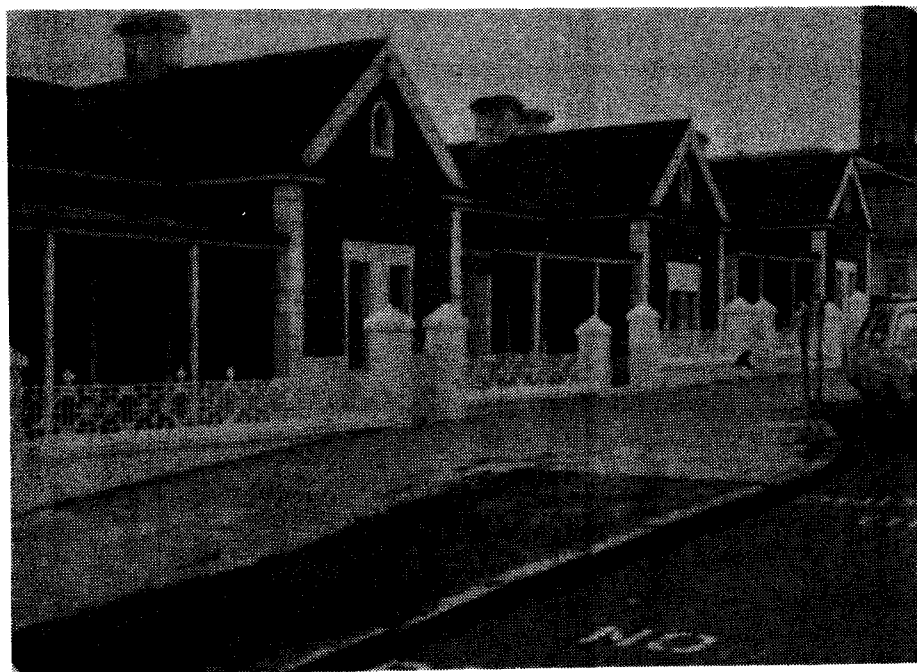


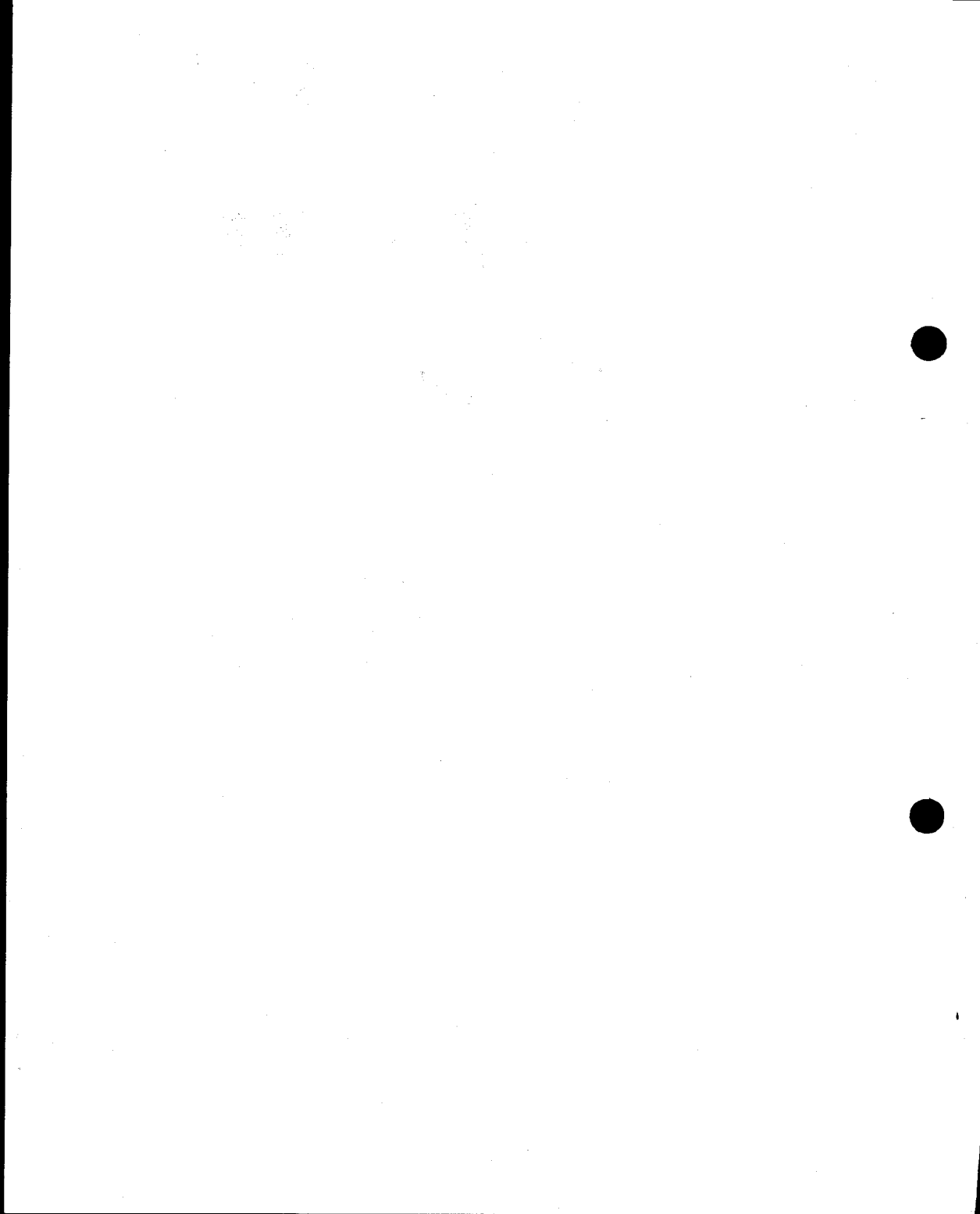
ANNUAL REPORT

CENTRE CARE



1980-81

25/27 Victoria Square, Perth, W.A. 6000.
Telephone (09) 325 6644.



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S T A F F
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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
Mrs Enza Geroudis

HOME VISITOR
Sr Loreto Gray, R.G.S. Dip.Welf.
Psych

MARRIAGE GUIDANCE

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

COUNSELLORS
Fr Peter Bianchini
Mrs Beth Burrows B.A.(Hons),
Dip.Ed.
Mrs Maureen Chamberlain A.A.M.F.C.
Miss Margaret Collopy Dip.Welf.Psych
Mr Ray Firth B.App.Sc(Psych), Grad.
Dip.Psych(Couns), Grad.Dip.Ed.
Mrs Aileen Jack B.Sc., Dip.Diet.
Mrs Joan Jones
Mrs Pat St John Kennedy
Mrs Margaret Lynch
Mrs Esme Manthorpe
Mr Tom McKenna

ADMINISTRATION SECRETARY
Mrs Hazel Wigmore

TYPISTE
Mrs Pam Miller

EXECUTIVE
Chairman : Fr Peter Bianchini
V/C & Treasurer : Mrs Maureen Chamberlain
Secretary : Mr Daniel Coughlin

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

CO-ORDINATOR
Mrs Esme Manthorpe

CHAIRMAN
Fr Peter Bianchini

IMMIGRATION

SOCIAL WORKER
Mr Guido Vogels, B.App.Sc.
(Soc.Wk)

SECRETARY
Mrs Corry Schoenmakers,
B.App.Sc. (Soc.Wk)

HOST FAMILY SCHEME

CO-ORDINATOR
Mrs Mary Reutens, B.A.(Hons),
Dip.Ed., B.Ed., M.A.

