ANNUAL REPORT

CENTRECARE

Catholic Family Services

*

FAMILY WELFARE BUREAU
MARRIAGE GUIDANCE COUNCIL
IMMIGRATION OFFICE
NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING CENTRE

1977-1978

ANNUAL REPORT

CENTRECARE

CATHOLIC FAMILY SERVICES

OF THE

ARCHDIOCESE OF PERTH

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

1977/78

Member Organizations

Family Welfare Bureau
Marriage Guidance Council
Immigration Office
Natural Family Planning Centre

25/27 Victoria Square
Perth W.A. 6000

325 6644

REGIONAL BRANCH

CENTRECARE ARMADALE
56 Fourth Road
Armadale
399 4424

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The Director wishes to record his appreciation of the competence and dedication of the staff, and the efforts of the many volunteers that have assisted us in our work.

It is not possible for any agency that offers direct family services to operate in isolation.

For that reason we appreciate the close ties that have developed with the Religious Orders engaged in the Social Apostolate, and with the many agencies, both within the Church and in the broader community that have helped us work smoothly and, we hope, effectively for those seeking our services.

Particular mention is made of the Catholic Child Caring Agencies, the Catholic Education Commission, the Department for Community Welfare, the Mental Health and Education Departments, Social Security, Royal Perth Hospital, Princess Margaret Hospital, the Marriage Guidance Council of W.A., and the Schools of Social Work at the University of W.A. and W.A.I.T.

We acknowledge the patronage of His Grace Archbishop Sir Lancelot Goody, under whose mandate we operate and to whom this Report is submitted.

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C E N T R E C A R E

A brief description

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Since June 1977 the Catholic Family Services of the Archdiocese of Perth have been grouped together under the name CENTRECARE.

Each organization has a different principal focus, but all are related closely to family support and recognize the benefits of co-ordination under the one administrative umbrella.

The four core organizations are :

FAMILY WELFARE BUREAU

The Bureau is the central family agency of the Catholic Church. It was set up in 1970 to regulate the admission procedures for children referred to Catholic institutions, to co-ordinate and develop many of the Church's welfare services, and to offer a general family and child social work service to the public, regardless of religious adherence.

MARRIAGE GUIDANCE COUNCIL

An approved Marriage Guidance Organization under the Matrimonial Causes Act 1959-66. Its counsellors work closely with the Family Welfare Bureau in providing individual, joint and group counselling to people with marital, pre-marital or other personal difficulties.

IMMIGRATION OFFICE

Set up after the Second World War to implement the Child Migration Scheme. It is able to sponsor families approved by the Australian Department of Immigration, grants travel loans and offers social work services to migrants once they arrive.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING CENTRE

The Centre has been operating for ten years, offering information and guidance on natural family planning methods.

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Centrecare is also responsible for :

PREGNANCY HELP - a telephone and face-to-face counselling and assistance service for women facing a distressing pregnancy.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COUNCIL - a committee that conducts Marriage Preparation Courses in the Archdiocese.

ABORIGINAL APOSTOLATE - the various works sponsored by the Archdiocese for the Aboriginal population, co-ordinated through the Chaplain for Aborigines.

CENTRECARE ARMADALE - a Regional Branch serving the Shire of Armadale-Kelmscott, offering marriage and family counselling and welfare services.

COMMONWEALTH YOUTH SUPPORT SCHEME (C.Y.S.S.) - a project to assist young unemployed in their efforts to enter or re-enter the workforce.

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S T A F F

DIRECTOR : Fr Barry Hickey, S.T.L.,B.A.,M.Soc.Wk.

FAMILY WELFARE

SENIOR SOCIAL WORKER : (acting)
Mrs Beatrice MacFarlane, Cert.Soc.Stud.(Edin)

SOCIAL WORKER : Mrs Marilena Green, B.A., M.Soc.Wk.
SOCIAL WORKER : Mrs Anne Kenny,B.A., B.Soc.Wk
SECRETARY : Mrs Margaret Whitford
RECEPTIONISTE : Miss Nancy Scurria
HOME VISITOR : Sr Loreto Gray, R.G.S.

