

CATHOLIC MARRIAGE GUIDANCE COUNCIL OF W A

1988-1989 ANNUAL REPORT

TONY PIETROPICCOLO
DIRECTOR
CENTRE CARE MARRIAGE & FAMILY SERVICE
456 HAY STREET
PERTH, WA 6000



...ed to ...

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

The Catholic Marriage Guidance Council of W A has continued to operate under the name of Centrecare Marriage and Family Service - Marriage Counselling Section (the Perth agency) and operates under the name "Family Care" in Geraldton (See Appendix A).

- 1.2 This report will provide an overview of the clinical, administrative and training/staff development aspects of the agency's Marriage Counselling Section. Only a limited statistical profile will be provided, as the analysis of relevant statistics is now provided by the Attorney-General's Department. An audited financial statement and staff list are attached.

2. STATISTICAL PROFILE (PERTH)

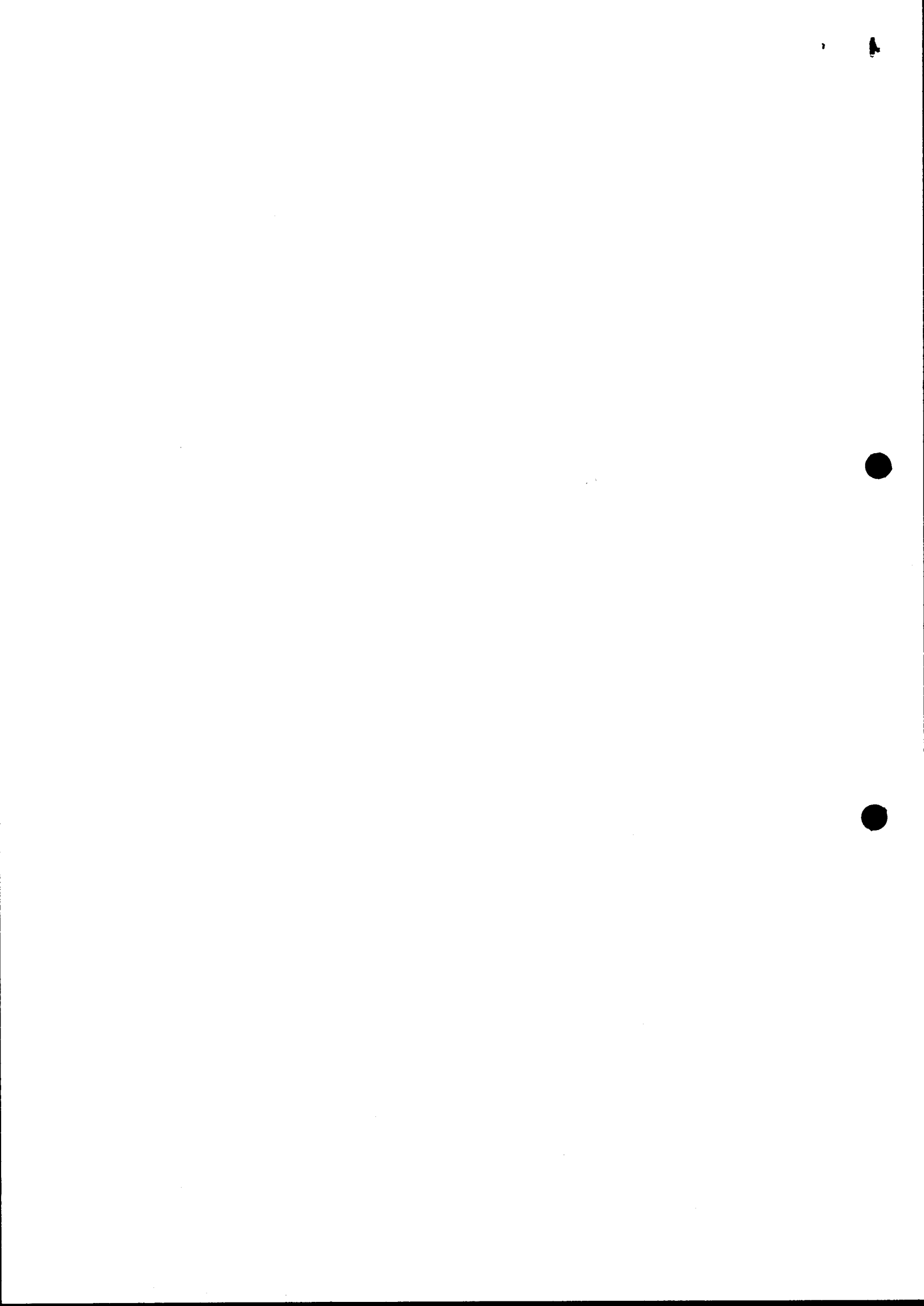
The total number of marriage counselling cases	:	430
Total number of marriage counselling interviews	:	1499

These statistics are tentative and are subject to correction once the Attorney-General's Department has finalised its analyses of the agency's statistical returns.

3. CLINICAL MATTERS

3.1 Availability of Service

- (i) Persons seeking marriage counselling continue to be received via the Intake System. The intake workers allocate clients to the most appropriate counsellor according to the client's needs.
- (ii) Whilst the waiting period between "intake" and the first available appointment has fluctuated from an immediate appointment to approximately three weeks, it has tended to slowly increase in length as the year progressed. The availability of counsellors and the client's wish for evening appointments are the two factors which have affected, in the main, the length of the waiting period.
- (iii) If clients have been unable to receive a time for their first appointment at "intake" they have been routinely advised where they can seek marriage counselling at alternative venues. There was no occasion throughout the year when it was considered necessary to actively refer clients to other agencies.
- (iv) There has been a slight increase in the number of clients who either cancelled or "did not attend" for their first appointment. This was generally related to the length of their wait for a first appointment. This was not considered to be a significant problem.



