



## No. 125 – July 2011

*From the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council,  
the social justice and human rights agency of the Catholic Church in Australia*

<http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

### IN THIS ISSUE ...

- From the Secretariat
- Current Issues/Resources
- Latest Publications
- This Month's Notices
- News Monitor
- Social Justice Calendar

### FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Dear Friends,

Social Justice Sunday this year falls on 25 September.

The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council is preparing for the launch in September of the Australia Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement for 2011-2012. In this year's Statement, the Catholic bishops of Australia urge all Australians to think about the conditions in our prisons, and to ask who are most likely to find themselves there and why.

The Statement, titled *Building Bridges, Not Walls: Prisons and the justice system*, points out that over the past two decades, while rates of crime either stayed steady or fell, the number of Australians in prison almost doubled. The majority of Australian prisoners come from the most disadvantaged sections of the community: the underprivileged, those suffering from mental illness, and especially Indigenous people, who make up about 2.3 per cent of the Australian population but about a quarter of those in prison. The incarceration

rate for young Indigenous people is even higher.

The disproportionate growth in imprisonment has come about in part because of repeated law-and-order election campaigns and sensationalist reporting, which encourage the idea that crime is out of control. Certainly there will always be a need for prisons, but it is time for Australians to ask what they expect from their prison systems.

Is jail simply somewhere to warehouse wrongdoers until they have served their sentences, or can it be a place where people learn to become responsible members of the wider society? How can we support those who have committed no crime but suffer terribly because their loved ones are incarcerated? This is an issue that especially affects children with a parent who has been imprisoned.

And what can we do to support those who have paid their debt to society but must overcome obstacles to finding work, a place to live and a place in our community?

The Statement celebrates the work of chaplains and all who work to bring hope and support to prisoners.

Jesus Christ never neglected outcasts and criminals - in fact, he sought them out to bring them his message of salvation and redemption. Inspired by the message and ministry of Jesus, the bishops present us with five challenges: to confront fear campaigns about law and order; to address the social factors that contribute to crime; to maintain the dignity of prisoners; to help prisoners after release; and to seek practical alternatives to imprisonment.

No crime can diminish the fact that we are all created in the image and likeness of God. In our parishes and our communities, let us consider how we can make a difference for those in prison and seeking bridges to a new life.

## To Order

Parishes, schools and groups can order printed copies (minimum of 10) from the ACSJC.

Order form and cost details can be found on the ACSJC website (<http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>) or call the Secretariat on (02) 8306 3499.

## Social Justice Sunday - Complementary Resources

The ACSJC produces a range of complementary resources to assist parish communities, schools and social justice groups to celebrate Social Justice Sunday.

Among the resources that will be available on the ACSJC website over the coming months will be:

- Social Justice Sunday Liturgy notes
- PowerPoint presentation
- Community/School education kit

Resources that are very useful in parishes and schools are the Social Justice Sunday Prayer Card and “Ten Steps” leaflet.

These can be ordered from the ACSJC Secretariat on (02) 8306 3499.

## Promotion

A possible entry in your parish or school newsletter could be:

We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on 25 September.

This year’s Social Justice Statement is titled: ‘Building Bridges, not Walls: Prisons and the justice system’.

The Statement asks Catholics to think about conditions in our prisons, who is sentenced to prison and why. Rates of imprisonment in Australia have risen sharply although levels of crime have remained steady. The most disadvantaged in Australia are the most likely to be imprisoned.

For further details about the Social Justice Statement, visit the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council website ([www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au)) or call (02) 8306 3499.

Any assistance you can give in spreading the word about Social Justice Sunday and this Bishops’ Statement about prisons and the justice system would be greatly appreciated.

John Ferguson  
National Executive Officer



## Current Issues / Resources

### ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUNDAY (3 JULY)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday is celebrated this Sunday. Liturgy notes as well as other valuable resources, including children’s activities, for use throughout the year are available for download on the websites of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council and Bishops Conference websites (<http://www.natsicc.org.au/>; [http://www.catholic.org.au/index.php?option=com\\_docman&Itemid=309](http://www.catholic.org.au/index.php?option=com_docman&Itemid=309)). Bishop Christopher Prowse says, ‘Each year the Catholic Church in Australia celebrates Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islander Sunday, usually on the first Sunday of July. On this day, 3 July 2011, we pray with and for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sisters and brothers. We are invited, also, to reflect on our own attitudes and actions. ... I invite you to make full use of these resources’.

### DISCUSSION PAPER - ‘STRONGER FUTURES IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY’

The Prime Minister and Indigenous Affairs Minister have released a Discussion Paper as the basis for consultations on future plans to address disadvantage in NT communities with

a particular focus on improved education for children, expanded employment opportunities and tackling alcohol abuse. In a signalled change to the direction taken under the Northern Territory Intervention, the PM and Indigenous Affairs Minister say, 'It is our intention to ensure that consultation is genuine and involves the advice and experience of people on the ground'. For further information and to access the paper, visit: <http://www.indigenous.gov.au/index.php/stronger-futures-in-the-northern-territory/>

#### MEDIA STATEMENT CONCERNING 'STRONGER FUTURES'

In a media statement of 27 June, former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser has criticised the haste with which the consultations in the Northern Territory are being undertaken. He said, 'A 28 page document written only in English is incapable of being fully understood and absorbed by Aboriginal communities in the time that the government has allegedly made available.

