		1740.76		Secretary	2594.17		
" Bank Interest		15.48		Casual help	190.67		$9,079.00
			"	Telephone			622.88
			"	Printing & Stationery			712.27
			"	Postage			150.00
			"	Library & Journals			243.04
			"	Office Equipment			7.88
			"	Furniture & Fittings			426.96
			"	Car and mileage			519.57
			"	Rent of premises			350.00
			"	Building alterations			94.00
			"	Fares to Conferences	$807.60		
				Less Refund	222.10		585.50
			"	Petty Cash			307.99
			"	Cost of removal			44.09
			"	Sundries			1031.07
			"	Balance			1405.62
		$15579.87					$15579.87

..14/-

CATHOLIC MARRIAGE GUIDANCE COUNCIL (W.A.) APPENDIX IV.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1st July,1972 TO 30th June 1973

RECEIPTS.

1972		
Jul.1st	To Balance	201.83
1973		
Jun 30th	" Commonwealth Subsidy	2600.00
	" R.C.Archbishop of Perth Grants	1500.00
	" Donation	5.00
	" Balance	167.58
		$4474.41

PAYMENTS.

1973.			
By	Salaries	1872.00	
	Secretary	367.00	2239.00
"	Rent		1150.00
"	Telephone		244.44
"	Printing & Stationery		116.23
"	Postages		20.28
"	Fares		
	Counsellors Fares	162.30	
	COMGO Conference	262.10	424.40
"	Subscriptions		
	COMGO Regn Fee	10.00	
	" Levy	50.00	60.00
"	Office Equipment and Furniture		53.05
"	Library Books		72.33
"	Petty Cash misc. expd.		94.68
			$4474.41