3.2 Service Delivery:

- (i) By far the greatest emphasis has been on the provision of counselling sessions to couples, or one partner alone;
- (ii) There have been consistent efforts throughout the year however to provide marriage counselling services in different formats. This was primarily achieved through the agency's Group Programme. Those groups which specifically related to relationship issues included:
 - Assertiveness training (one group)
 - Stress management (one group)
 - The end .. and a new beginning (for recently separated, divorced people) (four groups)
 - Healing of memories (one group)
 - Learning to trust again (two groups).
- (iii) Talks related to marriage, family and marriage counselling have been provided as follows :

Secondary school students	:	6
Community Groups	:	7

3.3 Outreach:

- (i) Efforts have been made to promote the work of the agency and the earlier use of marriage counselling by meeting with parish priests within the Perth diocese and by securing media coverage within the Catholic press. The coverage consisted of two pages profiling marriage counselling, the nature of marriage counselling, an overview of "who" and "why" people seek counselling and two hypothetical case examples. (It has been of some concern to the agency for some time that the number of referrals from church personnel is lower than expected).
- (ii) A brochure " Couple Counselling" was produced, along with a number of other brochures describing the various programmes of the agency. This brochure has assisted with the promotional activities of the agency.
- (iii) The agency has been active in the W.A. Marriage and Family Week Committee by participating with the planning, organisation, promotion and delivery of activities.
- (iv) The Co-ordinator has been a member of a committee of the North Beach Parish which has established a parish-based counselling service (generic). The parish employs a clinical psychologist who offers a range of clinical services. the service has maintained close professional ties with the agency through the provision of supervision, professional development and peer support.
- (v) Similarly, the Co-ordinator has been involved with a committee from the Kalgoorlie parish, which is working to establish a local marriage and family counselling service. The co-ordinator travelled to Kalgoorlie on two occasions through the year and provided information and consultation on other occasions.



- (vi) Negotiations have taken place with a metropolitan agency, Communicare at Cannington, for the agency to provide marriage counselling from their premises. Such a service is intended to provide a part-time after hours service to the south east metropolitan area which, to date, remains unserved in relation to marriage counselling.
- (vii) Finally, and not least importantly, the Perth agency has worked with the Geraldton branch, Family Care, to expand its marriage counselling service, which benefitted considerably from the Attorney-General's Department. Family Care appointed a part-time marriage counsellor, Mrs Beatrice McFarlane, who commenced employment in March 1989. The Co-ordinator and the Project Officer of the National Catholic Association of Family Agencies, travelled to Geraldton early in March 1989 and met with the Director, Co-ordinator and Treasurer of Family Care. In addition to administrative issues, the provision of supervision and professional development were negotiated. The Co-ordinator liaised with the marriage counsellor after her appointment on an intermittent basis.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

4.1 Management Board

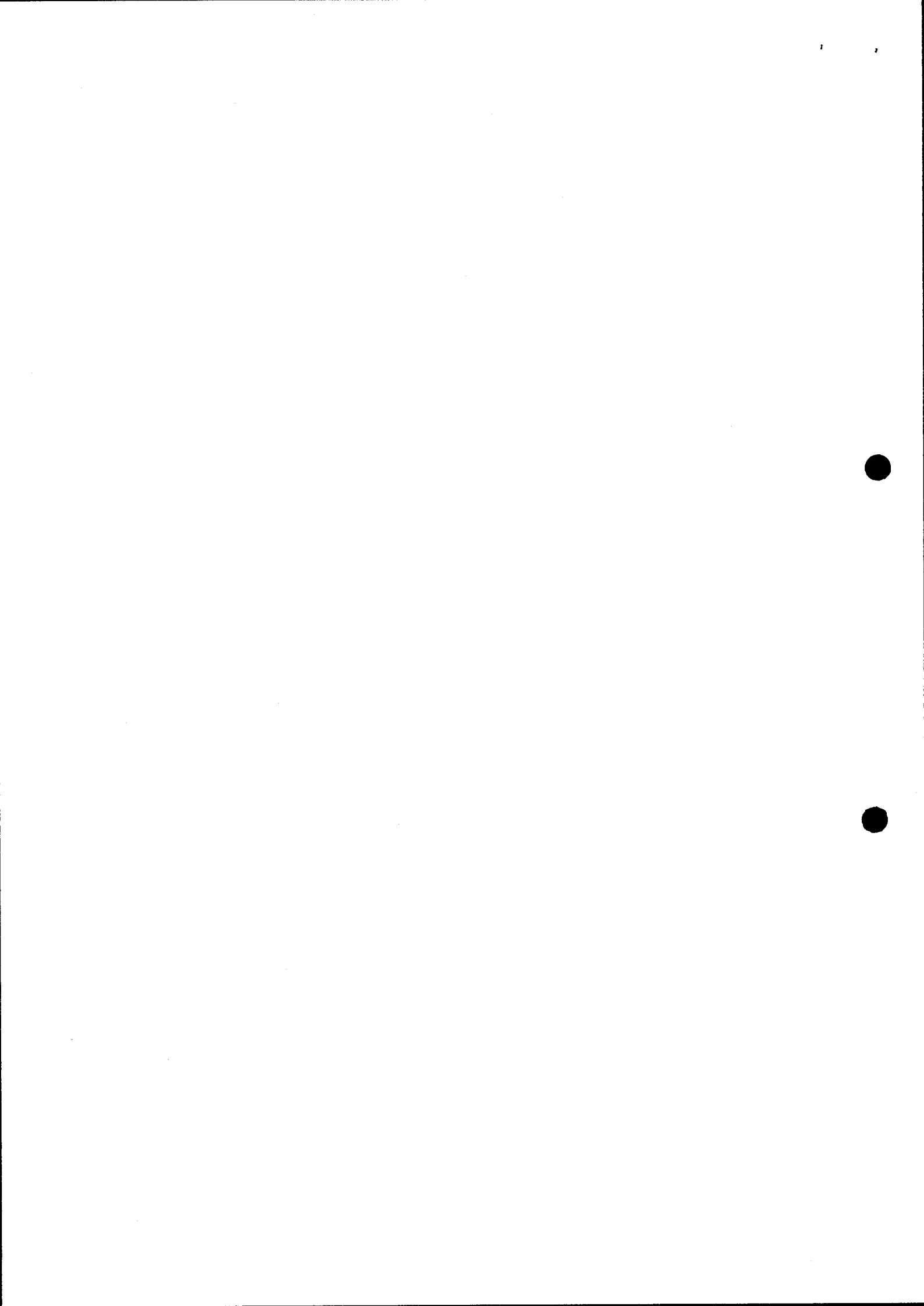
The Management Board has continued to meet on a monthly basis. Its membership was increased from 6 to 7 members during the year. Sr Pat Doyle resigned from the Board and Sr Pauline O'Connor and Diana Choquette joined the Board. Kevin Wringe continued as Chairman of the Board. Senior staff (Director, Co-ordinators) attended Board meetings as ex-officio members; however the June 1988 meeting was the last to be attended by Co-ordinators.

