CENTRECARE

Christian Family and Ethnic Services

Annual Report 1978-79

S T A F F

DIRECTOR: Sister Glenys Yeoman, S.R.N. C.W.W. M.A.I.W.

CONSULTANT CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST and COUNSELLING SUPERVISOR: Dr. Patrice Cocke B.A. M.Psych., Ph.D. M.A.Ps.S.

ACCREDITED COUNSELLORS:
Mrs. Margaret Vann
Mrs. Robin Brett
Mrs. Hennie Catalano
Mrs. Daphne de Mamiel

ASSOCIATE COUNSELLORS:
Miss Diane Boyd
Mrs. Lorraine Simons
Dr. Dan Hugo

CHAPLAIN/COUNSELLOR: Rev. Evan Penberthy

RECEPTIONIST: Mrs. Audrey Fitzgerald

FINANCE COMMITTEE:
Mr. Frank Nieman — Chairman
Mrs. Heather Hugo — Hon. Secretary
Mr. Frank Leslie
Mrs. Robin Willinge
Rev. G. Crocetti
Sister Glenys Yeoman

ACCOUNTANT: Mr. Brian Sydney-Smith

CENTRECARE
CHRISTIAN FAMILY and ETHNIC SERVICES
1 CORNWALL ST. BUNBURY W.A. 6230
TELEPHONE 21 5595. P.O. 34

Acknowledgements

I would like to record my appreciation of the commitment and competence of the staff, and the magnificent efforts of so many dedicated people who help Centrecare in its work.

Mention must also be made of the support, both professional and personal, which is given by other agencies in the Bunbury and the South-West area generally.

Particular mention must be made of Mrs. Anne Walter of the Department of Social Security, the Department for Community Welfare, W.A. Marriage and Divorce Counselling, and the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

The close ties that have developed with other caring agencies make it possible for us to offer a family service of considerable resourcefulness to the community.

I would like also to thank the staff of the Office of Child Care through whom our recurrent annual grant is administered. The support and patient help given by these personnel through all our "teething" problems has been very encouraging.

The Sisters of St. John of God have been most supportive both personally and to the needs of the agency, and their help is greatly appreciated.

A report from Centrecare would not be complete without the acknowledgment of the deep debt of gratitude we owe to Dr. Patrice Cooke and staff of the Institute of Human Development, who are responsible for our counselling programme, and whose support has been consistent and wholehearted, and also to the members of our Finance Committee.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

CENTRECARE - Christian Family and Ethnic Services, has been in operation since early 1976. It gives me great pleasure to present the first annual report.

The years leading up to the establishment of this Centre have not been without difficulties. We have had our share of "teething problems", and no doubt will have our growing pains. Yet the Centre is a vital and viable organization. The vision shared by so many from the outset is taking shape. Centrecare, I believe, has proved itself and is meeting a very real need in the community. It is known as a place where people can come and find a warm, non-threatening climate, and where professional expertise is available to assist them to develop strength, to mobilise their own resources and in finding appropriate ways of coping with stresses. This means helping people to confront the problems in their lives by clarifying and evaluating the choices that are there before them.

One of my concerns is for the young (and not so young) in this age of unemployment with all its associated problems. One of the Centrecare aims is to work with the young people in the area of attitude change towards jobs, values, identity and choice by combating feelings of low self-worth, hopelessness and apathy generated by the present socio- economic climate. I believe we need to rethink our attitude towards employment, giving serious consideration to radical change of approach towards job-sharing and so on, and a less materialistic approach to life.

Our plan is for some kind of group programme for young people, supplementing this with other relevant experiential activities. A group of people from varied sections of the community here volunteered their services to help bring this plan to fruition.

Another of my concerns, shared by many people, is for the many single parent families, and the difficulties encountered in their situation. On a similar pattern to the youth groups, I hope we can work with other agencies to provide a more caring and supportive community for people from this group.

With regard to the country areas mentioned in the description and historical background of Centrecare, these have particular needs due, in part, to isolation. Lack of knowledge of, and access to community resources, legal, financial, social and educational, is a serious deprivation for people in these areas. However, if the potential of small communities can be harnessed and mobilised, many of these needs could be met by people at local level. People in small towns seem to have a greater awareness of being part of a community than those in larger towns and cities.

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A good example of local people getting together and doing something practical about a pressing social need is the effort of the people of Manjimup who have resettled Vietnamese refugee families in the town.

We cannot meet the counselling needs of all towns and settlements in the South-West area. We have made every effort, as far as our financial resources will permit, to be available for workshops, talks and discussions. At present staff travel to Manjimup fortnightly to provide a counselling service; I envisage that in the near future this will become a weekly event.