'The 28 page document published by the government provides no adequate measure of what has or has not been achieved of the 4 years of the Intervention. It does mention the numbers of houses constructed or being constructed, but it does not say where. It gives no measure of school attendance. ... It gives no measure of progress in health and healthcare. It gives no measure of a reduction in alleged child abuse or in drunkenness. Is there any measure of closing the gap in life expectancy? It provides no adequate measure of improvement which the government claims has accompanied income management. It does not measure the task still remaining.

'How can the government embark on consultations for the years ahead when it is not prepared to lay out the facts of what has happened over the last 4 years. ... Therefore the facts which we are asking for need to be related to particular communities', says Mr Fraser. (refer: <http://www.concernedaustralians.com.au/>)

#### REPORT - 'DOING TIME, TIME FOR DOING'

The Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs has released its Inquiry Report, Doing Time-Time for

Doing, which considers the range of issues that lead to over-representation of young Indigenous people in detention, including health, education, employment and substance abuse. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Mick Gooda has welcomed the release of the report, saying that this is one of the most neglected but urgent issues to be addressed in efforts to overcome Indigenous disadvantage. 'We must act now before we lose another generation to the criminal justice system ... I would also urge governments around Australia to act now on the Report's recommendation to support justice reinvestment through further research on its implementation in Australia, as well as investment in mapping offending to identify areas of particular need.' To access the report, visit: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/atsia/index.htm>

#### REFUGEE WEEK STATEMENTS AND ACTIONS

As Refugee Week proceeded with the theme 'Freedom from Fear', there were many initiatives by Church and community organisations seeking to restore fairness and generosity into both the treatment and political commentary on the needs of asylum seekers. Peter Arndt, The Executive Officer of the Brisbane Archdiocesan Justice and Peace Commission criticised the Government's proposed deal with Malaysia and the Opposition's continued commitment to a 'Pacific solution'. The Commission urged Christians and all people who support the values informing the Refugee Convention to join in rejecting the crass and unseemly politicking which worsens the pain and injustice endured by asylum seekers and refugees and the racial and religious intolerance to which it panders. (<http://www.cathnews.com/uploads/doc/2011/06/World%20refugee%20day%202011%20statement.docx>)

The Refugee Council of Australia issued a letter with 17 NGO signatories, condemning strategies that target highly vulnerable people. The letter calls on 'the Australian Government and Opposition to abandon policies aimed at punishing groups of asylum seekers as an example to others and to work cooperatively on the challenging task of developing a regional framework to protect people fleeing persecution'. (<http://www.refugeeweek.org.au/>)

Fr Frank Brennan wrote of how ‘politicians’ loose talk of “illegal arrivals” and “illegal boats” disguises the fact that most, if not all, of those arriving are entitled to make an asylum claim and while that claim is being determined there is nothing illegal about their presence in Australia. And neither should there be’. (<http://www.abc.net.au/unleashed/2767410.html>)

The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre is urging each person to call three MPs to register opposition to this Malaysia deal and let them know that Australians do not want vulnerable people sent to a country where they face torture and indefinite detention in hellish conditions. To find out more, visit: <http://www.asrc.org.au/campaigns/1-end-mandatory-detention/>

An Amnesty briefing on the Malaysia deal is provided at: <http://www.asrc.org.au/media/documents/amnesty-brief-malaysia-swap.pdf>

#### REPORT: ‘NO PLACE FOR CHILDREN’

A new report by ChilOut says that, while Australia imprisons children as a first resort and for indefinite periods of time, it contravenes international law and common sense morality. The report, ‘No Place For Children: Detention on Christmas Island’, calls on government to legislate to prevent the implementation of policies that breach Australia’s legal and moral obligations. The report was written after Dianne Hiles and Jo Hind travelled to Christmas Island to investigate the conditions on the island for children. They ask: ‘If Australia is unable to keep children safe in off-shore facilities for which it is wholly responsible, what hope is there of human rights standards being maintained in facilities managed on our behalf in other countries?’ The report can be accessed at: <http://www.chilout.org/?news&nid=26>

#### REPORT: WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION: THE GLOBAL SOCIAL CRISIS

A new UN report finds that many governments did not pay enough attention to the social implications of the global financial crisis and urges that social investments be given priority in recovery programmes. The Report, World Social Situation 2011: The Global Social Crisis, by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs explores the ongoing adverse social

consequences of the 2008-2009 financial and economic crisis - the worst since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

<http://social.un.org/index/>

[ReportontheWorldSocialSituation/2011/MediaKit.aspx](http://social.un.org/index/ReportontheWorldSocialSituation/2011/MediaKit.aspx)

#### CONFLICT RESOLUTION NETWORK E-LEARNING

CRN’s E-Learning Certificate Course is an in-depth course in Conflict Resolution skills. Study is undertaken online under the guidance of a trained teacher. The course is ideal for: those needing effective conflict resolution techniques for their workplace; those facing the public and handling a wide variety of challenging conflict situations; individuals who want to manage conflict effectively in their personal or work relationships; teachers and trainers of mediation and dispute resolution who want to add the Conflict Resolution Network’s skills approach to their repertoire. For further information, visit the CRN website: [http://www.crnhq.org/product\\_info.php?products\\_id=36](http://www.crnhq.org/product_info.php?products_id=36)

#### NOMINATIONS OPEN - NATIONAL DISABILITY AWARDS

The 2011 National Disability Awards are open and calling for nominations in the Social Inclusion Award category. Nominations close on 29 July 2011. The National Disability Awards are part of the Australian Government’s celebration of International Day of People with Disability. The awards recognise people with disability who have achieved something remarkable or made a significant contribution to their community, and people or groups within the community who have contributed to the disability sector or improved access and inclusion. Download a nomination form and guidelines or fill in a form online at [www.idpwd.com.au](http://www.idpwd.com.au) or call 1800 440 385 to order hard copies.