Whilst the board is concerned with the overall development and operation of the agency, it has also been concerned with projects associated with the development and delivery of marriage counselling services. These projects include :

- (i) The development of Catholic Marriage Counselling services on a state-wide basis, and also at various metropolitan centres within the Perth diocese;
- (ii) The re-writing of a Constitution for the agency;
- (iii) Review of salaries and conditions for agency employees;
- (iv) Review of Catholic social welfare within the Perth diocese;
- (v) Acquisition of improved accommodation and resources for the agency.

4.2 Director

The Archbishop, through the W.A. Catholic Social Welfare Commission and the Management board, appointed a Director to the agency in April 1989. The Director is Mr Tony Pietropiccolo, who came to the agency from a position at the Family Court Counselling Service.



4.3 Staffing

There continued to be an improvement in the full-time equivalent of marriage counselling hours in the agency during the year. At the close of the year, the availability of marriage counselling staff was the equivalent of 3.5 workers (compared with 2.5 workers at the close of the previous year). Volunteer marriage counsellors further expanded the availability of marriage counselling by an additional 1.2 x full-time equivalent worker.

There were a number of staff changes throughout the year. Peggy Murphy, a sessional marriage counsellor, returned to Ireland in November 1988, and Jem Mesticelli, a volunteer marriage counsellor, took extended leave as from January 1989 in order to take up a country teaching appointment. Bill Robinson and Gail Platt both joined the agency in January 1989, as part-time marriage counsellors, Celia Joyce and Martin McAteer, both joined the agency for varying periods as locum counsellors.

The agency continues to be involved with the training of marriage counsellors, but the way in which this is being pursued is in transition. Two trainees who completed their academic/theoretical training at the WA Marriage Guidance Council, are completing their clinical training in the agency. They are Paul Kerin and Julie Taylor. A third trainee, Barbara Berthold, withdrew from the training programme in October 1988. The co-ordinator has served as a member of the Advisory Committee to the WA College of Advanced Education's post-graduate counselling course - Graduate Diploma in Counselling. One stream of this course is in marriage and family counselling. It is envisaged that the agency will offer practicum opportunities to students from this course during 1989. The need for "in-house" or "inter-agency" training programmes for marriage counselling will be further reviewed once the success of the course is more apparent.

As from January 1989, the payment of sessional rates was revised. The agency now employs staff on a part-time basis for, if necessary, fixed periods of time; rather than paying sessional rates according to hours worked. This system is viewed as more just and equitable for staff, and is administratively easier.