I have travelled hundreds of miles throughout the South-West in the last three years to speak to various community groups, from Pinjarra to Narrogin and Pemberton to Albany.

At present we are hampered in providing a more adequate service to country areas because of the limitation of our sparse but heavily committed resources.

I hope as you read this report you will have a better understanding of what we are doing and something of our vision.

In 1977, in the covering letter of our Submission to the Office of Child Care, I stated -

"We believe that children are our most valuable resource; yet if we do not educate the community and offer preventative services of the kind we envisage, the resources could become a liability."

In this International Year of the Child, I am acutely aware of our responsibility towards families and the parents of the future.

CENTRECARE - Christian Family and Ethnic Services

Description of Agency and Brief History of its Beginnings.

Our organization commenced operation in Bunbury in 1975 when the late Mrs. Barbara Kinna and the present Director began a monthly consultative service to the area from the Catholic Family Welfare Bureau, Perth.

This followed an approach to the C.F.W.B. by Bishop McKeon out of his concern at the lack of alternative counselling services in the area. Following discussions and consultation with other agencies, he commissioned a private survey to be carried out by an experienced social worker, to establish and define the need for such a service in Bunbury and the South-West. The survey findings were presented in a detailed report to the Bishop, which indicated, among other points, the need for preventative services for families, and children, and youth.

Following a considerable amount of ground work, this agency was brought into being on June 20th 1976, and was named Christian Family and Ethnic Services.

The objectives were clearly outlined and included the following:

- to provide the help, guidance and assistance of counsellors and trained welfare workers for individuals and families with problems, in conjunction with statutory and other voluntary bodies, minimizing overlap and avoiding duplication of services;
- to provide marriage preparation courses and seminars in conjunction with marriage guidance;
- to provide and support welfare and community services, both preventative and remedial, amongst migrants and in the community.
- to provide and assist, in all practicable ways, persons in need, by reason of poverty, sickness, helplessness, distress and other misfortune, without any discrimination.

In January of 1977 Mrs. Barbara Kinna, of Catholic Family Welfare Bureau, Perth, the founder of Bunbury Centrecare and the person whose vision, professional competence and warmth challenged and inspired us, died suddenly. The months following her death were difficult ones for all concerned.

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Sister Glenys Yeoman was appointed Director at this time, as she had been involved with the establishment of the agency from its inception with the late Mrs. Kinna. Sister Glenys is a member of the Congregation of Sisters of St. John of God. Having completed her General Nursing training at St. John of God Hospital, Ballarat, Victoria, in 1961, she has since acquired a Certificate in Welfare Work from the Victorian Institute of Social Welfare, and counselling qualifications from the Institute of Human Development, Perth, W.A.

The agency at that time was located in a small, inadequate 'shop front' site at the end of Victoria Street, Bunbury.

In May 1977, a successful application for funding was made to the office of Child Care, Department of Social Security, for a recurring annual grant of $32,000 to meet salaries and petrol costs.

Our Submission was supported by many people, including Mr. J. Sibson, M.L.A. for Bunbury; Mr. V. Ferry, M.L.C. for South West Province; Mr. P. Drummond, Federal Member for Forrest; Mr. P. Beeson, the South-West Regional Administrator; and Mrs. A. Walter of the local branch of the Department for Social Security.

This Grant enabled us to employ a staff of three paid workers, two part-time, including our first social worker, Mr. Ian Hughes.

Late in 1977 we successfully applied to the W.A. State Treasury Department for funds to meet operating costs, and an annual Grant of $2,500 was approved.

In the period from June 20th, 1976, to June 1977, a total of 662 client contacts were made. The year 1977-1978 saw an increase in our caseload, and this upward trend continues.

As a voluntary agency we aim to do more than "fill the gap" in the existing services. In the first year of operation it became obvious that a training programme for voluntary counsellors was essential, if more than a 'band-aid' approach was to be seriously entertained. It seemed essential that we do something about training voluntary counsellors or we too, by sheer pressure of work, would be involved only with crisis intervention, thus frustrating one of our aims, to provide preventative services. Therefore, we made investigations as to a suitable training course outside the metropolitan area, which would meet the requirements of a family agency such as ours. Not finding any, we approached Dr. Patrice Cooke of the Institute of Human Development and asked her to draw up a training programme to suit our needs.

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We consider the qualifications and experience of the Directors of the training to be the best available. The first group of trainees commenced their training in February 1977, and completed their first two years in counselling in December 1978. A second group is now training.