VOLUNTEERS
Miss Sengdaovey Bousone
Mrs Val Denton
Mrs Tess Glennon
Mrs Phillippa Jones
Mrs Muriel O'Connor
Mrs Barbara Smith
Mrs Lyn Van de Ven
Mrs Joan Wedd

FAMILY PLANNING

SECRETARY
Mrs Maureen Chamberlain

COUNSELLORS
Mrs Margaret D'Rossi
Mrs Anne O'Donnell
Mrs Evelyn Newman

PREGNANCY HELP

CO-ORDINATOR
Mrs Corry Schoenmakers,
B.App.Sc. (Soc.Wk)

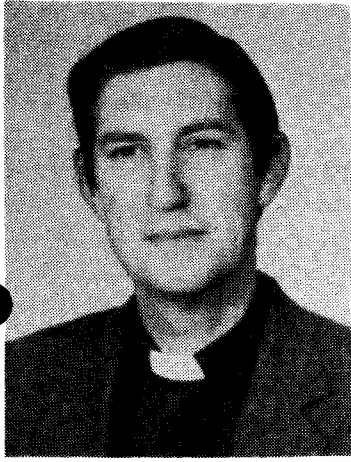
SECRETARY
Mrs Pam Miller

Staff Counsellors and
telephone volunteers

C.Y.S.S.

PROJECT OFFICERS
Miss Pauline Dean
Mr Doug Robertson

DIRECTOR'S REPORT



This report is presented to His Grace, Archbishop Goody, under whose authority and encouragement the services of Centrecare operate.

It is presented too to the State and Federal Governments who contribute substantially to its financial survival.

It is also presented to the general community as it seeks to serve all those who call on its services, whether they are Catholic or not.

Centrecare attempts to be a witness to the law of love and service given by Jesus Christ to be the very charter and characteristic of his Church.

We have seen over the past year increased pressures on individuals and families as more people experience economic distress.

Whatever the complex causes of family disharmony, economic pressures take their toll of marriages. The struggle to cope with high interest rates, service charges and rising commodity prices, coupled with widespread unemployment, wears down the strength of husbands and wives, causes resentment, blame, hostility and frustration.

We are at the scene of many a tragic marriage breakdown where children suffer perhaps more than the spouses.

We may be able to help those involved in many ways, but it is so often too late. We wish we were able to make a greater impact on the social and environmental factors that are so harsh on marriage and family life in order to prevent breakdown.

We hear much about Family Policy. At the National Family Policy Conference in Canberra earlier this year many of the problems were clearly presented. We were hopeful that Governments, State as well as Federal, might incorporate measures to strengthen and protect families in legislation and policy.

We are still waiting.

Meanwhile this agency and others in the non-Government sector are being called on to soften the impact of a harsh environment for families.

My sincere thanks are extended to all members of staff. Frequently pushed to the limit by the increasing workload, they continue to give generously of their time, experience and expertise.

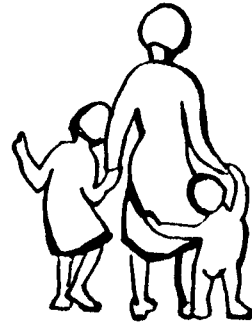
Barry Hickey

Barry Hickey

Director

FAMILY WELFARE

The central social work service of Centrecare is directed to individuals and families in need, with special attention given to children with emotional difficulties as a result of family tension.



The social workers Beatrice MacFarlane and Chris Gardner, together with Sister Loreto, carry most of the family caseload.

Over the past year 909 cases were dealt with. Of these 286 were marital and family cases, while a further 189 involved individuals. Welfare cases concerned with financial difficulties, emergency accommodation and other matters totalled 426.

This increase in the number of welfare cases involving people of very limited means has led the staff to consider making a more distinct difference between the child and family counselling service, dealing with emotional and communication issues, and the welfare service dealing with the problems of low-income people. This latter service, while never intended to be a priority of Centrecare needs to be further developed.

The FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SERVICE operated for a number of years with a limited number of clients, around 15 at any one time, continues to be of enormous assistance to those who find themselves in temporary financial difficulty and to those who are chronically poor, and who rely heavily on the scheme for their day to day existence.

The scheme could expand to assist many more people. We have neither the finances nor the personnel at present to handle such expansion.