#### NOMINATIONS OPEN - JUSTICE AWARDS

Presented by the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW, the annual Justice Awards acknowledge the efforts that individuals and organisations have made to improving access to justice in NSW, particularly for socially and economically disadvantaged people. Public nominations are accepted in the following categories: Justice Medal - for outstanding achievement by an individual; Aboriginal Justice Award - for outstanding commitment

by an Aboriginal individual/group; Law and Justice Volunteer Award - for voluntary work by an individual or a group; and the Pro Bono Partnership Award - for a pro bono partnership between a private law firm and community organisation/legal centre. You can nominate online at [www.lawfoundation.net.au/justice\\_awards](http://www.lawfoundation.net.au/justice_awards) or phone (02) 8227 3200 to request a nomination form. Nominations close on 29 July 2011.

**NOMINATIONS OPEN - HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS**  
The Australian Human Rights Commission

is taking nominations for people whose dedication and commitment has made a real difference in promoting a fairer society. Categories include: the Human Rights Medal; Young People's Human Rights Medal; Law Award; Business Award; Community Award - Individual; Community Award - Organisation; Literature (non-fiction) Award; Radio, Television and Print Media Award. Nominations close on 9 September, with winners to be presented with their awards at a ceremony on 9 December 2011. For nomination forms go to: [www.humanrights.gov.au/hr\\_awards/index.html](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/hr_awards/index.html).

## Latest Publications

(Orders: phone (02) 8306 3499 or download an order form from the ACSJC website [that can be faxed to (02) 8306 3498]: [http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/PDF/ORDER\\_FORM.pdf](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/PDF/ORDER_FORM.pdf))

**SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2011-2012 - ORDER NOW!**

This year's Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Statement is entitled 'Building Bridges, Not Walls - Prisons and the justice system'. The ACSJC is now taking orders for the Statement. An order form and other information/resources are available on the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

**EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE - 'READING THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES'**

This year is the 50th anniversary of Pope John XXIII's Encyclical Letter Mater et Magistra, and the decade-based anniversaries of other social encyclicals. In Mater et Magistra, Pope John XXIII picked up Pius XII's expression the 'signs of the times' and used the phrase to call the church to renewal in its own life and in its involvement in the world by 'reading the signs of the times'. In his writings he himself set about reading the hopeful and concerning signs of his time. In honour of these anniversaries, the ACSJC has prepared educational materials, which will be made available throughout the year to parishes, social justice groups and schools in Australia. These materials, entitled 'Reading the Signs of the Times - See, Judge Act: a Process for Social Justice Groups, will be available for download on the ACSJC website.

**SERIES PAPER - 'THE LOVE THAT SURPRISES'**  
In Catholic Social Justice Series paper No.69, entitled 'The Love that Surprises: Lessons from Timor-Leste', Mark Green describes his experiences working for Caritas Australia in Timor-Leste. His work in remote communities prompted him to think deeply about the concrete reality of Catholic social teaching and our relationships with marginalised communities close to our shores. The paper also discusses Timor's society, language and history, including the disastrous years of occupation and the struggle for independence. Its title is inspired by Pope Benedict's encyclical Caritas in Veritate: '... in the love that we receive there is always an element that surprises us'. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage - postage rates listed below)

**PASTORAL LETTER - FEAST OF ST JOSEPH THE WORKER 2011**

The Pastoral Letter for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker for 2011 is entitled 'Indigenous Employment - The most basic form of social justice'. It is available for download in regular and 'three-column' versions at: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

**DISCUSSION GUIDE - WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE 2011**

On 1 January, the Holy Father delivered his World Day of Peace message. The theme of his message is Religious Freedom: the Path to Peace. The ACSJC discussion guide can be downloaded in pdf or word formats from the ACSJC homepage: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/>

SERIES PAPER - 'MERCY AND JUSTICE EMBRACE'  
Sr Marie Farrell rsm considers the vast range of people and organisations working for justice in today's Church in Australia and how they form a mosaic of social justice that reflects the mystery of the Eucharist and God's bond with

humanity. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage - postage rates listed below)

(Catholic Social Justice Series papers: \$6.60 a copy, plus postage. Postage rates for Catholic Social Justice Series Papers: 1 copy \$1.20; 2 copies \$1.80; 3-5 copies \$3.00)

## This Month's Notices

UNTIL 8 JULY. GURINGAI FESTIVAL: 'ONE VOICE', NYREE REYNOLDS ART EXHIBITION (NSW). Nyree (Ngari) Reynolds belongs to the Gamilaraay language group. She has received many prestigious awards for her work, and is an experienced art tutor based in the Central West of NSW. This exhibition displays her paintings of the Aboriginal children from the Stolen Generations. No cost. 8.30 am to 5.00 pm, Ku-ring-gai Council Foyer 'Red Wall' Exhibition Space, Level 4, 818 Pacific Highway, Gordon. Contact: 02 9424 0868 or [mdavis@kmc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mdavis@kmc.nsw.gov.au). Web: <http://www.kmc.nsw.gov.au/guringai>.