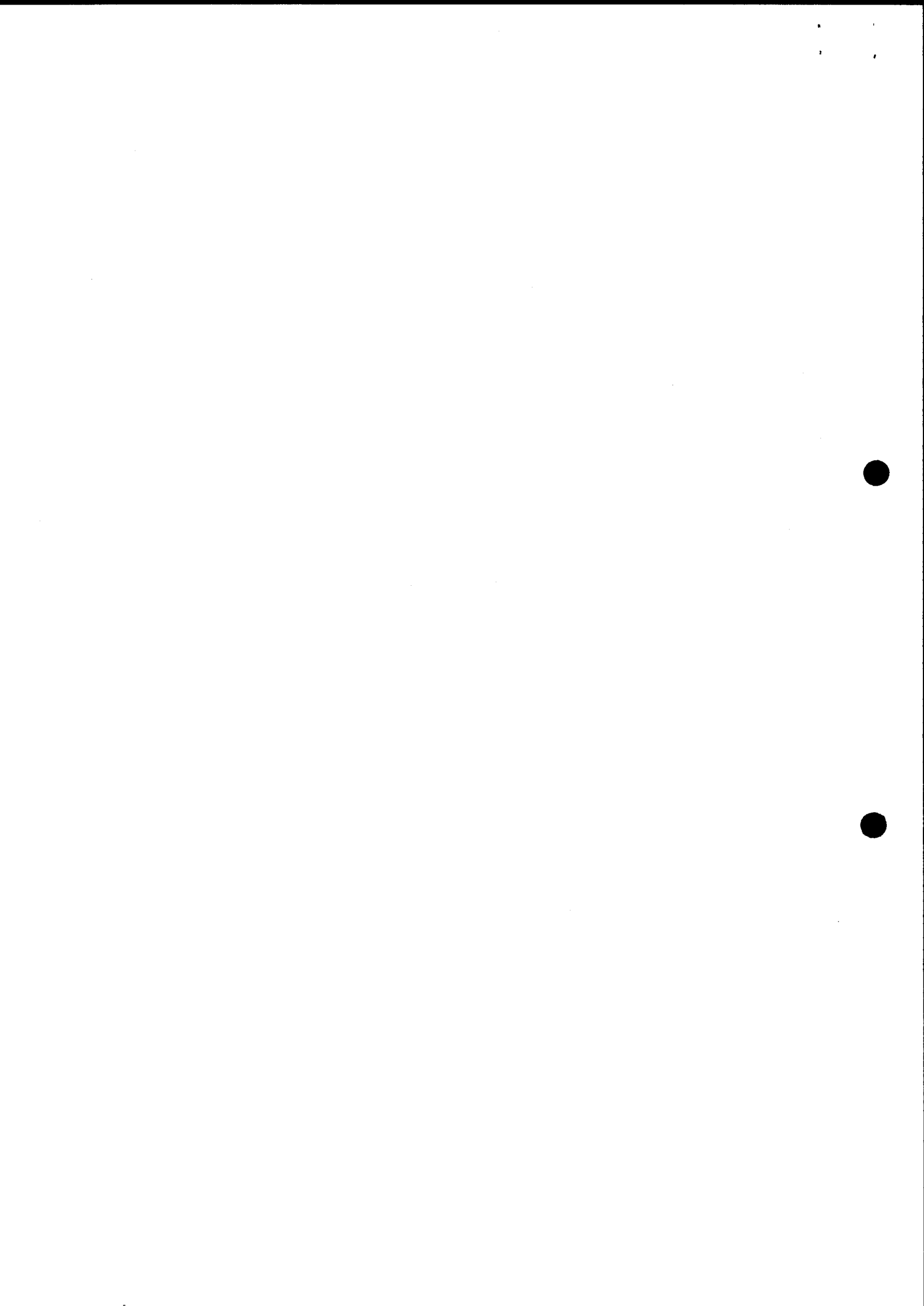
The employment of volunteer marriage counsellors continues on the basis of the motivation of the current volunteers. There was no active recruitment of volunteers during the year, nor is such recruitment envisaged in the future.

4.4 Intake System

The Intake System has continued to operate with some modifications. The most significant change was the "splitting" of the position and the creation of two positions. This change has obviously lessened the burden on one worker. The system operates effectively and ensures clients are allocated to the most appropriate counsellor according to their needs.

4.5 Supervision

All marriage counsellors have received supervision on a fortnightly basis, at least. In addition, some marriage counsellors have attended a monthly "group supervision" session.



Supervisors have met on a regular basis. For the first six months of the year this was at "Staff Development and Support Committee" meetings which were held monthly. This committee considered a number of professional issues which concerned a range of aspects of agency functioning. It was decided to split the function of the Committee as its brief and membership had become too broad. As a result, for the second six months of the year, supervisors met monthly for a "Supervisors' Meeting". This meeting considers both administrative and professional matters.

4.6 Professional Development

Staff have benefitted from a number of professional development options throughout the year. Most have attended training programmes organised by other agencies or tertiary institutions (e.g. Addictions, Sex Therapy, AIDS, Domestic Violence, Child Sexual Abuse, Self-esteem, Family Therapy). "In-house" professional development programmes offered through the year were :

- Family Counselling Study Group (2 hours once a fortnight);
- Dependency, Co-dependency and Counselling (half-day workshop);
- Child Sexual Abuse (four x 2 hour sessions held once a month)

4.7 Accreditation and Re-accreditation

All marriage counsellors were either successfully accredited or re-accredited in October 1988. Whilst this was a foreboding task for some counsellors, the Accreditation Committee was, on the whole, impressed with the standard of marriage counselling presented by candidates. The Accreditation Committee consisted of the Co-ordinator, the counsellor's supervisor (or another supervisor if the Co-ordinator was also the counsellor's supervisor) and an external member, who was a staff marriage counsellor from Centrecare Bunbury.