In 1978, following an application for funding to the Lotteries Commission of W.A., we were able to purchase a house in the central Bunbury area, close to hospital, surgeries, other agencies and car park facilities. The Lotteries Commission made a grant of $20,000 available to us which made a sizable contribution towards the purchase of larger premises.

We moved to these premises in May 1978, following the disastrous cyclone Alby, which hit the South West area in April. The cyclone caused some damage to the premises which meant a good deal of hard work involving voluntary helpers pulling up floors and pouring cement in the first weeks. We still have problems with dampness and mould.

One of our concerns is for people in rural areas. Most of the professional services are based in Perth. People from the South-West area are definitely disadvantaged in this respect. The recent crisis in the rural economy makes a service such as ours all the more imperative. The availability of counselling in the country areas will preclude the necessity for clients to travel to Perth.

The other side of our service is the very important one of community education by way of workshops, seminars, etc., relevant to our field of endeavour, and this really involves preventative work.

For example, we are involved in Parent Education programmes, teaching communication skills to couples and youth, and this year we have arranged workshops on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, a live-in weekend for Youth on Values and Relationships, and a live-in workshop for people in the Health and Helping Professions.

Centrecare is registered with the Attorney General's Department, and all donations over $2.00 are tax deductible.

CASELOAD

The type of problems encountered are mainly marital and/or parent/child problems.
Individual counselling is also a significant part of our caseload with personal problems of ineffective communication, poor self concept, bereavement, drug and alcohol associated problems, depression, guilt and problems associated with illness.

On the welfare side, we are seeing an increase in problems associated with unemployment, (finance, accommodation, suicidal tendencies, drugs and alcohol.
Unemployment and associated problems also put a great strain on existing stressful family situations, and result in fragmentation and breakdown of family life.

One area of real concern is the situation of many single parent families, and the increasing stress brought to bear on the family unit where there is no family or community support.

THERE WERE 228 NEW CLIENT CONTACTS FOR THE YEAR
June 30 1978 - June 30 1979.

BREAKDOWN OF AGENCY CASELOAD

THERE WERE 228 NEW CLIENT CONTACTS for PERIOD JULY 1978-JUNE 1979

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY RELATED PROBLEMS (Communication, desertion, separation, infidelity, parent/child, family afflic.)	83
WELFARE AND MIGRANT (Finance, employment, accommodation, practical assist., cultural disorientation, language)	53
PERSONAL PROBLEMS (Communication, Pre-marital, bereavement, self image, alcohol and drug addiction, suicidal tendencies, medical, psychiatric.	92

The above combined with ongoing counselling gives the following total client contacts for the year.

SINGLE INTERVIEWS - male and female	529
JOINT INTERVIEWS	140
FAMILY INTERVIEWS	40
HOME AND HOSPITAL VISITS	287
SHORT TERM phone contacts, advice, information, crisis, etc.	58
TOTAL CLIENT CONTACT	1,054

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Clients came from a wide variety of cultural backgrounds

AUSTRALIA	IRELAND	SINGAPORE
GERMANY	INDIA	MALAYA
ITALY	ENGLAND	NEW ZEALAND
HOLLAND	POLAND	SCOTLAND
DENMARK	VIETNAM	YUGOSLAVIA
MACEDONIA	CANADA	RHODESIA
TAIWAN	CZECHOSLAVAKIA	TURKEY
WALES		

Despite the wide cultural background of clients, we have not found it necessary to use interpreters. However, in the necessity of this, Centrecare does have the dual telephone facility to enable efficient contact with Telephone Interpreter Service, Perth.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

While Centrecare is established under the auspices of the Catholic Church in Bunbury, it operates as part of a network of services to the wider community.
It has representatives on the following committees and organizations.

BUNBURY VOLUNTARY COMMUNITY GROUP.
STATE EMERGENCY SERVICES (Bunbury V.E.S.)
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE A.D.A. (South West Region)
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY RELATIONS.
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD, BUNBURY COMMITTEE.
ST. BONIFACE (ANGLICAN) PASTORAL CARE TEAM.
ST. PATRICK'S(CATHOLIC) PARISH COUNCIL.
BUNBURY DIOCESAN COUNCIL.

Staff members attended the following meetings and workshops during the last year.