UNTIL 10 JULY. TJANPI DESERT WEAVERS EXHIBITION: 'KURU ALALA, EYES OPEN' (NSW). This is a travelling exhibition developed by the Tjanpi Desert Weavers and the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council. No cost. 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, Manly Art Gallery and Museum, West Esplanade Reserve, Manly. Contact: 02 9976 1420 or [artgallery@manly.nsw.gov.au](mailto:artgallery@manly.nsw.gov.au). Web: <http://kurualala1.wordpress.com/>.

UNTIL 13 JULY. REFUGEE WEEK EXHIBITION: 'HAND IN HAND' (SA). Student poster exhibition and awards. Presenter: Kerry Packer Civic Gallery in conjunction with the Migrant Resource Centre and SA Refugee Week. 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, Kerry Packer Civic Gallery, UniSA City West campus, Hawke Building Level 3, 50-55 North Terrace, Adelaide. Web: <http://www.unisa.edu.au/news/events.asp>.

UNTIL 30 JULY. EMERGE FESTIVAL (VIC). Presented by Multicultural Arts Victoria, Emerge Festival commemorates UN World Refugee Day and celebrates Refugee Week.

Melbourne's rich cultural heritage comes alive with this colourful annual music and arts festival presenting amazing new artists who have recently settled in Australia. It includes a series of amazing performances and unique cultural experiences encompassing music, dance, visual arts, film, exotic foods, ancient crafts and ceremonies. Contact: 03 9417 6777 or [office@multiculturalarts.com.au](mailto:office@multiculturalarts.com.au). Web: <http://www.multiculturalarts.com.au/events2011/emerge.shtml>.

1 JULY. FILM SCREENING: 'OUR GENERATION' (VIC). This is a ground breaking documentary on Aboriginal rights. There will be an opportunity to meet Eva-Jo Edwards of the Mutti Mutti tribe, a member of the Stolen Generation and Case Manager with Connecting Home. Presented by Western TEAR Action Group. 6.30 pm, mug of soup and roll (gold coin donation); 7.00 pm, film; Westgate Baptist Community, 16 High Street, Yarraville. Contact: 0434 840 688. Web: <http://www.tear.org.au/getinvolved/tear-groups/>.

1 - 30 JULY. BLACK HISTORY MONTH (QLD). This is a Brisbane City Council program of many events that celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's heritage, history and future. Come along to free movie and documentary screenings, art and photography exhibitions, NAIDOC celebrations, concerts, story telling, discussions and more. Contact: 07 3403 8888. Events: <http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/facilities-recreation/whats-on/black-history-month/index.htm>.

2 - 3 JULY. MENALIVE MEN'S WEEKEND: 'WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU FELT REALLY ALIVE?' (ACT). 'God is glorified when men are fully

alive' - St Ireneaus. The purpose of menAlive is to bring men together, to renew their faith in God and to encourage them become an active force of renewal in the Church. Through a variety of events and programs, men are invited to explore what God would want for their lives and how they might come to experience the fullness of life that God wants for us all. Cost: \$45. Corpus Christi Parish Centre, 167 Bugden Avenue, Gowrie. Contact: 02 6235 5452 or [csjc@cg.catholic.org.au](mailto:csjc@cg.catholic.org.au). Web: <http://www.menalive.org.au/>.

3 JULY. ECUMENICAL NAIDOC WEEK CELEBRATION SERVICE: 'CHANGE, THE NEXT STEP IS OURS' (NSW). NAIDOC stands for the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. Its origins can be traced to the emergence of Aboriginal groups in the 1920s which sought to increase awareness in the wider community of the status and treatment of Indigenous Australians. Today, NAIDOC is a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and an opportunity to recognise the contributions of Indigenous Australians in various fields. The Service will be celebrated by Bishop Peter Ingham. 2.00 pm, St Michael's Church, 20 North Street, Nowra. Web: <http://www.dow.org.au/news/news-in-brief-91>.

3 JULY. THE MABO ORATION (QLD). Join Terri Janke to pay tribute to the work of Eddie Mabo and examine the cultural heritage and rights of Indigenous people in protecting their knowledge, arts and cultural heritage. The Mabo Oration will include commentary by Bryan Keon-Cohen QC and performances by didgeridoo artist David Williams and award-winning duo, Busby Marou. Cost: \$20. 5.00 pm, Playhouse, Queensland Performing Arts Centre, corner Grey and Melbourne Streets, South Bank. Contact: [groups@qtix.com.au](mailto:groups@qtix.com.au) or 07 3840 7466. Web: [http://www.qpac.com.au/calendar\\_search/result/index.aspx?q=mabo](http://www.qpac.com.au/calendar_search/result/index.aspx?q=mabo).