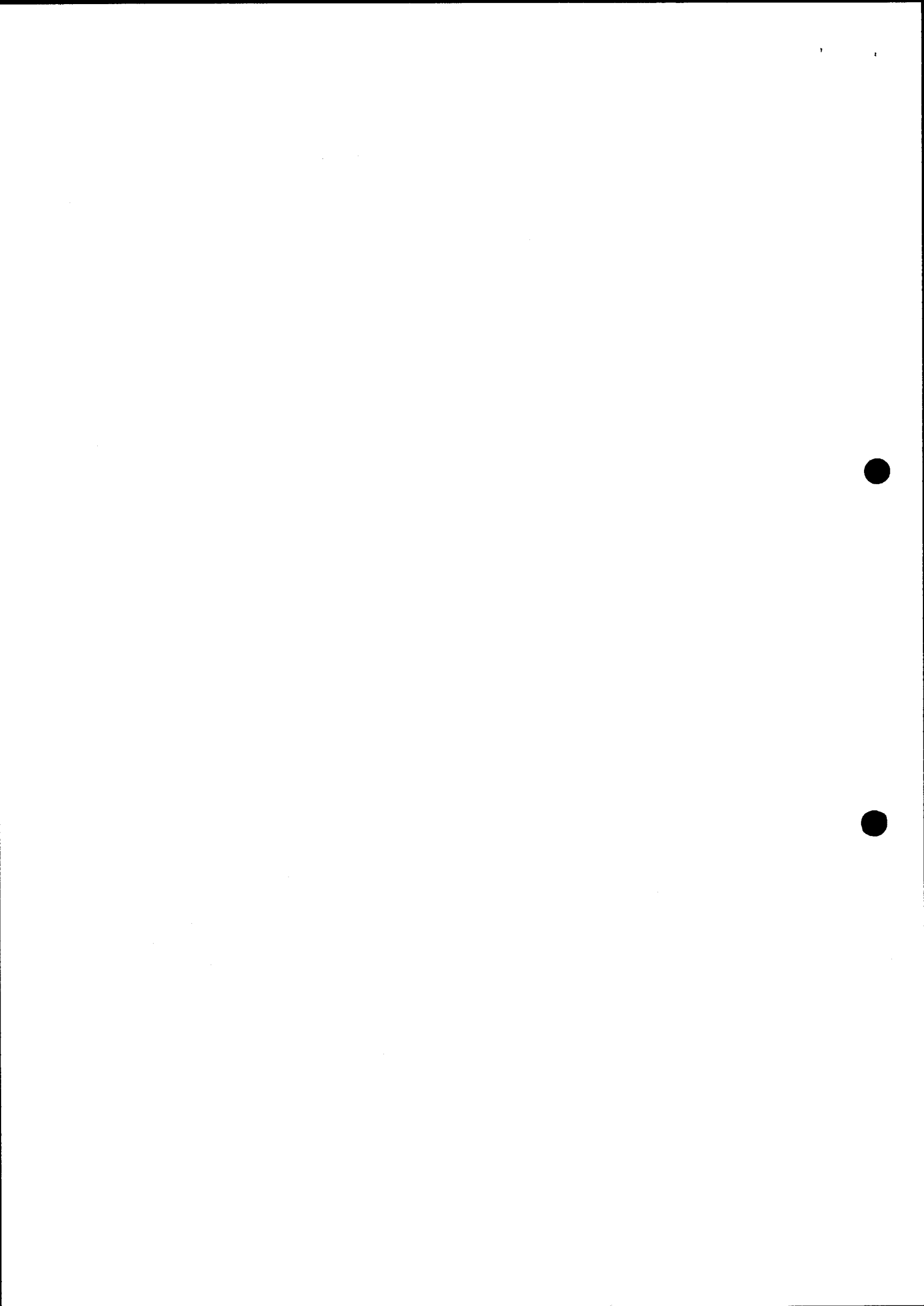
4.8 State Division

Those agencies (Perth, Geraldton and Bunbury) involved with the delivery of Catholic marriage counselling services in W.A. have met on a quarterly basis throughout the year as the W.A. Division of the National Catholic Association of Family Agencies. The Directors and another senior staff member met to discuss both administrative and professional matters. The greater sharing of expertise and training opportunities is planned for the coming year.

4.9 New Premises and Improved Resources

In December 1988, the Church purchased a two storey building at 456 Hay Street, Perth, for Centrecare Marriage and Family Service's new (and much awaited) accommodation. The building is in the process of renovation and refurbishment in order to meet our particular needs. Occupation is expected to take place later in 1989.

The purchase of new equipment, including computers, has been delayed until the agency has occupied the new premises.



4.10 Affiliations

The agency is actively involved with the two peak marriage counselling bodies with which it is affiliated - the National Catholic Association of Marriage and Family Agencies and the Australian Council of Marriage Counselling Organisations.

Chris Hall, the Project Officer of NCAFA, made one visit to Perth in February, March 1989. He has also been available to advise, provide resources and for consultation throughout the year. His support and assistance to the Perth agency and the W A Division has been very valuable.

The Co-ordinator attended ACOMCO's Annual General meeting and the Clinical Workshop held in Canberra in February 1989. Participation in these activities was beneficial to the agency, in particular, through the opportunities to be involved and active in marriage counselling matters at a national level.

5. CONCLUDING COMMENTS:

The marriage counselling service offered by Centrecare Marriage and Family Service in 1988-89 has continued to be of a high standard and has been able to respond to the growing demand for such services through slightly expanded staff resources. That demand continues to grow however at a rate greater than that at which the agency's staff resources are able to expand.

The dedication and skill of the marriage counsellors and support staff are acknowledged and appreciated. The support and assistance of Archbishop Foley, the staff of the Attorney-General's Department, the staff and commissioners of the W A Catholic Social Welfare Commission, Mr Ron Edwards, MHR, Mr Chris Hall, National Project Officer of NCAFA and the Executive and members of both NCAFA and ACOMCO are also sincerely acknowledged and valued.

TONY PIETROPICCOLO
Director.