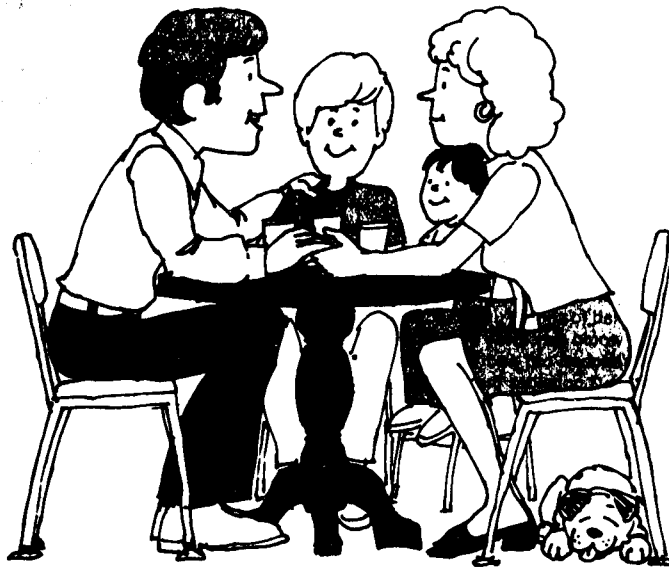
At a Staff Review at which all Centrecare personnel attended from all sections, it was agreed that we continue to use organizations such as St Vincent de Paul Society, rather than duplicate them, but develop our assistance to low-income people where referral elsewhere is not appropriate.

The features of the low-income service would be involvement of the people themselves in the service, the expansion of the financial management aspects of the service, and the development of a more active lobbying and advocacy function for and by those in need.

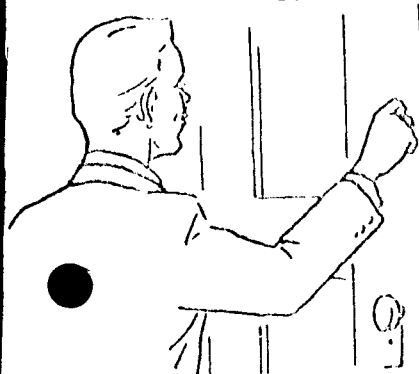
Child care has and will always remain a major concern of Centre-care. Assessments are made for placement in Castledare and Clontarf, and close ties are kept with all the Catholic child caring agencies through the Catholic Child Care Committee and other forms of contact.

A number of social work students from the Western Australian Institute of Technology and the University of Western Australia have successfully completed their training sessions at Centrecare during the year under the supervision of Christ Gardner and Beatrice MacFarlane. Guido Vogels, the migrant social worker, has also assisted in their training.

The students both give and receive while at Centrecare. We are happy to have them with us and help them in every way. They in their turn not only help with the caseload, they bring fresh ideas, enthusiasm and stimulation to us all.



EMERGENCY FAMILY HOUSING



From July 1980 to June 1981 there have been 17 families housed on a short term basis in our four emergency houses. Helping with the project in the way of renovations, repairs, rent collection, neighbour peace maker and negotiator has been Mal Giddings. Mal has acted as housing officer for 15 hours per week and his service has been invaluable to this Family Support Scheme.

Homelessness for whole families is on the increase in Perth. Many people are still travelling from interstate hoping to secure work in Perth. However, we have been mainly providing short term emergency housing for displaced Aboriginal families. Eight of the 17 families which have been in the houses have been Aboriginal. These families have stayed on an average from 3 to 4 months due to lack of 4 bedroomed houses with State Housing Commission and arrears that must be repaid to State Housing Commission before being rehoused.

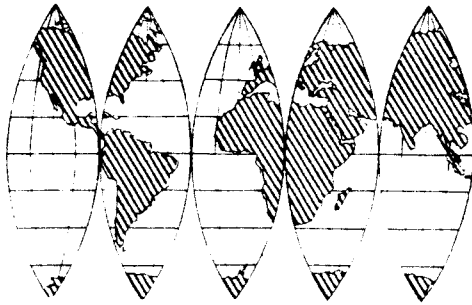
Unemployment seems to be one of the key factors in people moving to find a better financial position. With unemployed Aborigines the situation is even worse, leading to problems of finance and drinking in some cases as well as homelessness. In only 6 of the 17 families housed was there support from two parents.

The advantages of the houses are that family groups don't have to separate in order to go into hostels or refuges and can maintain some independence.

The disadvantage is that people are only queuing up for houses from State Housing Commission where there is some lack of housing for large Aboriginal families.