STAFF MEETINGS/CASE CONSULTATIONS	34
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS	4
VOLUNTARY WORKERS CONSULTATIONS	5
MEETINGS WITH OTHER PROFESSIONAL, Agencies, Resource People	46
MEETINGS WITH BISHOP AND CHANCELLOR	5
OFFICE CHILD CARE PROJECT EVALUATION	1
MARGARET TOPHAM FAMILY THERAPY (Perth)	
MARGARET TOPHAM FAMILY THERAPY (Bunbury)	
ALCOHOL AND DRUG WORKSHOP - Manjimup	12
STATE EMERGENCY TRAINING AND EXERCISES	
"CARE FOR KIDS" SEMINAR - Busselton	
INSERVICE TRAINING FOR ACCREDITED COUNSELLORS	5
LIVE-IN WEEKENDS	10
MONTHLY SESSIONS J'dale & Bunbury	12
PARISH AND DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETINGS	
R.P.H. CHAPLAINCY SEMINAR ON BEREAVEMENT, DEATH AND DYING	
YOUTH WEEKEND ON VALUES AND COMMUNICATION - J'dale	
MEETING WITH MINISTER FOR HEALTH	
MEETING WITH PRESIDENT OF NORTHAM'S "SHARE AND CARE COMMUNITY GROUP"	
MONTHLY TEACHING MEETINGS WITH "NEW COVENANT PRAYER COMMUNITY" (HEALING TEAM) Bunbury.	

Staff members also spoke to a wide variety of Group and Community Organizations on topics relevant to our field of work.

WOMENS GROUP	PEMBERTON
ANGLICAN CLERGY - BUNBURY DIOCESE	BUNBURY
CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE	BUNBURY
RED CROSS GROUP	CAPEL
CHURCH OF CHRIST WOMEN'S GROUP	BUNBURY
MAJELLAN GROUP	PINJARRA
ST. GERARD'S WOMEN'S GROUP	MANJIMUP
JOHN 18 YOUTH GROUP	MANJIMUP
UNITING CHURCH WOMEN'S GROUP (Carey Park)	BUNBURY
MAJELLAN GROUP	ALBANY
ANGLICAN MOTHER'S UNION	BOYANUP
COMMUNITY "SHARE AND CARE" GROUP	COLLIE
CATHOLIC CLERGY BUNBURY DIOCESE	BUNBURY
BUNBURY CATHOLIC COLLEGE STUDENTS	BUNBURY
PARENTS & FRIENDS GROUP, CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL	BRUNSWICK JUNCTION

COUNSELLOR TRAINING PROGRAMME

The first group of four counsellors completed their first two years of training in December, 1978, and are now accredited with the Agency.
These people give a minimum of four hours per week, supervised, on a voluntary basis.

A second group of three people, who are in their second year of training, have commenced supervised practical work at Centrecare.

This programme has been highly successful. The professional competence demonstrated by the counsellors reflects the quality of training given by Dr. Cooke and staff of The Institute of Human Development.

A "spin-off" from training has been seen in the counsellors' wider community involvement. One of our counsellors was instrumental in raising community awareness re the need for a drug and alcohol referral centre in Bunbury. She did most of the groundwork, and was involved in setting up a committee to look into the need. This centre has now become a reality, with the Alcohol and Drug Authority working towards opening the centre later this year.

OTHER PREVENTATIVE SERVICES

We agree that "prevention is better than cure" and endeavour to provide community education in specific and relevant areas that will enhance personal and community growth by way of workshops and group work.

SYSTEMATIC TRAINING FOR EFFECTIVE PARENTING (S.T.E.P.) PROGRAMME

This programme has been operating now for seven weeks with eleven participants.
Mrs. Margaret Vann, one of our counsellors, is the facilitator and group leader, working with two staff from the Guidance Office (Department of Education).
A second group is planned for later in the year. This group will be held in the evening to enable both parents to attend.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG WORKSHOP

This weekend workshop was held in Manjimup in early March, and was conducted by Clinical Psychologist, Pat Moroney, following a request from a women's church group. It was advertised locally, and about thirty people attended each session.

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MARGARET TOPHAM IN BUNBURY

Last year we were very fortunate to have Miss M. Topham conduct a weekend workshop at Centrecare on Family Therapy. Twenty people attended this experiential workshop.

YOUTH WEEKEND ON "VALUES AND HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS"

This took the form of a live-in weekend, and was held at Jarrahdale Village in mid-March. It was conducted by staff of the Institute of Human Development and Centrecare. Another similar weekend is planned for November, preceded by six weekly sessions in Bunbury.

PROJECTS FOR LATE 1979 AND 1980

A staff member is involved with other people from the local Voluntary Community Group in giving a group of supporting mothers a break from their children during the August holidays. Some ideas proposed have been a bus trip, bushwalks, saunas, and soon it is hoped that regular breaks and fun-times will evolve from this to help women who would be unable otherwise to have some "fun times" without unnecessary expense. This will help them grow in awareness of their own potential despite their difficult situation.

OTHER SERVICES

One of our counsellors visits Wattle Lodge for the Frail Aged on a regular basis. This is an area of need as many of the elderly people there do not have family support.