MARRIAGE GUIDANCE

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST: Mr Daniel Coughlin, B.A.,M.A.(Psych)
COUNSELLORS : Mr Paul Bowen
Mrs Pat Brown
Mrs Beth Burrows
Mrs Maureen Chamberlain
Mrs Aileen Jack
Mrs Joan Jones
Mrs Pat St John Kennedy

PROBATIONARY COUNSELLORS 9

SECRETARY : Mrs Hazel Wigmore
TYPISTE : Mrs Esme Manthorpe

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

CO-ORDINATOR : Mrs Esme Manthorpe
CHAPLAIN : Fr Bryan O'Loughlin

IMMIGRATION

SECRETARY : Mrs Corry Schoenmakers
SOCIAL WORKER : Mrs Marilena Green, B.A.,M.Soc.Wk
(Grant-in-Aid)

FAMILY PLANNING

SECRETARY : Mrs Maureen Chamberlain
COUNSELLORS : Mrs Margaret D'Rossi
Mrs Ann O'Donnell
Mrs Evelyn Newman

PREGNANCY HELP

SECRETARY : Mrs Pam Miller
Staff counsellors
5 home volunteers

COMMONWEALTH YOUTH SUPPORT SCHEME

PROJECT OFFICERS	:	Miss Belinda Murray
		Mr Michael Geaney
REMEDIAL TEACHER	:	Miss Mary Nixon

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

	:	Rev. Fr B. Hickey
	:	Mrs Maureen Chamberlain
	:	Mrs Beatrice MacFarlane
	:	Mrs Hazel Wigmore
	:	Mrs Marilena Green

CENTRECARE ARMADALE

SECRETARY	:	Mrs Ferry Barnett
COUNSELLORS	:	P/T Social Worker
		4 counsellors

HONORARY ACCOUNTANT	:	Mr Ken Hales

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The total caseload of the various branches of Centrecare for the year ending 30th June, 1978 was well over two thousand.

It is pleasing that its services have reached so many. At the same time it is an indication of the widespread social and emotional needs in society when one relatively small agency is required to give assistance to so many.

The growth of the services of Centrecare has been a steady development over the years. Some services have expanded, such as the initiatives in the field of youth, while other services have contracted, as in school social work, with the appointment by schools of their own child guidance officers.

An agency such as Centrecare must remain flexible if it is to meet changing needs.

The central focus of our services is family support. As the family is central to so many social problems, the best preventative work that can be done is to strengthen and support the family. So much work goes into offering assistance after the damage is done. Centrecare must maintain its role in prevention as well as in ambulance work after the event.

Centrecare sees itself very much as part of a growing network of family support services with other Church, non-denominational and Government agencies.

Funding is always a problem.

Although the recent rapid development of social services appears to be slowing down, much public money still goes to Government welfare bodies, State and Federal.

It is our view that the distribution of funds must be radically overhauled before the imbalance is exacerbated.

It is extremely difficult for large Government welfare bodies to provide confidential personal welfare services.

There must be a genuine attempt to stimulate the Non-government sector to expand good quality personal services throughout the community, services that reflect the needs of the people, that offer choice and innovative variety.

In some services, such as child and family guidance, professional expertise is required. So limited are the funds in the Non-government sector that most welfare professionals must, of necessity, find their jobs in the Government sector above, whether they want to or not.

One must laud the Department for Social Security for its recent allocation of funds to the Non-government sector for family support programmes.

It is to be hoped that the stimulation given may help to build a national network of family support services that every community, not only those in the metropolitan area, will require.

This may lead to a reappraisal of the need for large State welfare bodies in favour of smaller community based organizations, operating under proper management with adequate accountability for use of funds.

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F A M I L Y W E L F A R E B U R E A U

This social work section of Centrecare has been particularly active over the past year in five main areas :

1. Children and their families
2. Accommodation problems
3. Financial management
4. Community Participation
5. Student training

1. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The main reason for setting up a Catholic social work agency was to ensure proper assessment of children for placement in residential child care facilities.

It is still a major specialist area of work, particularly in regard to the Christian Brothers' centres of Castledare and Clontarf.

This work involves the staff with disturbed children and their families. Every effort is made to prevent residential placement. Where it is necessary, it is seen as a term of treatment during which both the child and the child's family are assisted and eventually reunited.

Centrecare is represented on the Admissions Boards of Clontarf and Castledare and on the recently formed Board of Management of Castledare.

Contact is maintained with all the Catholic Child Care facilities through the CATHOLIC CHILD CARE COMMITTEE which meets monthly.

In regular attendance are :

Catherine McAuley Centre
Castledare
Clontarf
Good Shepherd Teen Centre
Centrecare Children's Cottages

The Committee keeps under constant review admission and discharge procedures, treatment programmes, staffing, styles of accommodation and methods of funding.

As the work becomes more and more expensive with rising costs and greater numbers of lay staff, pressure is constantly exerted on Govern-

ment authorities and the Consultative Committee on Child Care for just and adequate funding.

Major changes have occurred at Catherine McAuley Centre with the erection of six cottages for long-stay children and the opening of a short-term crisis centre on campus. Although only half-way through the entire re-development programme, the Centre has been transformed and is a leader in residential child care in Australia.

Planning is also under way in the other facilities as they seek to clarify their aims and adapt their facilities to meet those aims even more completely.