We would like to thank the Project Officer, Mr Ric Davies, from Community Welfare, for his support to the Scheme.

The Family Support Scheme is a pilot project of three years and is due to terminate this phase in December 1981. The need still remains for emergency houses in larger quantities than exist at present. We have recommended that 12 houses be funded with 4 in the Southern Districts, 4 in the City area and 4 in the Northern Suburbs.



CATHOLIC
IMMIGRATION
OFFICE

The GRANT-IN-AID SOCIAL WORKER, Guido Vogels, has dealt with 258 clients over the past year, including people from many countries, mostly from Vietnam, Poland, Rumania, Burma and Timor. Many of these were homeless migrant youth and unaccompanied minors.

He attended seminars on refugee settlement, conducted seminars in Catholic Schools on "Multicultural Sensitization and Social Justice", attended meetings of the Hostel settlement committee, and the Catholic Education Commission. He helped in the formulation of a Submission on N.U.M.A.S and raised migrant issues with the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, the Department for Community Welfare, and the Ombudsman.

He was very involved with the "hunger striker" in the Mall which appears to be coming to a very satisfactory conclusion.

The range of casework included finance, unemployment, emergency accommodation, family problems and entry procedures, including the arranging of travel loans.

Future directions include a closer liason with ethnic groups especially Catholic groups and Catholic migrant chaplains.

The IMMIGRATION SECRETARY Mrs Corry Schoenmakers, working on a part-time basis, dealt with 101 cases over the past year.

Her work was mainly advocacy on behalf of intending migrants. She gave advice on Immigration procedures, assisted clients by appealing to the Minister for Immigration over rejected applications, assisted family reunion of refugees, maintenance guarantee problems, the arrangement of travel loans and applicants under the ROSP (Regularization of Status Programme).

It has been an interesting and, at times, frustrating exercise to combine the roles of Immigration Secretary with that of Pregnancy Help co-ordinator. The coming year should see a resolution of the problem.

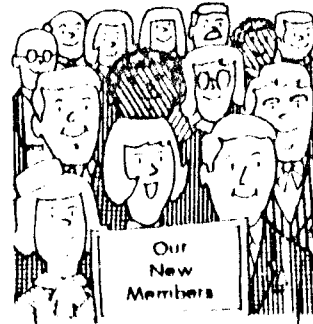
HOST FAMILY SCHEME

Mrs Mary Reutens, the co-ordinator, has continued to operate this most effective service for the rapid settlement of refugees and newly arrived migrants.

Early in the life of the Scheme, almost all refugees were from South East Asia. The refugee composition in Perth has now changed in ethnicity, sex, age, occupation and family status.

Eastern Europeans now account for approximately half the total. Unfortunately, they do not evoke as much sympathy and support as their Indo-Chinese counterparts because their plight has not been dramatised by the media. They prefer Australian hosts to those of their own ethnic background, the reason being that socializing with Australians facilitates their enculturation process and language acquisition. Ninety-nine percent of them are Catholic. All are professionals or are highly skilled tradespeople. The majority are young and single, with males outnumbering females. Some are young married men and women who have left spouses and/or offspring behind.

The Indo-Chinese refugee picture has changed dramatically. The predominance of family units, professionals and skilled persons of the past has given way to that of single young men with uncertain trade skills or none at all. Ethnic Vietnamese now outnumber Chinese-Vietnamese (90% vs 10% according to Graylands authorities), thus reversing the trend in the past.



The large numbers of single young men among the refugees in general necessitated an additional dimension in hosting. Youth groups with or without religious affiliations are being approached to offer friendship. Nine have responded to the need.

The total number of participants to date is as follows.

Guest families	:	715
Host families	:	535

Some hosts take on more than one guest family, particularly hosts drawing support from church and community groups. Having gained experience in hosting, they then take on the more exacting task of sponsoring refugees direct from camps under the Government's Community Refugee Resettlement Scheme.

Follow-ups, advice and counselling for hosts and guests are essential to nurture their relationship. The figures for these are as follows:

Average monthly calls, visits	: 87
Average monthly follow-ups	: 42
Average monthly discontinuations	: 14.5

Many refugees leave town for better job opportunities elsewhere. The move takes place within the first 5 to 8 months of their arrival in Perth.