Staff members also visit St. John of God Hospiral on a regular basis, to provide counselling and welfare services when required.

AGENCY NAME

The name "Centrecare" was adopted in late 1977 to bring us into line with other agencies in Australia, under the umbrella of the Catholic Social Welfare Commission.

CENTRE - CARE.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

-at-

June 30,1979

1. Balance Sheet & Audit Report
2. Statement of Income
3. Statement of Expenditure
4. Statement of Specific Bequests

B.J.SYDNEY-SMITH & CO
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
BUNBURY 6230. W.A.

AUDIT REPORT.

We have examined the books and other records of Centre Care Bunbury for the year ended June 30, 1979 and in our opinion the attached Income and Expenditure Statement sets out a true and fair view of the results of the year and with the exception of Motor vehicle and minor items of plant have been written off in prior years the Balance Sheet has been drawn up so as to exhibit a true and fair view of the affairs of Centre Care, at that date.

Bunbury W.A.

14 August 1979

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B.J.SYDNEY-SMITH & CO
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
BUNBURY 6230. W.A.

CENTRE CARE

BALANCE SHEET

At June 30, 1979

ACCUMULATION ACCOUNT			**FIXED ASSETS**		
Balance at July 1, 1978		25410.76	Land and Buildings at cost		38561.77
Add net surplus for the year		1077.09	**CURRENT ASSETS**		
		26487.85	National Bank - Salaries A/C	3672.86	
DEFERRED LIABILITIES			" " Working A/C	2251.46	
National Bank F.T.L.		18324.60	Commonwealth - Disaster fund	1692.79	
RESERVES			P.B.S. - Joyce Nieman Fund	1032.00	
Disaster Relief fund	1692.79		" - Current Account	4118.76	
Joyce Nieman Memorial Fund	1032.00	2724.79	Sundry debtors	1759.60	14527.47
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Sundry creditors		5552.00			
		$53089.24			$53089.24

CENTRE CARE

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended June 30, 1979

INCOME

Government subsidies		24757.87
Salaries account		2500.00
Working account		3899.65
Raffle		941.75
Bottle drive		550.76
Donations		315.59
Interest - P.B.S.		127.33
National Bank		202.25
Parish appeal		2550.04
Diocesan subsidy		350.00
Sale of building materials		367.25
Miss Topham workshop		
		36562.49
Less expenses :		
Salaries	22440.86	
Consultant Psychologist locum	656.00	
Travelling	1060.96	
Motor vehicle running	712.46	
Training courses	1625.00	
Books	452.35	
I.B.M. Typewriter & Maintenance	150.56	
Subscriptions	50.00	
Audit & Accountancy	210.00	
Advertising	195.20	
Bank charges	109.80	
General expenses	402.73	
Interest National Bank	1759.60	
Insurance	724.15	
Electricity	254.87	
Printing & Stationery	285.92	
Rates & Taxes	68.10	
Repairs & replacements	2264.11	
Secretarial	1040.15	
Telephone	1022.58	
		35485.40
Net surplus for year to date		$ 1077.09

CENTRE CARE

SPECIFIC BEQUESTS

AT June 30, 1979

Disaster Relief Fund

Balance at June 30, 1978	1611.00
Interest earned	81.79
Balance at June 30, 1979	$1692.79

JOYCE NIEMAN MEMORIAL FUND

Bequest May 1, 1979	1000.00
Interest earned	32.00
Balance at June 30, 1979	$1032.00

ANNUAL REPORT

CENTRECARE

Catholic Family Services

25-27 VICTORIA SQUARE, PERTH, W.A. 6000 PHONE : 325 6644

1978 – 1979

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The development of the services of Centrecare to their present comprehensive level is evidence of the value the Church places on family life, on marriage and on the dignity of the individual.

To those who contend that it is the Government's place to provide all social services, it needs to be said that no programme of Government services can possibly cope with the varied and intensely personal nature of the help that people need. It also needs to be said that there is no guarantee, as is already so obvious, that the values concerning family life and personal worth will be safeguarded in a purely public system.

The Church has always been involved in works of charity, and always will be if she is to remain true to her Founder. In the work of Centrecare the dedication and expertise of both lay and professional people has been drawn together to provide what we trust is a service of quality in the community.

It will be noticed that 49% of our funds comes from Government sources, 37% from Church sources and 14% from donations.

We believe that it is a legitimate use of public money, as it comes from the people and is returned to them in the provision of services. All may avail themselves of them, whether they be Catholic or not.

No report is included here of CENTRECARE CHILDREN'S COTTAGES, for Aboriginal Children, as it is independent of Centrecare, having its own Board of Management responsible directly to the Archbishop of Perth.