A U D I T C E R T I F I C A T E

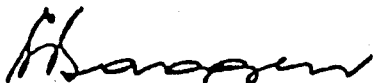
Having examined the Records of Receipts and Payments for the Grant Period to 30 June 1989 relating to the Income and Expenditure Statements of Centrecare Marriage and Family Service -

1. Marriage Guidance Counselling Programmes, Perth;
2. Marriage Guidance Counselling Programme, Geraldton, for which a separate Audit Certificate has been provided and having incorporated their accounts into these Statements;

I hereby certify that in my opinion -

- a) The Income and Expenditure Statements portray a true and correct view of their financial activities for the year and that the whole of the expenditures have been applied to the Programmes as mentioned and have not been used for any other purpose;
- b) That the Statement of Assets and Liabilities reflects the true and correct financial positions as at that date.

DATED at MOUNT CLAREMONT this *21st* day of October, 1989.



EGIDIUS BAGGEN A.A.S.A.
148 Rochdale Road
MOUNT CLAREMONT, 6010.



MARRIAGE GUIDANCE COUNSELLING PROGRAMME

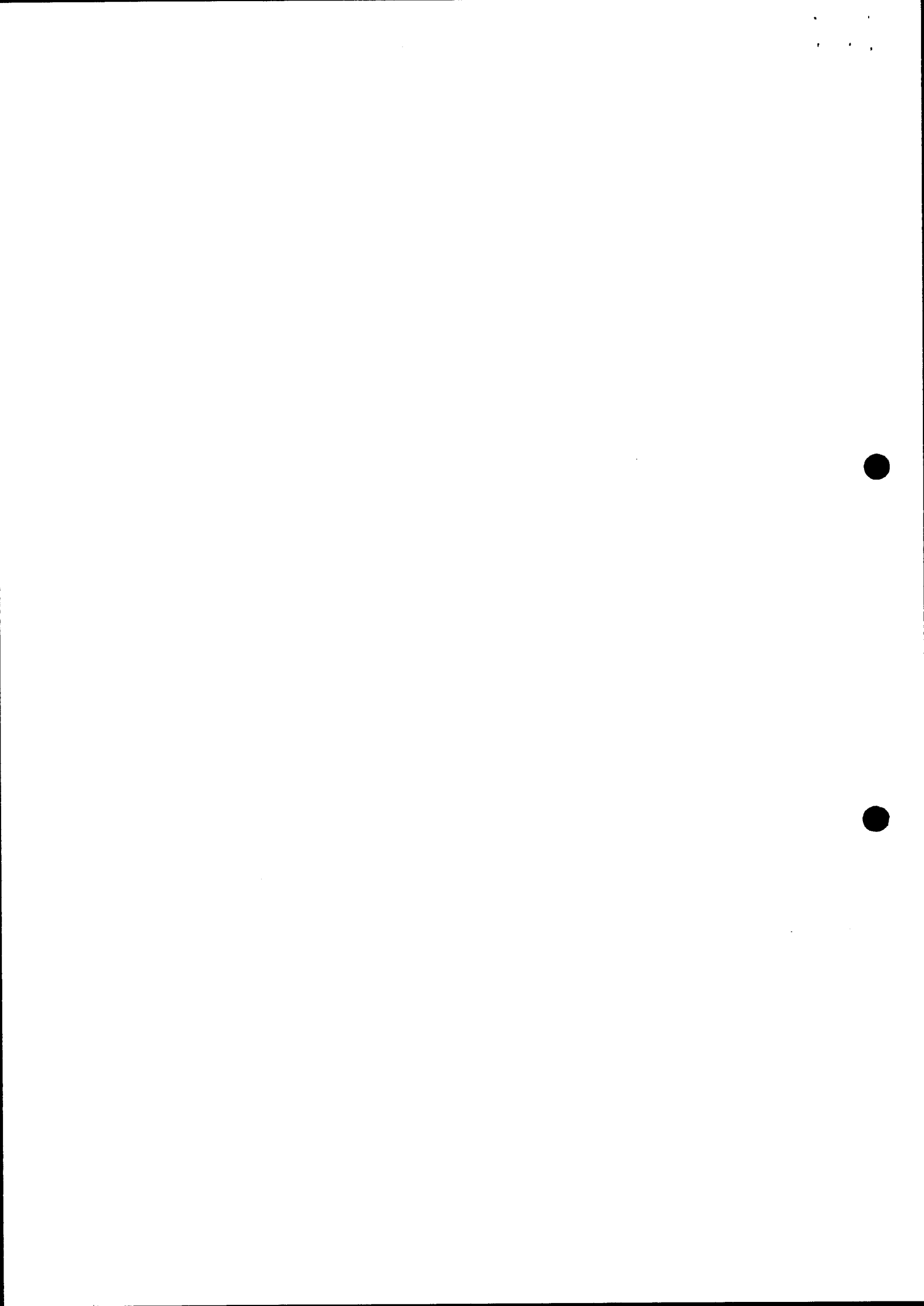
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1989