The 7 hard-working volunteers continue to provide unfailing back-up service. Without them the Scheme would not function as well. An interesting addition to the team is a Laotian lady, herself a former refugee.

Community education is needed to allay fears and correct misconceptions of refugees. These have been on the increase and are hampering hosting and good community relations. A suggestion has been put to the Immigration Department to launch a programme of community education. We have been assured by the W.A. Regional Office that this will be done soon.

Our sincere thanks go to Mary and her team for their untiring and highly successful work on behalf of refugees and recently arrived migrants, and to all the Host Families that have come forward to be part of the Scheme.





MARRIAGE
GUIDANCE
COUNCIL

The object of the Council is to buttress the institution of marriage and to provide the means for partners in a marriage to consider reconciliation or the improvement of their relationship to each other and to their children. It also assists those about to marry to understand each other and the responsibilities of marriage.

With national figures showing that one in five marriages is likely to end in divorce, the Council, through pre-marriage counselling and courses offered on relaxation, personal growth and stress management seeks to provide individuals and couples with the preventive means to forestall marriage distress.

Some trends are noticeable in marriage counselling. Lack of communication between partners is the most common presenting problem. Most couples enter counselling when marital breakdown reaches a crisis stage. Marital breakdown is occurring earlier in marriage. Counselling is most successful when both partners are involved in joint sessions and changing roles and expectations of women are a major contributing factor in marital unrest.

The caseload of the Council increased once again to 549 cases for the year requiring a total of 1371 interviews. In addition many people regularly attended the relaxation and therapy groups.

Talks have been given at a pre-retirement workshop on the changes that may occur in the marriage relationship after retirement, on sexuality to year 12 students and on counselling to students at W.A.I.T.

A student from W.A.I.T. and two students from the Institute of Human Development have been supervised in counselling during the year.

A new development this year has been a group intended primarily for those who are finding it difficult to cope with a loss, e.g. loss of a partner through separation or divorce, loss of a loved one through death, or loss due to an operation.

Because marriage problems very often involve the whole family, some of our counsellors participated in an eight week course in family therapy lead by Mr Chris Gardner, a Social Worker with Family Welfare.

Dan Coughlin, our clinical psychologist, has developed his work with groups, as they offer a most useful alternative to face-to-face counselling in so far as clients give to others as well as receive help.

Counsellors frequently refer clients to these groups as the need arises. Clients are frequently in a better position to handle their marital problems as they learn stress management, awareness or relaxation techniques.

Dan's community involvement has included participating in a course of Pastoral Psychology and conducting seminars with Friends of the Mentally Ill, occupational therapists and psychiatric staff at Royal Perth Hospital and Princess Margaret Hospital.

Sincere thanks go to Fr Peter Bianchini, the Chairman of the Council, to Hazel Wigmore, the Secretary, and to all the counsellors, most of whom work on a voluntary basis.



MARRIAGE PREPARATION



In spite of financial difficulties and contending with the usual shortage of personnel to facilitate the running of conferences and groups, Marriage Preparation continues to operate and to attract increasing numbers of couples.

In the light of the success of the two half-Sunday Conferences held in two months last year (one Conference in Fremantle and one in Leederville) the committee decided to stay with that format for all the Conferences in 1981.

Regretfully, a number of couples failed to show up for the second half Sunday of each Conference. This was most disappointing, but a report has been sent to all parish priests concerning this matter and, hopefully, they will make the couples more aware of the commitment to attend on both days. One can't help feeling concern about the maturity of a couple who seem unable to make a decision to commit themselves to just two half days in preparation for a life-long relationship.

The Wednesday evening groups continue to take place on a fairly regular basis, with five to seven couples attending each one. These are very satisfying experiences for the leaders and, according to the couple assessments, an enriching programme for them also.

Although an evaluation of the success of the work in the area of marriage preparation is, if not impossible, extremely difficult and would require research over many years, one works in the hope of, at least in some way, helping couples towards happy, stable marriages.

It would certainly be gratifying if couples a number of years after their wedding were able to give some feed-back to Marriage Preparation organisations. Perhaps it will happen some day.