The Armadale Branch of Centrecare unfortunately had to cease operations during the year because of lack of funds. An application for funding under the Family Support Scheme was not successful.

This Report is an attempt to be publicly accountable for monies received from the Government, the Church and the community, and to the many clients who use our services. A total of 5146 individuals approached us during the year.

We acknowledge the support of the Archbishop, the Catholic community, other Church agencies, Government welfare bodies and the general public.

My special gratitude is offered to all the loyal and competent staff of Centrecare.

FAMILY WELFARE

The social workers were involved in the wide range of social and personal problems that are found in the general community. Special attention was given to the problems of disturbed children and their families. Residential care was arranged where necessary.

The large number of people with financial, housing and employment problems obviously reflected the nation's current economic difficulties.

A disturbing aspect of the work was the high number of adopted teenagers referred for counselling by schools. Their problems of identity caused personal and family strains far beyond the normal. The pleasing aspect is that most do manage to resolve their problems as they enter adulthood.

We gratefully acknowledge the willing co-operation of priests, schools, Catholic child care facilities and Catholic and Government agencies during the year.

We were happy to supervise the training of seven social work students over the past year.

CASELOAD (excluding specific migration problems)

Child & family	:	238
General welfare	:	473
Personal counselling	:	38
		749

EMERGENCY HOUSING

Based on Centrecare's experience in providing accommodation for homeless families over the past few years, an application was successfully made to the Family Support Services Scheme for the payment of rental on four houses in the metropolitan area.

The need for such accommodation was evident as most shelters provide for men only or for women and children. Since the scheme began in January, 13 families (60 people) have been housed, of which four families were Aboriginal. These latter face special difficulties in securing rental accommodation from private landlords.

EMERGENCY HOUSING (CONT'D)

The social workers assisted the families with furniture and other essentials, offered counselling to both parents and children where necessary, and negotiated with the State Housing and private landlords to secure more permanent accommodation. The scheme has been of great benefit to the families concerned. It is a low-cost and mainly self-help service, as staff are not required in the houses to feed or care for the families.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Although Centrecare is not primarily a relief agency, it operates a scheme whereby people in need of financial management can "bank" their funds in a special account. 13 people are currently registered. The scheme, though not large, has been extraordinarily successful. It offers budgeting assistance, debt consolidation and direct management of income for those who need it on a temporary or permanent basis. 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.

CATHOLIC IMMIGRATION OFFICE

Migrants from a wide range of countries have been helped with personal and family difficulties, with information about migration policy, travel loans, settlement difficulties and general social work assistance. The Grant-in-Aid social worker dealt with 269 cases personally. He was also involved in the establishment of the Host Family Scheme and the proposed Migrant Resource Centre in North Perth. The work included many speaking engagements with Parishes, Schools, Majellans and other groups.

Apart from the 269 migrant social work cases, included under FAMILY WELFARE, 99 other cases specifically related to migration were handled by the Office.

Specific Migration Cases	99
Migrant social work cases	269

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE MONEY.....

DONATIONS, FEES, SALES

for: Pregnancy Help	$3 200
Centrecare General	3 402
Centrecare – Special Projects	10 000
Cath. Marriage Guidance Council	1 577
Marriage Preparation	3 126

CHURCH SOURCES

AUST. CATH. SOCIAL WELFARE COMMISSION

for: Natural Family Planning

CATHOLIC CHARITIES FUND

for: Centrecare	$5 000
Cath. Marriage Guidance	5 000
Cath. Immigration Office	5 000