CENTRECARE CHILDREN'S COTTAGES is an entirely new organization, replacing Wandering Mission as a facility for children of Aboriginal descent.

After it was reaffirmed by the Archbishop that the Church would remain in the field of caring for Aboriginal children, Wandering was discontinued in favour of a set of cottages in country towns, with an Administration and Reception Centre at Beverley.

With extraordinary speed the whole scheme has now been almost completely established.

It consists of a Reception Centre at Beverley, two cottages in Beverley itself, one in Northam and one to open shortly in Brookton.

The Administrator lives in Beverley.

Centrecare Children's Cottages is now independent of Centrecare. It has its own Board of Management which is responsible directly to the Archbishop of Perth.

It has preserved links with Centrecare in so far as the Director of Centrecare is Chairman of the Board. It also uses two small offices of Centrecare for administrative purposes.

The move to country cottages under lay management was welcomed by Church and Government bodies alike. It is an ambitious scheme that has no parallel elsewhere in Australia.

May it prove to be successful in its efforts on behalf of Aboriginal children and their families.

2. ACCOMMODATION PROBLEMS

Centrecare continues to receive daily requests for accommodation, many of them from family groups. Some of them are women and children

fleeing from an intolerable home situation, others are intact families that arrive from other States looking for employment, others are families evicted from private or State Housing Commission homes.

Facilities for intact but homeless families are almost non-existent in Perth. Centrecare became involved in accommodating some of the families almost by accident. Two houses in Royal Street became available for use at the time when the problem of homeless families was becoming more evident and acute.

The shelters have rarely been empty.

A Submission under the Family Support Services Programme has been made for rental of four more houses for the emergency care of family groups. There are indications that the Submission will be successful and that the programme will be extended further.

Aboriginal families suffer special disadvantages in seeking rental accommodation. Centrecare has accepted three such families over the past year, and managed to locate suitable alternative accommodation for them.

There is no doubt that the provision of housing for Aboriginal families is a most urgent and pressing need requiring a major increase in Government funding.

3. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

While Centrecare was not established to offer material relief, clients' needs must be met. Material assistance has been given in urgent cases, and a close working relationship has been established with the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Where people wish to enter into a voluntary relationship with Centrecare in the management of their own funds, the matter is thoroughly discussed and an appropriate contract established.

The Centrecare Management Service was set up during the past year with its own bank account and manager.

It offers budgeting assistance, debt consolidation and direct management of income for those who need it on a temporary or permanent basis.

The number of clients is limited to around twenty because of the time needed to deal with the individual aspects of each situation.

It has been extraordinarily successful. People who have been chronically poor in the past, dependent on handouts, or hopelessly in debt, now have security, peace of mind and money in the bank.

We hope that other Non-government agencies would offer this low cost service to people in need, as it has proven to be such a boon to the very poor. It depends for its success on trust and flexibility. The relationship established between client and worker is critical. It cannot work any other way.

A full description of the Scheme is outlined in Appendix VII.

4. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

While Centrecare is a Catholic agency, it operates as part of the network of social services in Perth, and must keep close contact with other Church, community and Government agencies.

It has representatives on the following committees and organizations:

Australian Catholic Social Welfare Commission
W.A. Catholic Social Welfare Commission
W.A. Council of Social Service
- Executive Committee
- Standing Committee on Child and Family Welfare
- Migrant Issues Committee
- Community Liaison Committee
- Family Services Committee

A.C.O.S.S. Board of Governors
Australian Association of Social Work
Richmond Fellowship
Catholic Child Care Committee
Catholic Committee for Care of the Aged
Homeless Persons Committee
Refugee Settlement Committee
Social Security Appeals Tribunal
Legal Aid Advisory Committee
Castledare Board of Management
Centrecare Children's Cottages Board of Management
Australian Conference of Marriage Guidance Organizations
Board Member : Family Service Centre
Board of Studies (Social Work), University of W.A.
Psychology Graduate Diploma Advisory Committee, W.A.I.T.

5. STUDENT TRAINING

Students are welcome at the agency.

Over the past year seven social work students from the University of W.A. and the W.A. Institute of Technology have completed field placements at Centrecare.

The supervision has been shared by the Director and the Acting Senior Social Worker. When a permanent Senior is appointed the supervision of students will be taken over by that person.

The presence of a Clinical Psychologist in the Marriage Guidance section has attracted psychology students from both tertiary institutions. One clinical psychology student has recently begun a major field placement in the agency, and others have been accepted for the future.

Students both receive and give on field-work. Their enthusiasum and enquiring minds stimulate the staff to look to the quality of their work. In return the students receive a broad range of practical experience together with willing supervision.

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MARRIAGE GUIDANCE COUNCIL

The increased caseload from 361 in 1976-77 to 431 in the past year may reflect a growing awareness of the need to seek help in times of marital disharmony.