	Perth \$	Geraldton \$	Total \$
SALARIES			
Co-ordinator	19,722	-	19,722
Professional	61,764	5,874	67,638
Clerical	28,852	-	28,852
Sessional and Groups	6,872	500	7,372
Superannuation	2,189	-	2,189
Workers compensation	1,235	-	1,235
Fares	1,000	310	1,310
TOTAL SALARIES	121,634	6,684	128,318
OTHER EXPENSES			
Accountancy	3,250	-	3,250
Advertising/Recruiting	623	66	689
Conference Travel, Fees and Expenses	1,190	978	2,168
Furniture and fittings	1,175	-	1,175
Insurances	578	-	578
Library	403	-	403
Office Amenities - Volunteers	480	-	480
Outreach	420	-	420
Postages	309	40	349
Printing and Stationery	2,714	561	3,275
Rents, Rates and Taxes	5,000	1,240	6,240
Power	1,400	-	1,400
Staff Training	997	-	997
Tapes and Books for Resale	1,348	-	1,348
Seminars	850	-	850
Subscriptions	810	22	832
Supervision - Airfares	-	1,440	1,440
Telephone	3,000	249	3,249
Establishment Costs		6,244	6,244
Office Equipment	\$345		
Library	500		
Soundproof door	200		
Headliner for Office	400		
Chair	300		
Photocopier	3,499		
Removal Expenses	1,000		
TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES	24,547	10,840	35,387
TOTAL ALL EXPENDITURE	141,181	17,524	163,705
INCOME CAME FROM -			
Grant - Australian Attorney General	77,000	16,000	93,000
Subsidy - Diocesan Chancery	56,927	1,240	58,167
Donations	9,288	95	9,383
Group Counselling	2,808	-	2,808
Interest	60	727	787
Sale of Tapes	98	-	98
TOTAL INCOME	146,181	18,062	164,243
RESULTING SURPLUS	nil	538	538



STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 30 JUNE 1989

	Perth \$	Geraldton \$	Total \$
ASSETS			
Balance at Bank	1,505		1,505
Diocesan Chancery Deposit	17,728	538	18,266
TOTAL ASSETS	19,233	538	19,771
 LIABILITIES			
Archdiocesan Chancery 1989/90 Advance Subsidy	8,115	-	8,118
Provision for Computerisation including interest	5,624	-	5,624
Provision for Attorney General	5,100	-	5,100
Funded counselling	394	-	394
Accrual for salaries		538	538
Surplus			
TOTAL LIABILITIES EQUALLING TOTAL ASSETS	19,233	538	19,771



MARRIAGE COUNSELLING

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE

FOR YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 1989

Receipts

Commonwealth Government Grant	8,000.00
Diocese of Geraldton Charitable Trust - Subsidy	1,240.00
Donations	95.00
Interest	508.33
Transfer from Family Care	8,217.96

18,061.

Payments

Rent	1,240.00
Telephone	249.07
Office Equipment	345.00
Printing, Advertising and Stationery	560.50
Stamps	40.00
Transfer Family Care	7,183.25
Salaries	5,874.00
Removal Expenses	1,000.00
Travelling Expenses	310.00
Subscription	22.00
Honorarium	500.00
Soundproof Door	200.00

17,523.

Closing Balance - Diocesan Development Fund

537.

AUDIT REPORT

I have audited the books and accounts of Marriage Counselling for year ended 30th June 1989 and in my opinion the above statement correctly sets out the transactions for the year.

Geraldton

13th October 1989



CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT



NOTES:

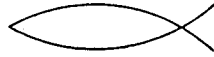
1. The initial A.G. Grant of \$8000 was deposited in the Family Care A/c while the Marriage Counselling division was preparing its own separate account. The money was then transferred, with interest, to the Marriage Counselling A/c.
2. The sum of \$7183.25 was transferred to the Family Care A/c when books were closed towards the end of the financial year to enable the following expenditures to be made before the close of the financial year -

	\$
Library books & journals	500.00
Annual Conference of the A.C.A.F.A.	978.00
Publicity (reimbursement)	66.25
Airfares for supervision	1440.00
Headliner (office use)	400.00
Chair	300.00
Photocopier	3499.00
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	7183.25
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CENTRE FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY SERVICE

456 Hay Street, Perth, W.A. 6000
Telephone: 325 6644. Fax: 221 3631



Counselling & Support Service
Catholic Archdiocese of Perth

STAFFING OF THE MARRIAGE COUNSELLING SECTION 1988-89

NAME	DESIGNATION	MARRIAGE COUNSELLING HOURS	STATUS
WRINGE Kevin	Chairman, Management Board	-	Administrative
BYER Fr. Geoff	Member, Management Board	-	Administrative
CHOQUETTE Diana	Member, Management Board	-	Administrative
GOERKE Joe	Member, Management Board	-	Administrative
McDERMOTT Tony	Member, Management Board	-	Administrative
O'CONNOR Sr. Pauline	Member, Management Board	-	Administrative
WOLTON Jim	Member, Management Board	-	Administrative
PIETROPICCOLO Tony	Director	-	Administrative
van KEPPEL Margaret	Co-Ordinator (Half-time)	-	Administrative and Supervisory
MEYNERT Wendy	Marriage Counsellor (Full-time)	100%	Clinical and Supervisory
HAMMER Patsy	Intake Worker/Marriage Counsellor (3.5 days)	100%	Clinical, Supervisory and Outreach
ROBINSON Bill	Intake Worker/Marriage Counsellor (4 days)	100%	Clinical
PLATT Gail	Marriage Counsellor (3 days)	100%	Clinical
SMITH Reg	Marriage Counsellor (Part-time)	100%	Clinical (Honorarium)
BOGUE Marion	Marriage Counsellor (Part-time)	100%	Clinical (Volunteer)
COLLOPY Margaret	Marriage Counsellor (Part-time)	100%	Clinical (Volunteer)
HALL Karen	Marriage Counsellor (Part-time)	100%	Clinical (Volunteer)
KERIN Paul	Trainee Marr. Counsellor (Pt-time)	100%	Clinical (Intern)
TAYLOR Julie	Trainee Marr. Counsellor (Pt-time)	100%	Clinical (Intern)
THOLD Barbara	Trainee Marr. Counsellor - withdrew October 1988		
MURPHY Peggy	Marriage Counsellor - resigned November 1988		
JOYCE Celia	Locum Marriage Counsellor - July 1988 to January 1989		
MESTICHELLI Jem	Marriage Counsellor - extended leave from January 1989		
McATEER Martin	Locum Marriage Counsellor - commenced June 1989		
McGUINNESS Delia	Secretary/Office Manager	-	Administrative
PURVES Noelle	Receptionist/Typist	-	Administrative
HARRIS Barbara	Receptioniste/Typiste	-	Administrative
BLAKE Sue	Receptioniste - resigned February 1989		



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Professional counselling is rather new in Geraldton. It could be that over time counselling becomes far more acceptable to both men and women.