DIOCESAN SUBSIDY

for: Centrecare

STATE GOVERNMENT

TREASURY GRANT

for: Administration Costs

COMMOWEALTH GOVERNMENT

DEPT. OF SOCIAL SECURITY

for: Emergency Housing Scheme

DEPT. OF EMPLOYMENT & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

for: Community Youth Support Scheme

DEPT. OF IMMIGRATION & ETHNIC AFFAIRS

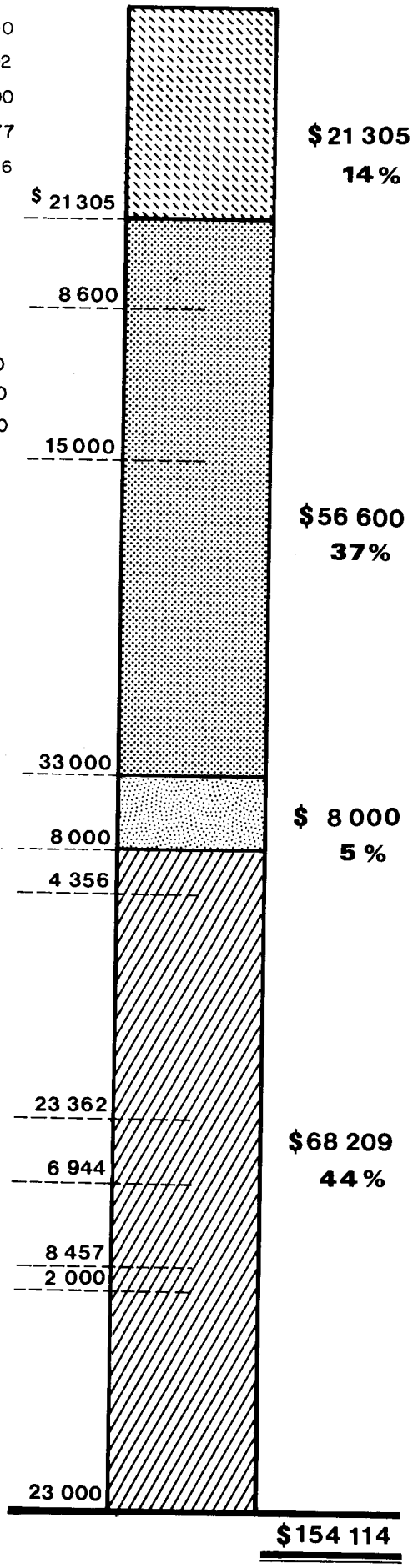
for: Host Family Scheme

for: Grant-in-Aid Social Worker

ATTORNEY GENERALS DEPT.

for: Marriage Preparation

for: Marriage Guidance



TOTAL CASELOAD

CASEWORK SERVICES

FAMILY WELFARE

Child & family problems	238	
Personal Counselling	38	
General Welfare	473	
		749

- includes:

Emergency Housing	60
Financial Management	13

IMMIGRATION

Special migrant problems	99

(Migrant social work cases: 269)

MARRIAGE GUIDANCE

Marital counselling	359	
Pre-Marital counselling	92	
		451

PREGNANCY HELP

1095 calls	1095
(52 face-to-face interviews)	
	2394
TOTAL INTERVIEWS	5112

SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Sunday Conferences	330 couples	
Evening groups	36 "	
	366 "	
or 732 individuals		732

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING	783
COMMUNITY YOUTH SUPPORT SCHEME	960

HOST FAMILY SCHEME

Host Families	: 25	
Guest "	: 28	
	53 families	
or 277 individuals		277
		2752

CASEWORK SERVICES	2394
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES	2752
	5146 individuals

STAFF

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

FAMILY WELFARE

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

SOCIAL WORKER - Mr Chris Gardner, B.A.,Dip.Ed B.Soc.Wk

SECRETARY - Mrs Margaret Whitford

RECEPTIONISTE - Miss Rosslyn Bonney

HOME VISITOR - Sr Loreto Gray, R.G.S.

MARRIAGE GUIDANCE

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST -
Mr Daniel Coughlin, B.A.,M.A.(Psych)

COUNSELLORS -
Fr Peter Bianchini
Mr Paul Bowen
Mrs Beth Burrows
Mrs Maureen Chamberlain
Miss Margaret Collopy
Mr Ray Firth
Mrs Aileen Jack
Mrs Joan Jones
Mrs Pat St John Kennedy
Mrs Margaret Lynch
Mrs Esme Manthorpe
Mr Tom McKenna

SECRETARY - Mrs Hazel Wigmore

TYPISTE - Mrs Esme Manthorpe

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

CO-ORDINATOR - Mrs Esme Manthorpe

CHAPLAIN - Fr Bryan O'Loughlin/
Fr Peter Bianchini

IMMIGRATION

SOCIAL WORKER - Mr Guido Vogels, B.A.Soc.Wk

SECRETARY - Mrs Corry Schoenmakers

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 and 5 home volunteers

HOST FAMILY SCHEME

CO-ORDINATORS - Mrs Mary Reutens
Mr Vinh Quan Le

C.Y.S.S.

PROJECT OFFICERS - Mr Michael Geaney
Miss Pauline Dean

CATHOLIC MARRIAGE GUIDANCE COUNCIL

The Council saw an increased number of couples seeking help in times of marital disharmony. The current rate of marriage breakdown, which is reaching almost epidemic proportions, is reflected in the work of the Council.

The most obvious aim of counselling is to enable the couples to sort out their difficulties so that their union is strengthened. At times reconciliation is beyond counselling, in which case efforts are made to help the partners cope with the loss of their marriage, and offer the utmost protection possible for their children.