This view is supported by the greater number of joint interviews where both husband and wife appreciate the value of both parties examining together the difficulties that exist between them.

During the year the probationary counsellors were given counselling experience under supervision of the senior counsellors. They are approaching the time when a final assessment will be made leading to accreditation.

Interviews took place at the Council's main offices in Perth and at the new centre in Armadale. A request has been made to the Attorney General for separate funding for the marriage guidance work undertaken in Armadale.

It is hoped that the centre in Armadale will expand to cater for a rapidly increasing population on the eastern fringes of the metropolitan area.

The addition of a clinical psychologist to the staff has given a new dimension to the Council. Wider contacts with psychological and medical personnel have been made, resulting in more frequent referrals for both marital and individual therapy.

It has become clear that there are many marital cases where the problem is not primarily relational but individual, where the marriage improves when the individual is able to cope better with his or her own psychological difficulties.

Dan Coughlin has assisted at weekly case conferences and counsellor supervision, has given social work and psychology students the opportunity to act as co-therapists in groups and individual settings, has run group therapy and relaxation seminars and participated in therapy demonstrations for professional development.

Family Court referrals have not been many. This is mainly because by the time divorce proceedings are initiated, little hope remains for reconciliation. Much of the work of the Court counsellors is taken up with child custody arrangements, where referral out is inappropriate.

If anything, more cases are referred by the Council to the Court Counselling Service than the reverse.

The picture emerging is that Marriage Guidance Councils assist at the earlier stages of marital stress when one or both partners are motivated to sort out their difficulties, while the Court Counselling

Services attend at the breakup of the marriage, offering protection to children and dealing with the bitterness, anguish, guilt or other reactions of the spouses at the dissolution of their marriage.

Special activities :

1. MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSES

The Marriage Preparation Council, by which name the organizing committee is now known, conducted monthly day-long Conferences and a series of evening group sessions during the year.

A total of 710 people attended the Conferences. Nine groups of five sessions each were conducted during the year.

For the last half year a co-ordinator, Mrs Esme Manthorpe, was appointed to manage the day-to-day organization of the work. It is gratifying that a Government Grant from the Attorney General's Department has made this possible as it has meant increased efficiency and effectiveness and an expansion of the work.

Priests are generally far more convinced now than ever before of the need for preparation for the couples they are to marry, and are the main sources of referrals.

The evening groups, which run for five weeks, were conducted throughout the year by the counsellors, two per group. They offer an alternative to the Conferences, and are appreciated by many who prefer the smaller group and the opportunity for deeper discussion than is normally possible at the larger All-day Conferences.

The experience gained by the counsellors in this area of education is invaluable for their work with married people, and the work itself is a preventive service, hopefully reducing the need for marital counselling in later life.

Sincere thanks go to all those counsellors and volunteers who have assisted in the organization of the Courses and given so much of their time and energies to them.

Particular thanks goes to Esme Manthorpe, Sybil Hopkins and Joan Wedd, who, with other willing helpers, took so much of the Conference organization on their shoulders.

Mrs Manthorpe was able to attend a National Marriage Preparation Conference in Sydney at the end of June. It proved to be a tremendous source of information and inspiration.

2. FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION

Requests from schools for talks and group sessions were frequently made.

Not all could be complied with due to limits of available staff.

The Diocese is not adequately served in this area.

It is not yet certain who should accept responsibility for programmes on a Diocesan scale. If Centrecare is to offer them, it will need more resources than are available to it at present.

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The Director wishes to acknowledge his debt to all the staff for their dedication and level of skills. The voluntary counsellors who receive no remuneration for their work, provide a laudable example of high level of service given for other reasons than financial.

It is also grateful for the financial assistance given by the Attorney General's Department for marriage counselling and marriage preparation work.

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IMMIGRATION OFFICE

As can be seen from the annual caseload statistics, more migrants than Australian born clients approached the agency over the past year.

Although many of them would have sought help for reasons that have little to do with migration, the problems of migrants and their families are a major part of the workload.

Much of the work was handled by the Grant-in-Aid social worker, Mrs Marilena Green, and the Secretary, Mrs Corry Schoenmakers, whose facility in languages was an obvious asset.

Migrants were helped with information about Government policy and policy changes, especially when they wished to bring members of their own family into Australia. The Office often provided advocacy help at Departmental and Ministerial level where difficulties arose in family reunion.

The recent liberalization of Australia's immigration policies is welcome as one is well aware of the anguish caused to families whose members might be permanently separated.

Family stresses evident in marital disharmony and child disturbance led many to seek the aid of the agency. For Italian migrants there are very few other resources in the community that offer this type of counselling.