3 JULY. SEMINAR: 'ACT JUSTLY - ADDRESSING INJUSTICE IN MODERN AUSTRALIA' (NSW). Join us for a day of insightful speakers and lively discussion as we work together to find a way forward that is inclusive and supportive of those affected by Australia's inequity, particularly: Indigenous Australians, refugees

and asylum seekers and people experiencing homelessness. Speakers: Sue Cripps, CEO, Homelessness NSW; Most Rev Eugene Hurley, Bishop of Darwin; Jenny Collins-White, National Education and Advocacy Officer, Catholic Mission. This event is hosted by FAMVIN Australia. Cost: \$20. 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, De La Salle College Hall, Bland Street, Ashfield. Contact: [famvinaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:famvinaustralia@gmail.com) or 0419 418 547. Web: <http://www.vincentianswyd.org.au>.

3 JULY. ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CELEBRATION MASS (ACT). The Aboriginal Catholic Ministry (ACM) welcomes the Aboriginal community, Friends of the ACM and all interested people to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday Mass celebrated by Archbishop Mark Coleridge. Mass will be followed by afternoon tea in the parish centre, for which a gold coin donation would be appreciated. 2.00 pm, St Benedict's Church, Narrabundah. Contact: 0432 257 622 or [bronnieschlager@gmail.com](mailto:bronnieschlager@gmail.com). Web: [http://www.cg.catholic.org.au/news/view\\_event.cfm?loadref=18&id=911](http://www.cg.catholic.org.au/news/view_event.cfm?loadref=18&id=911).

3 - 6 JULY. JEWISH CHRISTIAN MUSLIM ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (JCMA) WINTER CONFERENCE: 'THE HAND OF WELCOME: HOSPITALITY IN OUR 3 FAITHS' (VIC). The conference will include: the hospitality of God: the spiritual dimension of hospitality; studies in the sacred texts of the three faiths on the theme of hospitality; hospitality to each other in the prayer and worship of the three faith traditions, in small reflection groups, in eating together and in shared leisure time. It will also look at how people of these faiths show God's hospitality to the wider community, to refugees and asylum seekers, to the homeless, to the stranger. Cost: \$325-355. Conference Centre, Pallotti College, 80 McNamaras Road, Millgrove. Contact: 03 9650 3294 or [registrations@jcma.org.au](mailto:registrations@jcma.org.au). Web: <http://www.cam.org.au/eic/JCMA2011>.

3 - 10 JULY. NAIDOC WEEK: 'CHANGE - THE NEXT STEP IS OURS' (NATIONAL). NAIDOC stands for the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee and this week celebrates the survival of Indigenous culture and the Indigenous contribution to modern Australia. NAIDOC Committee co-chairs

Ben Mitchell and Anne Martin say the theme is about taking responsibility for the future. For celebrations of Indigenous culture, history and achievements near you visit: <http://www.naidoc.org.au/about/local-naidoc-events-calendar/>.

**4 JULY. OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF NAIDOC WEEK: 'CHANGE - THE NEXT STEP IS OURS' (QLD).** This launch of NAIDOC Week celebrations is hosted by First Contact. Entertainment includes traditional dance and contemporary performances. There will be information stalls including Black Drum Markets with authentic Australian Indigenous arts and craft items for sale. 10.00 am to 3.00 pm, King George Square. Contact: 07 3420 4291. Web: <http://www.firstcontact.asn.au/news.htm>.

**4 - 5 or 7 - 8 or 11 - 12 JULY. WHY WARRIORS SEMINAR: 'BRIDGING THE GAP' (ACT, SA, VIC).** This seminar is an opportunity to gain insights into Yolŋu culture and discover solutions to the problems faced in Indigenous communities today. Richard Trudgen explores the reasons Indigenous people and other ethnic minorities are suffering, and provides the communication and cross-cultural skills essential to working with Indigenous and minority groups. It will be held in different locations around Australia.  
4 - 5 July (ACT): National Convention Centre, Canberra.  
7 - 8 July (SA): Hotel Grand Chancellor, Adelaide.  
11 - 12 July (VIC): Melbourne Business School. Cost: \$740, concession \$518. 9.00 am to 5.00 pm. Contact: 1300 501 795. Register: <http://www.whywarrriors.com.au/seminars/adelaide11.php>.

**5 JULY. CENTRAL COAST SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: 'WHAT GIVES ME HOPE' (NSW).** Speakers: Anne Hand, was a nursing officer in the Australian Army, and visited many places including a UN posting to Cambodia. Anne varies her time between nursing and pastoral care. Dianne Langham is an Aboriginal Anglican priest, and a Chaplain of Cessnock Correctional Centre. 7.30 to 9.00 pm, The Grange Hotel, corner Renwick Street and Pacific Highway, Wyoming. Contact: 02 4369 1586 or [carmen.fitzgerald@bigpond.com](mailto:carmen.fitzgerald@bigpond.com). Web: <http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/Slp%20Programs.htm>.