The counsellors received marriage preparation referrals from priests especially where one or both partners were under 18, or where there seemed to be serious doubts about the proposed marriage. This area, which will probably grow, needs further clarification of the counsellor's role so that expectations are fully met

In addition to face-to-face counselling, much work was done in association with our clinical psychologist in group therapy and relaxation sessions and in therapy demonstration seminars.

CASELOAD

Marital	359
Pre-Marital	92
	451

PREGNANCY HELP

This service was set up as a positive move by the Church to find alternatives to abortion for women facing a distressing pregnancy. A total of 1095 callers used the 24 hour phone crisis service. A further 52 were engaged in face-to-face counselling. Most of the phone calls were from single girls aged between 16 and 19. Others were from married women with difficulties. The support given by St Anne's Hospital and doctors in the community is greatly appreciated, as are the many volunteers that work for Pregnancy Help and the donations given during the year.

PREGNANCY HELP (CONT'D)

The frequency with which abortion is accepted in community agencies as a solution to pregnancy difficulties has been a growing concern of Pregnancy Help. The need for Catholic and other pro-life bodies to develop or extend their facilities to offer alternatives is becoming very urgent. Discussions have already begun with policy makers at Catholic hospitals to provide alternative medical referral points for women with pregnancy difficulties, especially in relation to genetic counselling, pregnancy testing, rape and certain gynaecological problems.

CASELOAD

1095 calls
(52 face-to-face)

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

The work of marriage preparation, always a priority of the Church, has become even more necessary with the stresses and strains that married life today has to cope with.

Conferences were held on ten months of the year at Perth and Fremantle, an average of 33 couples attending each conference. In addition six groups of engaged couples were conducted, each group continuing over six evenings.

It is our experience that couples preparing for marriage benefit far more from the groups than they do from the Day Conferences, because of the greater degree of personal participation and the deeper level of discussion. The Day Conferences, nevertheless, open up issues and ideas that promote awareness and personal responsibility towards marriage among those that attend.

Many volunteers, including two sponsoring Parishes, assisted in the running of the Conferences. To all involved in the courses sincere thanks are due.

CONFERENCES	:	330 couples
EVENING GROUPS	:	36 "
		366 "
	or	732 individuals

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

Counsellors and teachers of the Natural Family Planning centre interviewed a total of 783 persons during the year. In addition eight schools were visited, eleven lectures were given at Training Hospitals, three training sessions were conducted with medical personnel, and six women's groups were addressed.

Natural methods of family planning are gaining greater acceptance in the community as dissatisfaction with other methods grows. It is by no means just a "Catholic" method.

The focus of the service is not so much the limitation of births as the knowledge of ones own fertility, which then can be used either to have children or to space them. Many approached the service with infertility problems.

Monthly public clinics were conducted as well as the private interviews. Natural Family Planning has become an integral part of our Marriage Preparation programme.

COMMUNITY YOUTH SUPPORT SCHEME

The problems of unemployed youth continued to receive attention through the Youth Place, 440 William Street, Perth, where young people out of work were made welcome.

The scheme, funded by the Department of Employment and Youth Affairs, seeks to offer support to unemployed youth by acknowledging their current difficulties in the job market, by helping them maintain and improve levels of work skills, by offering courses in literacy, trades, crafts, and job-seeking techniques.

Many young people tend to become dejected by the constant refusals they receive from prospective employers. Our two project officers together

COMMUNITY YOUTH SUPPORT SCHEME (CONT'D

with a team of others offering skill-maintenance programmes have helped an average of 80 people a month. About 18% managed to find jobs. The others found support in the group at the Youth Place.

They were constantly involved in community work, such as offering home help to pensioners, and providing furniture for refugees setting up house.

Sincere thanks to Bill Mangini for his personal services and for the use of his trade facilities at Gidgegannup.

HOST FAMILY SCHEME

Centrecare was very happy to accept a grant from the Commonwealth Government to establish a Host Family Scheme for recently arrived migrants and refugees. Most of the work, obviously enough, has been with refugees from Vietnam.

Two Co-ordinators were appointed for their experience, qualifications and background. Mary Reutens and Vinh Quan Le, himself a Vietnamese refugee, share the one position.

In the three months that the scheme has been in operation twenty five host families have been linked with twenty eight guest families. The idea of the scheme is to assist the newcomers to settle down as quickly and as smoothly as possible by becoming friends with an Australian family.

The Co-ordinators have found tremendous good will in the community towards refugees, and are convinced that the racist comments one encounters are from a minority only.

The Scheme is assisted by an Advisory Committee drawn from interested persons and groups in the community.

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