The social worker has participated in a continuing group of Italian women at Balcatta High School to discuss problems associated with their children, such as authority conflicts, discipline and emotional disturbance. The group, under the sponsorship of the Community Development Centre, has offered strong support to the group of Italian mothers.

Work with refugees, particularly with Vietnamese, has increased over the past year. Through membership on the Refugee Resettlement Committee practical help has been offered to refugees in finding accommodation, work and host families for many refugees.

Referrals are often made to the Society of St Vincent de Paul for furniture and other forms of practical assistance.

It is with regret that the Grant-in-Aid migrant social worker will be leaving in the near future. Mrs Green has contributed her many skills and qualities to the agency over the past few years, and all will be sad to see her go.

It is very fortunate that Mrs Corry Schoenmakers, former Secretary of Centrecare, has continued as Migration Secretary on a part-time basis. She provides continuity of service through her long association with the agency, which will be especially helpful during the transition from one social worker to another.

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NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

In the tenth year of operation of the Natural Family Planning Centre a total of 735 interviews were conducted. Of these, most of whom were couples, 247 returned for further interviews.

It is a welcome sign that more and more couples consider family planning to be a co-operative effort, not the responsibility of one or other partner.

Public clinics were conducted at St John of God Hospital, Subiaco on the first Sunday of each month. It tied in with the Engaged Couples Conferences held the week prior to the Clinic.

A total of 326 couples attended over the past twelve months.

Community education continued with participation in the training sessions for staff at Sir Charles Gardiner Hospital, four or five times a year.

Lectures were also given to the Nursing Mothers Association and at the St John's Midwifery Course. Two country visits were made.

With the increasing dissatisfaction with other methods of family planning, more interest is now being taken in natural methods. Myths about the method are slowly disappearing as it gains greater community acceptance.

It is less a method of birth control as a way of preserving the right of parents to determine the number of children they will have.

Referrals come from Church sources, from doctors, from the Family Planning Association, from King Edward Maternity Hospital and by word of mouth.

Many of the referrals are made for people with infertility problems. The method enables them to recognize peak fertility.

It is of great value to have the Centre so closely associated with a range of counselling services, as it allows marital problems that may be present to receive attention and help.

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PREGNANCY HELP

Pregnancy Help is a small but necessary service. With the widespread acceptance of abortion in the community it is essential to point out that there are other solutions to the problems of an unwanted or distressing pregnancy.

Pregnancy Help is not a political lobby. It is a genuine counselling service, enabling people to sort through the fears, anxieties and problems surrounding the pregnancy.

The service is pro-life, willing to offer whatever it can to enable people to continue with their pregnancy and deal successfully with whatever problems it might present.

The service is now available twenty-four hours a day. During week-day hours the phone is attended by the staff counsellors. At night a phone message advises the rostered phone number where help can be received.

It is evident that the service depends on continuous publicity. It receives publicity in the "Record" and in the personal columns of the "Sunday Times" and the "West Australian", at Drive-ins and through cards and stickers placed in strategic areas throughout the city, in doctors' surgeries, health centres and shopping centres.

The public is invited to take out annual membership of $3.

Some misperceive the service and request an abortion. Most, however, are aware of its nature, and seek support to enable them to carry through with the pregnancy.

Most of those seeking help are unmarried.

Sincere thanks go to the members of staff closely involved in the service, particularly to Maureen Chamberlain and Beatrice MacFarlane who assisted with the training of volunteers.

The efforts of Pam Miller, Imelda Bennett and the rostered volunteers that accept calls at home are also much appreciated.

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COMMONWEALTH YOUTH SUPPORT SCHEME

190 Aberdeen St, Perth
440 William St, Perth

Centrecare entered into a completely new area when it sponsored a C.Y.S.S. project for unemployed youth.

On December 5th, 1977 a shopfront was opened in 190 Aberdeen Street, Perth, called the Youth Information Centre, to assist young unemployed in their efforts to prepare for and find employment.

Funding was granted through the Department of Labor and Industrial Affairs. A Project Officer was appointed, Belinda Murray, together with a Youth Worker, Chris Hodgson. A CYSS Committee was formed under the chairmanship of Guido Vogels from the Diocesan Youth Council.

Belinda and Chris sought to attract young people out of work who might benefit from the scheme. Many of those who attended the group were poorly motivated towards work, mostly because of the constant refusals they had received from prospective employers.

It was apparent that much of the work would be directed towards raising their motivational level, increasing their skills, their ability to approach employers and their literacy level.

A teacher, Mary Nixon, was appointed after a few months to assist with literacy and other related skills.

Early this year Chris Hodgson resigned to be replaced by a second Project Officer, Michael Geaney. Better premises were obtained in 440 William Street, Perth. The move attracted more young people, boys and girls, which meant that a wider range of programmes were possible.