**5 JULY. PRIOLETTI INDIGENOUS AWARENESS FORUM: 'WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH**

**INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES' (VIC).** This forum offers an opportunity to gain insight into Australia's Indigenous culture and aims to facilitate understanding about Indigenous Australians. Speaker: Ron Murray, a descendant of the Wamba Wamba tribe of Swan Hill, Victoria. Ron has conducted Indigenous awareness workshops across the community, government, education and corporate sectors. Cost: \$55. 10.00 am to 12.00 pm, Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre, corner Bell Street and St Georges Road, Preston. Contact: [josie@prioletticonsultants.com.au](mailto:josie@prioletticonsultants.com.au) or 03 9038 9292. Web: <http://www.prioletticonsultants.com.au/forums/6-indigenous-awareness-forum>.

**5 JULY. PUBLIC FORUM: 'ARE YOU PAST YOUR USE BY DATE? A CONVERSATION ON "DEATH TALK" AND WHY WE SHOULD CARE' (VIC).** The Ambrose Centre for Religious Liberty will host a public forum on the case against euthanasia. Speaker: Prof. Margaret Somerville. Response: Rabbi John Levi. Master of ceremonies: General Peter John Cosgrove. 6.00 pm, Christ Lecture Theatre, Australian Catholic University, 115 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy. Contact: 0418 571 303. Web: [http://ambrosecentre.org.au/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=33&Itemid=44](http://ambrosecentre.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=33&Itemid=44).

**5 - 6 JULY. SYMPOSIUM: 'INDIGENOUS SENTENCING, PUNISHMENT AND HEALING' (QLD).** This meeting aims to bring together Indigenous and non-Indigenous activists, academics and practitioners with an interest in issues relating to the sentencing, healing and punishment of Indigenous people in Australia and elsewhere. Speakers: Mr Mick Gooda, The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Australia Human Rights Commission Professor; Chris Cunneen, Tropical leader in Justice and Social Inclusion, James Cook University; etc. No cost. Rydges Esplanade Hotel, Cairns. Contact: 07 4042 1892 or [kate.munro@jcu.edu.au](mailto:kate.munro@jcu.edu.au), RSVP essential. Web: [http://www.jcu.edu.au/cairnsinstitute/info/events/JCUPRD1\\_067963.html](http://www.jcu.edu.au/cairnsinstitute/info/events/JCUPRD1_067963.html).

**6 JULY. EXPERT PANEL: 'FUKUSHIMA: THE NUCLEAR DISASTER AND GLOBAL HEALTH' (VIC).** An expert panel, chaired by Mia Urbano, will review what happened and why, the current status of the damaged reactors and spent fuel, and the range of possible outcomes. Panel members: Richard Tanter,



Senior Research Associate, Nautilus Institute; Jim Falk, Climate Change Research Director, Association of Pacific Rim Universities World Initiative; Tilman Ruff, Associate Professor, Nossal Institute for Global Health. 10.30 am to 12.30 pm, Conference Room, 4th floor Alan Gilbert Building, 161 Berry Street, Carlton. Contact: [hsaun@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:hsaun@unimelb.edu.au), RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.mapw.org.au/events/fukushima-and-global-health>.

6 JULY. CSSV BREAKFAST BRIEFING: 'A CONTEMPORARY REFLECTION ON THE CASE AGAINST EUTHANASIA' (VIC). Speaker: Professor Margaret Somerville, founding Director, Centre for Medicine, Ethics and Law, McGill University, Toronto, Canada. Held by Catholic Social Services Victoria, Catholic Health Australia and the Ambrose Centre for Religious Liberty. Cost: \$20. 7.15 to 8.45 am, Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert Street, East Melbourne. Contact: 03 9926 5791 or [catherine.mcgovern@cam.org.au](mailto:catherine.mcgovern@cam.org.au), RSVP by 1 July. Web: <http://www.css.org.au/documents/CSSVbreakfast6July2011FINAL.pdf>.

6 JULY. CONVERSATION WORKSHOP: 'ASYLUM SEEKERS ARE USED AS POLITICAL FOOTBALLS. WHAT CAN WE DO?' (NSW). Research shows that community views and fears around so-called 'boat people' are founded on myth, not fact. This campaign mobilises action from those who already want asylum seekers to be treated fairly and helps inform community views as a whole. The workshop will include viewing the new TV campaign, and training to help develop conversation skills about refugees and asylum seekers. 7.30 to 9.00 pm, 134 Norfolk Road, Epping. Contact: [nswcampaigns@amnesty.org.au](mailto:nswcampaigns@amnesty.org.au), RSVP by 4 July. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/nsw/event/25506/>.

6 JULY. GLEEBOOKS BOOK LAUNCH: 'THE PROTECTORS: A JOURNEY THROUGH WHITEFELLA PAST' BY STEPHEN GRAY (NSW). The questions Stephen Gray raises about guilt, judgement and good intentions apply as readily to the complexities of black/white relations today as they did one hundred years ago. This is an intelligent book that challenges how we judge the past and asks what exactly it was that the Australian nation said sorry for. Cost: \$10, concession \$7. 6.00 pm, gleebooks,

49 Glebe Point Road, Glebe. Contact: 02 9660 2333. Web: <http://www.gleebooks.com.au/default.asp?p=events/events4.htm>.

6 - 8 JULY. THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL POLICY CONFERENCE: 'SOCIAL POLICY IN A COMPLEX WORLD' (NSW). This conference aims to bring together researchers, practitioners and policy makers and provide an opportunity to explore research and practice. Speakers: Professor Paula England, Professor of Sociology, affiliate of the Clayman Institute for Gender Research, Stanford University USA; Associate Professor Bea Cantillon, Professor of Social Policy and Director of the Centre for Social Policy, University of Antwerp, Belgium; Professor John Quiggin, Australian Research Council Federation Fellow in Economics and Political Science, University of Queensland; etc. Cost: \$500, concession \$250. University of New South Wales. Contact: [aspc@unsw.edu.au](mailto:aspc@unsw.edu.au) or 02 9385 7800. Web: <http://www.aspc.unsw.edu.au>.