In the absence of our Chairman, Father Peter Bianchini, the Director took Marriage Preparation under his care in the capacity of Chairman.

To Esme Manthorpe and to all those who gave of their time and skills during 1980/81 we say thank you very much. It is greatly appreciated.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

Natural Family Planning methods are finding increasing acceptance in the community as an alternative to other forms of contraception. This increase has been very noticeable over the past twelve months.

The number of clients seen for infertility problems has doubled over the past year.

This indicates that the method is much more than a method of family limitation. Knowledge of fertility patterns assists couples having difficulty in conceiving.

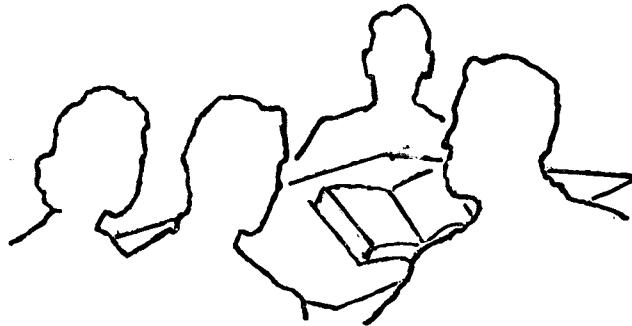
Over the past year there was an increase in new clients. 1285 attended the clinic for the first time and 573 were follow-up appointments.

A total of 141 lectures were given to pre-marriage groups, schools and hospitals.

Two staff members attended the annual conference of Natural Family Planning centres in Sydney.

Of note is the increase in the number of medical referrals as more doctors ask for literature for their waiting rooms.

Led by Maureen Chamberlain, the team of four very busy teachers and counsellors has worked very hard. Their efforts are sincerely appreciated.



The importance of this service in a community where abortion is being actively promoted as a solution to an unwanted pregnancy, is evident in the growing numbers of people seeking its help.

The service has been organized and operated by Maureen Chamberlain and Beatrice MacFarlane who have given Pregnancy Help calls priority over all their other duties.

PREGNANCY HELP

24 hour phone-in service for anyone with a pregnancy problem needing support 325-6919

In May 1981 Corry Schoenmakers, a newly graduated social worker, was appointed part-time co-ordinator of the service. She continues at the same time as part-time Immigration Secretary.

We welcome Corry to Pregnancy Help and promise her every support in the expansion of a very vital service.

Over the past year there have been 755 Pregnancy Help contacts, including phone-calls, office interviews and hospital visits.

Seventy nine Pregnancy Tests have been conducted, of which 55% were negative, 45% positive. 81% of all those tested were unmarried with the greatest number aged between 15 and 20.

Both Maureen Chamberlain and Beatrice MacFarlane have given many talks to schools and community groups about Pregnancy Help.

They have promoted the establishment of a Pregnancy Help service in Rockingham and Albany and helped in the training of the counsellors.

Liaison with the Catholic Hospitals of St Anne's, Mt Lawley, and St John's, Subiaco, has developed well, as have the contacts with trusted and sympathetic doctors for the purpose of referral.

The new co-ordinator, Corry Schoenmakers, attended a Pro-Life Pregnancy Support Conference in Brisbane in May 1981 and brought back a wealth of information and ideas.

Pregnancy Help is to be managed as part of Centrecare by a Committee of Management drawn from Centrecare staff and the general community. It is currently being set up.

The future of Pregnancy Help is, unfortunately, assured, since the pressures to seek abortion continue to increase.

Pregnancy Help must remain as an assurance that there are alternatives to abortion, and that help is available 24 hours a day.

His Grace Archbishop Goody has promised a grant of up to \$10,000 per annum. Funds also come from many generous donors and from the Catholic Charities Fund.

Our sincere thanks go to Maureen Chamberlain, Beatrice MacFarlane, Pam Miller and all the telephone counsellors for developing and offering the service despite their own heavy work load.



COMMUNITY

YOUTH SUPPORT SCHEME



This service for unemployed youth has continued to attract large numbers of participants under the leadership of the co-ordinators Pauline Dean and Doug Robertson.