The programmes covered five broad areas -

1. Skills maintenance, such as typing, English, clerical work;

2. Trade activities, such as welding, building, woodwork and gemstone setting, mostly at Mr Bill Mangini's property in Gidgegannup;

3. Job seeking skills, how to approach employers, what to wear, how to use the Commonwealth Employment Service and the Youth Job Centre;

4. Community work, assisting needy people with cleaning, painting and other chores;

5. Wednesday Folk Night, providing a good cheap night's entertainment for young people.

The success rate is hard to assess. Many have been able to find employment through the project. Others have been able to accept their unemployment without the sense of failure and worthlessness that often accompanies being out of work.

It is hoped that the C.Y.S.S. project will provide a jumping-off point for other services for youth. Submissions have been lodged with appropriate Government Departments for funding a range of initiatives.

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ABORIGINAL APOSTOLATE

Centrecare acts as a co-ordinating point for many of the Diocesan activities in the Aboriginal Apostolate.

It was directly responsible for the administration of St Francis Xavier's Children's Home in Wandering till the children were transferred to cottages in country towns under Centrecare Children's Cottages, Beverley.

It is now an independent organization under a Board of Management, as described elsewhere in this Report (p. 11).

Centrecare is a referral point for many of the Religious in the field. The funding provided by the Diocese and by the Home Missions Fund is channelled through this office.

Since the Aboriginal Apostolate is not yet a recognized charitable organization, applications for Government funding are usually submitted under the name of Centrecare.

1. ABORIGINAL CHAPLAIN

Fr Bryan Tiernan was appointed Diocesan Chaplain to Aborigines at the beginning of 1977.

He has the use of a small house in Clotilde Street, East Perth as a city office and a co-ordinating centre for many of the Church's activities among Aboriginal people.

A weekly Mass for Aborigines is conducted at Holy Trinity Church, Embleton by Fr Tiernan, with the assistance of Sister Patricia, Sister Carmelin and other helpers.

Two notable developments have occurred in the past year that the Church has been associated with.

One is the opening of a special School for the children of fringe dwellers in the Upper Swan area. It is located at the former Seminary of St Charles in Guildford, and is conducted by two Religious Sisters under the sponsorship of the Catholic Education Commission.

The other is the newly established alcoholic rehabilitation centre of Wandering Bennelong.

The former children's home is now conducted by Val Bryant of Bennelong's Haven, Sydney, for Aboriginal alcoholics and their families. It is under the supervision of a local Aboriginal Committee. Fr Tiernan is one of the Trustees.

The Department of Aboriginal Affairs has given generous funding to the project as it is a serious attempt to tackle one of the major problems among Aboriginal families and communities.

2. SISTER PATRICIA RAFFERTY

Sister Patricia, a Daughter of Charity, began her fifth year of work among the Aboriginal community in February 1978.

Her work has shown considerable development, particularly in the formation of the Kadee (Mothers) Club and Kadee Pre-School in 54 Lawrence Street, Bayswater. It sponsors a number of activities :

(a) Kadee Pre-school,

(b) Kadee Craft Course, conducted by Sr Carmelin in a shed erected at the back of Kadee Cottage, financed by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the Adult Aboriginal Section of the Education Department,

(c) Public Speaking Course,

(d) Co-operative Office,

(e) Kadee Adult Education Centre for evening classes,

(f) Kadee Bargain Shop, 40 Old Perth Road, Bassendean,

(g) Kadee Co-operative, with a proposed welding business, now before the Department of Aboriginal Affairs for initial funding.

Sister Patricia is heavily engaged in welfare work and spiritual development, particularly at the Nyungar Mass Centre.

A "Fair" was conducted during Aboriginal Week, July 1977, in the grounds of St Mary's Cathedral.

Catechetical instruction is given each week to adults and children. First Communion took place in November 1977, and Confirmation is being planned.

Each Monday afternoon Sister Patricia visits Aboriginal people at Bandyup Women's Prison. A Christmas party was held there for the inmates and for visiting relatives.

3. SISTER CARMELIN MONEY

Sister Carmelin, a Servite Sister, has been working among Aboriginal people for more than two years. She works in closely with Sister Patricia and Fr Tiernan.

She has been very active in the community in Saunders Street, Guildford, providing religious instruction and adult education.

The Department of Aboriginal Affairs provided her with a shed for the purpose of adult education. Teaching materials were supplied by the Education Department.

The facility is intended to complement the work done for the children at the special school in Guildford. It is hoped that the adults will come to appreciate the value of education and encourage their children to persevere at school to equip themselves to take their place in wider community in later life.

It is evident that the Church is very active among people of Aboriginal descent, and that more people are constantly being involved in the work.