3. FUTURE DIRECTIONS

It is hoped that the Counsellor will be able to make extended visits of three or four weeks at a time to large communities in the Northwest of the State, such as Karratha and Port Hedland. Such visits could combine counselling with group education/therapy sessions for people with marital problems.

4. SUPERVISION

Apart from frequent peer contacts the Counsellor has in Geraldton, supervision is offered on a formal basis each month by the W.A. Marriage Guidance Council in Perth. This agency pays fares to and from Perth and is grateful to the W.A. Marriage Guidance Council for providing supervision free of charge for this initial period.

5. BROADER SERVICE

The Marriage Counselling service is located within the broader agency that assists families and individuals with a range of material and social supports. The counselling service is kept separate in its financial accountability, its appointments and through its Committee of Management, but it shares in the community profile of the Family Care Centre.

6. ASSESSMENT

The initial response to the service has been good. Local publicity on radio and in newspapers has been favourable and has raised awareness of the service in the general community.

It is seen as a service to which any person, Christian or not, is welcome.



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This has been a year of considerable growth and development. When I first went through the minutes of the Board meetings I was surprised by the number of issues which had been dealt with by the service during 1991.

The year was also marked by the death of our much respected Archbishop William Foley, a sad loss for Centrecare Marriage and Family Services. He had done a great deal for Catholic Welfare Services within the Archdiocese and we all held him as a friend, supporter and leader of great value.

Despite our loss the service has accomplished a great deal during the year and I can only comment briefly on some of the most important developments.

The already high professional reputation of the Agency was further enhanced by Margaret van Keppel's contribution to the Adoption's scene and presentation by her of a paper at an international forum in Scotland.

Similarly, Francesca Robinson of the Parent Teen Link service studied the methods of "Brief Family Therapy" in the U.S.A. and delivered a number of highly successful workshops to other family therapists on her return to Perth.

The Agency was congratulated by the Alcohol and Drug Authority on the quality of another workshop for professionals presented by "de Shazer and Berg" who were sponsored by Centrecare to come to Perth during 1991.

Further, a submission presented to the Community Services Department by the Supported Accommodation workers, ably led by Jan Oliver, won the praise of the Department for its innovation and sound service development.

Another high point of the year was the opening of Goldfields Centrecare in Kalgoorlie. This service operates under the immediate guidance of a local committee within the wider jurisdiction of the Centrecare Board. Goldfields Centrecare now provides a much needed service within that region and is increasingly valued in the community.

Within Pregnancy Help, a policy paper covering some of the more difficult areas was developed and is already helping to clarify the Agency's role. Pregnancy Help aims directly to assist women with unplanned pregnancies but the counsellors must often deal with requests for information about a number of related health care issues as well as provide counselling support to women who have suffered past trauma in this area.

Y900

Perhaps our biggest challenge for the future is developing services in ways which are both relevant to contemporary need and which can be funded within the limits of Diocesan and other sources of income.

The Agency, in conjunction with the Board of Centrecare, Bunbury, invited a member of Centacare Sydney, to appraise us of a development in that state where their Agency provides counselling services to employees of large corporations at fees which help defray other Agency costs.

This and other forms of financing will become a major concern of the Board and Management during 1992. While it is difficult to see any easy way out of the conflict between the presently diminishing financial resources and the growing demand for service we must face a challenge which I am confident that Centrecare, backed by the Catholic community of the Archdiocese will be able to meet.

Effective counselling and welfare services depend on trained and experienced professional leadership which must be paid for at rates which do not fall below that which is fair and equitable. The Church cannot afford to breach its own commitments to justice in the salary area. In this context it is pleasing to the Board that a reasonable salary package was finally arranged for the Agency's Director.

Marriage Counselling continues to be a highly valued service. During the year a total of over counselling sessions were undertaken. Waiting periods have been longer than desirable and this area too will need further attention in 1992.

During the year the Board lost the services of Kevin Wringe, the founding chairperson. During the first three years of the Board Kevin functioned virtually as a managing chairperson in the absence of a permanent Director's position. Kevin gave his time freely and generously. His departure to a full time position with the Catholic Care Commission is truly a loss to Centrecare.

Another member of the Board since its inception, Tony McDermott also left during 1991 to take up an appointment as Director of Centrecare, Townsville. Tony's contribution, also given freely and generously, will likewise be missed.

On behalf of the Board I would also like to congratulate the Director and staff of the Agency for their achievements in 1991. I believe that the Church is fortunate to have such a high level of skilled and committed staff who make a major contribution to the welfare and counselling scene in the Archdiocese.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity of congratulating Archbishop, Barry James Hickey, on his appointment to the Archdiocese. Archbishop Hickey knew Centrecare well in the past having been at one time its Director. We look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with him.

Joe Goerke
CHAIRPERSON
Board of Management