8 JULY. TENISON WOODS EDUCATION CENTRE NAIDOC WEEK REFLECTION EVENING (NSW). Celebrate NAIDOC Week at the Tenison Woods Education Centre with a light meal and prayer. Cost: donation. 5.30 to 7.30 pm, Tenison Woods Education Centre, New England Highway, Lochinvar. Contact: 02 4930 9601 or [twec@ssjl.org.au](mailto:twec@ssjl.org.au), RSVP by 1 July. Web: <http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/newsroom/pdf/TWEC%20NAIDOC%20Week%20Reflection%20Evening%20Jul%202011.pdf>.

10 JULY. 'ABRAHAM FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY: HOW CAN THIS FIGURE REVERED IN THE 3 TRADITIONS SPEAK TO US TODAY?' (NSW). Speakers: Re Dr Daniel Madigan SJ, Director of Graduate Studies, Theology Department, Georgetown University USA; Prof Zeki Saritoprak, Nursi Chair, Islamic Studies, John Carroll University; Rabbi Paul Jacobson, Emanuel Synagogue, Woollahra. Cost: \$20, concession \$10. 4.00 to 7.00 pm, Mary Mackillop Place, 11 Mount Street, North Sydney. Contact: [registrations@affinity.org.au](mailto:registrations@affinity.org.au) or 02 9702 0789, RSVP by 1 July. Web: <http://www.affinity.org.au/index.php/events/upcoming-events/353-abraham-conference-2011>.

10 JULY. PALMS AUSTRALIA'S JUBILEE ROUND TABLE: 'MISSION, VOLUNTEERING AND DEVELOPMENT: WHERE TO FOR PALMS' NEXT

50 YEARS?' (NSW). Be part of the vision with international speakers leading the discussion. Speakers: Fr Jacob Kavunkal, SVD, Missiologist; Ms Christina Reymer, Director, Mahitahi Catholic overseas Volunteers NZ; and Fr Adriano, founder of Dili's catholic radio and Ahisuan Foundation, Timor Leste. 11.00 am, Mount St Benedict Centre, Pennant Hills. Contact: 02 9518 9551 or [marie@palms.org.au](mailto:marie@palms.org.au), RSVP by 4 July. Web: <http://www.palms.org.au/news/round-table-on-volunteering/>.

12 JULY. CONVERSATION WORKSHOP: 'ASYLUM SEEKERS ARE USED AS POLITICAL FOOTBALLS. WHAT CAN WE DO?' (NSW). Research shows that community views and fears around so-called 'boat people' are founded on myth, not fact. This campaign mobilises action from those who already want asylum seekers to be treated fairly and helps inform community views as a whole. The workshop will include viewing the new TV campaign, and training to help develop conversation skills about refugees and asylum seekers. 6.30 to 7.30 pm, Sutherland Shire Air League Squadron, Toronto Parade, Sutherland. Contact: [nswcampaigns@amnesty.org.au](mailto:nswcampaigns@amnesty.org.au), RSVP by 6 July. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/nsw/event/25506/>.

12 JULY. ASYLUM SEEKERS AND HUMAN RIGHTS PUBLIC FORUM (QLD). There are a lot of myths existing in our community about asylum seekers. We would like to invite you to a public forum to hear from local representatives on this topic. Speakers: Shayne Neumann MP; Ursula Monsiegnur, QLD Greens; and Amnesty International. 6.30 pm, Supper Room, St. Paul's Anglican Church, 124 Brisbane Street, Ipswich. Contact: [tracey.foley@amnesty.org.au](mailto:tracey.foley@amnesty.org.au). Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/qld/event/25762/>.

13 JULY. ARENA FORUM: NUCLEAR WEAPONS (VIC). Speaker: Michael Hamel Green, Victoria University. 7.30 to 9.00 pm, Arena Project Space, 2 Kerr Street, Fitzroy (between Brunswick Street and Nicholson Street). Contact: 03 9416 0232. Web: <http://www.paxchristi.org.au/plugins/events.cgi?short=1&date=2011-07-13>.

14 JULY. SIR GEORGE TURNER LECTURE: 'DO BILLS OF RIGHTS PROTECT OR ENDANGER RELIGIOUS FREEDOM?' (VIC). Religions help to provide foundational insights into human

dignity and equality, social responsibility and community that a healthy human rights regime needs to remain grounded. On the other hand, religions need human rights norms to both protect them and to challenge them. Speaker: John Witte Jr, Director of the Family Foundation Center for the Study of Law and Religion, Emory University. No cost. 6.30 to 7.30 pm, Melbourne Law School, 185 Pelham Street, Carlton. Contact: [vanetal@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:vanetal@unimelb.edu.au) or 03 9035 3862. Web: <http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au>.