Although Anawim Centre, a night shelter for Aboriginal women, is not a Diocesan responsibility, it is a project in which Centrecare has

a keen interest. Set up by Sr Bernardine and Sr Bernadette, who have since gone to Roebourne to assist Aboriginal people with alcoholic problems, Anawim Centre is now operated by volunteers with a strong Christian commitment, who will need the support and encouragement of the Church in their valuable work.

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CENTRECARE ARMADALE

For some time it had been considered that Centrecare should keep pace with the growth of the metropolitan area and seek to establish a Branch in one of the outlying areas of Perth.

Two were considered, Wanneroo and Armadale. Armadale was finally chosen after discussions with key groups in the area, such as the Department for Community Welfare, the local Catholic and Anglican Parishes, the Mental Health Clinic, the District Nurses and the Shire Council.

The presence of a number of our counsellors in or near the area was also a factor.

Submissions were made to Government Departments for funding the Branch. As yet no decision has been made on them.

In January a Secretary was appointed, Mrs Ferry Barnett. She spent two weeks in the main office in Perth to gain experience and knowledge of the agency. She transferred to Armadale at the end of the month to open the office.

We were fortunate to obtain the services on a voluntary basis of Mr Karlis Riduzis, a social worker, who gave us one day a week. Pat Brown, Margaret Lynch and Paul Bowen, three of our counsellors were available day or evening on a roster and appointment basis.

Church and community groups were advised of the services available, mainly marriage counselling and welfare assistance. A local committee assisted with the planning and publicity.

A fund-raising and publicity dinner was held on Friday April 14th in the Armadale Shire Hall. Around a hundred people attended and appeared to enjoy the evening during which guest singers entertained and an address was given by Sr Bernardette of Anawim Centre.

The caseload is small but growing as the agency is becoming more widely known. In the five months of operation there were 22 marital cases, 12 ongoing welfare cases and numerous requests for assistance that were referred to more appropriate agencies.

As an experiment in operating a family agency Branch Office, there are obviously difficulties of funding and arriving at the minimum viable structure for efficient operation.

Without Government funding it is hard to see how the Branch can survive. It is obvious that the position must be resolved one way or the other within the next six months.

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CENTRECARE

APPENDIX II

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR PERIOD 1 JULY 1977 TO 30 JUNE 1978

Income

Catholic Church Subsidy	30,000.00
Donations	2,783.94
Grant Govt of W.A.	8,000.00
Salary Refund Dept of Labour	429.00
Bank Interest	40.85
Aust. Govt Grant-in-Aid	1,933.21
	$ 43,187.00

Expenditure

Salaries			
Professional Staff		31,507.33	
Less Salary Refunds CYSS	5,995.30		
Grant-in-Aid	13,204.92	19,200.22	12,307.11
Salaries			
Clerical Staff		20,311.58	
Less Salary Refunds CYSS	4,847.68		
DYC	1,240.00	6,087.68	14,223.90
Honoraria Part-time Bookkeeper			250.00
Office Superannuation			545.15
Library Books and Journals			12.25
Centrecare car expenses			818.93
Staff use of own cars on duty			175.92
Travelling expenses			102.25
Office Mess			137.18
Office Equipment/Furniture			119.03
Maintenance Repair Equipment			181.78
Postage			491.13
Printing and Stationery			1,304.85
Relief Payments			186.10
Petty Cash			263.03
Seminars			60.00
Subscriptions			55.09
Telephone			1,556.64
Advertising			329.18
Excess of Income over Expenditure			10,067.48
			$ 43,187.00

CENTRECARE MARRIAGE GUIDANCE COUNCIL OF W.A. APPENDIX III

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR PERIOD 1 JULY 1977 TO 30 JUNE 1978

Income

Balance as at 1 July 1977	361.05
Australian Government Subsidy	18,432.00
Church Office Subsidy	5,000.00
Donation from Centrecare	1,000.00
Donations	265.00
Sale Tapes	282.75
Bank Interest	46.95
Deficiency for period	3,318.64
	$ 28,706.39

Expenditure

Salaries			
Clinical Psychologist	12,886.20		
Office Superannuation	626.99	13,513.19	
Secretary		2,269.67	
Typing Assistance	2,309.04		
Less Cr Premarital Fund	721.50	1,587.54	
Director		3,000.00	
Bookkeeping Assistance		250.00	20,620.40
Telephone			618.23
Printing and Stationery			124.29
Postage			62.17
Office Equipment and Furniture			752.95
Maintenance Equipment			108.50
Subscriptions			104.42
Library Books (Less Sales)			86.76
Counsellors Fares			248.10
Fares Brisbane Premarital Conference		467.80	
Less Refund		100.00	367.80
(Note $400 received June 1977)			
A.C.M.G.O. Conferences			
P. Bowen July 1977	336.20		
R. Firth Fares 1978	342.70		
R. Firth Expenses	70.00		
Fr Hickey Fares 1978	342.70		
Expenses	40.00		
P. Bowen 1978	362.90	1,494.50	
Less Refunds			
P. Bowen	336.20		
P. Bowen	362.90		
Pool Expenses	567.33	1,266.43	
		228.07	
Add Conference Levy		150.00	378.07
Petty Cash/Sundries			83.29
Rent			1,600.00
Publicity Signs			151.41
Refund to Premarital Fund (Credit June 1977)			2,000.00
Grant to Armadale Marriage Guidance			1,400.00
			$ 28,706.39