In its premises at 440 William Street, Perth the project attracted a total of 719 individual participants over the past twelve months. Of these 191 were known to have found full-time employment while attending the project.

There has been a tendency towards a much younger age group of unemployed, 16-18. They are highly motivated and keen to work. There are still unfortunately a number of long-term unemployed, two to three years, who need constant support lest they give in to depression and feelings of worthlessness.

"The Youth Place" has continued to attract a tremendous amount of Community Involvement and participation, with many groups and individuals offering donations. Participants volunteer help and support to a great list of charities and organizations.

Centrecare C.Y.S.S. has continued to offer a very wide range of services during the year. Strong points of the programme include the commercial area - typing, shorthand, office procedure, switchboard, bookkeeping. Bill Mangini's workshop in Gidgegannup offers welding, electronics, woodwork, metalwork, mechanics, photography, job skills, cooking, sewing and crafts.

Many Vietnamese and Kampuchean refugees have made good use of the Centrecare Community Youth Support Scheme.

At least six a day have participated in activities such as sewing, cooking, welding, electronics, and woodwork. Their involvement in the project has worked two-fold.

1. By coming to the project, they are broadening their job prospects by learning a wider range of skills.
2. Their integration into an English-speaking community is made easier if they are in constant situations in which they must respond in English.

Since January of this year, at least 110 Vietnamese and Kampuchean have made good use of the facilities available.

Space continues to be a problem at the Project. Attempts have been made to add more to the working area. A photographic darkroom has been made out of the bathroom. A donation of carpet for the entire house certainly made things a great deal more comfortable. Many new changes are in the pipeline for CYSS as a whole, but these will not be known until late in the year.

Funding is never secure. There are rumours that the C.Y.S.S. projects may be under some threat in the forthcoming Federal Budget.

Once again very sincere thanks to Bill Mangini for his personal services and for the use of his trade facilities at Gidgegannup and to Guido Vogels and his Committee for their tremendous efforts on behalf of the unemployed.

YOUTHCARE

This service (established 1979) has steadily expanded, due to the trained, dedicated and unpaid volunteers and houseleaders. At present there are four communities, one in Perth, Mt Lawley, North Perth and Fremantle, catering for 20 young people.

Mark Goerke was our first partly-paid houseleader, who was replaced by Ms Jo Vitale when he returned to W.A.I.T. An interesting feature has been that all our volunteers have come from C.P.Y and Y.C.W., and in this way the service is run by Youth for Youth.



This service is co-ordinated by Guido Vogels and Doug Robertson and the management committee is chaired by Ivan Banks.

SOURCES OF FUNDING 1980/81

	CHURCH SOURCES		DONATIONS, FEES, ETC.		STATE GOVT.	C'WEALTH GOVT.	TOTALS
CENTRE CARE (FAMILY WELFARE)	\$49,100.00		\$3,723.00		\$9,000.00		\$61,823.00
CATHOLIC IMMIGRATION OFFICE (inc. one Grant- in-aid)	\$5,000.00		\$88.28			\$18,107.61 (Immig. & Ethnic Aff.)	\$23,195.89
HOST FAMILY SCHEME	\$2,500.00		\$67.22			\$17,988.44 (Immig. & Ethnic Aff.)	\$20,555.66
EMERGENCY HOUSING			\$3,114.00			\$14,642.52 (Social Security)	\$17,756.52
CATHOLIC MARRIAGE GUIDANCE COUNCIL	\$9,000.00		\$1,597.04			\$26,300.00 (Attorney General)	\$36,897.04
MARRIAGE PREPARATION	\$500.00		\$3,966.50			\$2,200.00 (Attorney General)	\$6,666.50
NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING		Dioc \$2500 C.C.F. \$2000 \$4,500.00	\$2,548.45			\$8,702.00 (Health)	\$15,750.45
PREGNANCY HELP	\$5,912.00		\$1,033.79				\$6,945.79
COMMUNITY YOUTH SUPPORT SCHEME (unemployed youth)						\$49,933.57	\$49,933.57
	\$76,512.00		\$16,138.28		\$9,000.00	\$137,874.14	\$239,524.42