CATHOLIC MARRIAGE GUIDANCE COUNCIL - MARRIAGE PREPARATION APPENDIX IV

STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR PERIOD 1 JULY 1977 TO 30 JUNE 1978

Income	
To Balances	345.37
Australian Government Grant	2,500.00
Sunday Conference Receipts	1,913.10
Wednesday Group Receipts	263.00
Donations	10.00
Petty Cash Credits	18.00
Bank Interest	19.00
	$ 5,068.47

Expenditure		
Secretary Salary		723.66
Equipment Office Furniture		281.95
Telephone		230.70
Printing and Stationery		435.31
Postage		198.72
Library (less sales)		195.84
Purchase Projector		80.00
Purchase Casette Player		100.00
Purchase Films		618.00
Repairs Video Equipment		200.00
PRE-MARITAL CONFERENCE 1978		
Fares	343.35	
Accommodation Expenses	60.50	
Conference Regist. Fee	10.00	413.85
Catering		212.27
Honoraria Lectures		730.00
Marriage Preparation Kit		40.00
Petty Cash		86.24
Balance		521.93
		$ 5,068.47

CENTRECARE IMMIGRATION & WELFARE

APPENDIX V

STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR PERIOD 1 JULY 1977 TO 30 JUNE 1978

Income		Expenditure		
Commission on House Loan	50.35	Salaries Office	153.98	
Hire Equipment	1,446.00	Director	150.00	303.98
Bank Interest	132.56	Administration Expenses to Centrecare		100.94
Immigration Account	3,000.00	Donations C.Y.S.S.	879.00	
Refugee Grant	3,000.00	Special Projects	432.00	1,311.00
		Honorarium Bookkeeper		210.00
		Repairs Typewriter		135.00
		Office Equipment		281.75
		Printing & Stationery		16.97
		Postage		27.48
		Excess Income over Expenditure		5,241.79
	$ 7,628.91			$ 7,628.91

CENTRECARE ARMADALE

APPENDIX VI

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 1978 TO 30 JUNE 1978

Income		
Grant Centrecare Perth		3,000.00
Church Subsidy		1,400.00
Grant Centrecare Special Projects		859.32
Employment & Industrial Relations		718.00
Function Loyalty Dinner	1,252.27	
Less Expenses	966.57	285.70
Donations		102.66
Bank Credit Cancelled Cheques		3.52
Bank Interest to 31 March		2.57
		$ 6,371.77

Expenditure		
Salaries Secretary	3,443.26	
Part-time Counsellor	800.00	4,243.26
Telephone		120.46
Postage		45.92
Printing and Stationery		410.33
Office Equipment/Furniture		66.05
Advertising		60.00
Rent		640.00
Electricity/Power		15.54
Mileage use of own car		58.00
Petty Cash Advance		20.00
Bank Fees		4.50
Balance		687.71
		$ 6,371.77

APPENDIX VII

CENTRECARE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SCHEME

The aim of the Scheme is to assist people in financial difficulties to arrive at a solution acceptable to themselves. For that reason the Scheme offers the following services:

1. Clients may have their Social Security cheques sent to Centrecare to be deposited in the Centrecare Management Fund.

2. A voluntary agreement is entered into whereby certain debts are consolidated by the Centrecare worker and paid on a regular basis by the Fund.

3. The Centrecare worker negotiates with creditors about the level and frequency of repayments.

4. Small loans, sometimes up to $200, can be made as part of the arrangements with the clients.

5. Rent to State Housing Commission or to other landlords, electricity bills, and other periodic liabilities can be paid directly from the Fund by arrangement.

6. A certain part of the client's income is returned to him or her, by voluntary agreement, on a fortnightly, weekly or daily basis as required.

7. Savings may accumulate in the Fund.

8. Arrangements are made to restore the client to self-sufficiency as the debts become manageable, or in circumstances where chronic inability to handle funds is evident, or where long-term management is requested, arrangements can be made on a relatively permanent basis.

9. No fee is charged, and no interest is given on deposits.

10. The amount of assets or debts is available to clients at any time.

11. Arrangements entered into can be terminated at any time at the wish of the client.

12. Centrecare accepts responsibility for any monies deposited in the Fund.