14 JULY. CATHNEWS MEDIA TRAINING DAY: 'CRISIS? WHAT CRISIS? MAKING THE MEDIA WORK FOR YOU' (NSW). A series of lectures and workshops to help communications professionals within the Church and Not-for-Profits increase their skills and discuss and resolve some of their relevant challenges. Speakers: Peter Fray, Publisher/Editor-in-Chief, Sydney Publishing; Christopher Zinn, Director of Campaigns and Communications, CHOICE; Rose Hesp, Executive Producer, Compass; etc. Cost: \$125. 9.30 am to 4.30 pm, Tenison Woods Room, MacKillop Place, North Sydney. Contact: 02 9439 2622 or [chogan@churchresources.com.au](mailto:chogan@churchresources.com.au). Web: <http://www.catholicreligiousaustralia.org/en/1059>.

14, 18, 25 JULY. SIMONE WEIL LECTURE ON HUMAN VALUE: 'ON FORGIVENESS: NARRATIVE AND LYRICAL' (VIC, NSW, QLD). A common view of forgiveness involves the idea that it happens spontaneously; it is personal, immediate, a gift, miraculous, without reason. Speaker: Prof Kevin Hart, FAHA, ACU Eric D'Arcy Professor of Philosophy.

14 July: 6.00 pm, Mercy Lecture Theatre, ACU, 115 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy.

18 July: 6.00 pm, Room C3-01, ACU, North Sydney campus, 40 Edward Street, North Sydney.

25 July: 6.00 to 8.00 pm, Holy Spirit Chapel, ACU Brisbane Campus, 1100 Nudgee Road, Banyo.

No cost. Contact: [richard.colledge@acu.edu.au](mailto:richard.colledge@acu.edu.au). Web: [http://www.acu.edu.au/about\\_acu/faculties\\_schools\\_institutes\\_centres/faculties/theology\\_and\\_philosophy/schools/philosophy/events/the\\_simone\\_weil\\_lectures\\_on\\_human\\_value/](http://www.acu.edu.au/about_acu/faculties_schools_institutes_centres/faculties/theology_and_philosophy/schools/philosophy/events/the_simone_weil_lectures_on_human_value/).

18 JULY. NORTH SYDNEY SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: 'STORIES TO INSPIRE' (NSW). Br Darren

Burge is Principal of the John Berne School at Lewisham. This Marist school is for students from year 7 to 10 with behavioural disorders, school refusal issues and those who are at risk of not completing the School Certificate. Cate Sydes has worked with young people and their families for 28 years - in schools helping with learning, emotional and relationship problems; in the community helping with homelessness, disability and the danger of suicide. 7.30 to 9.00 pm, The Union Hotel, corner Pacific Highway and West Street, North Sydney. Web: <http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/Slp%20Programs.htm>.

18 JULY. MATT LAFFAN ADDRESS IN SOCIAL JUSTICE: 'FORGOTTEN VICTIMS: CRIMINAL JUSTICE REMEMBERS' (NSW). Matt Laffan had severe disabilities, but he will be remembered most for his impressive abilities. This capacity was recognised in him by his former boss, Nicholas Cowdery QC, Former NSW Director of Public Prosecutions. President of the International Association of Prosecutors, Nicholas focused on helping countries that had been de-stabilised by civil unrest to find the means to improve their criminal justice systems. His presentation will explore the place of victims, their expectations and the remedies available to them. No cost. 5.30 to 7.30 pm, Auditorium (LT101), Sydney Law School, Level 1, Building F10, Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney. Contact: 02 9351 0238 or [law.events@sydney.edu.au](mailto:law.events@sydney.edu.au). Web: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/news/law/458.html?eventarchive=2011>.

19 JULY. EDMUND RICE AFTERNOON TEA FOR THE FUTURE (NSW). Kateia Kaikai, SMSM, from Kiribati, will present two interesting films on 'Kiribati Youth and Climate Change', which were presented during the United Nations Conference in Copenhagen 2009 and the UNICEF Pacific Islands Conference. Kiribati is on the frontline of those islands which may be affected by climate change. Come and join in a relaxed and informal discussion. Share with the group some achievable activities related to the topic and how they may be helpful to ease the impact of the stated issue. Cost: donation. 2.00 to 4.00 pm, Edmund Rice Centre, 15 Henley Road, near Flemington Station, Homebush West. Contact: [stephanies@erc.org.au](mailto:stephanies@erc.org.au) or 02 8762 4200. Web: <http://www.erc.org.au>.

19 JULY. CONFERENCE: 'CHURCHES AND PUBLIC POLICY - ADVANCING HUMAN WELLBEING IN A CHANGING SOCIETY' (VIC). Speakers: Dr Robert Fitzgerald AM; Dr John Falzon, Chief Executive Officer, St Vincent de Paul Society's National Council; Kasey Chambers, Executive Director, Anglicare Australia; Julie Edwards, Chief Executive Officer, Jesuit Social Services; Denis Fitzgerald, Director, Catholic Social Services; Major Brad Halse, Director of Government Relations, The Salvation Army in Australia; etc. Cost: \$75. 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, The Abbotsford Convent, 1 St Heliers Street, Abbotsford. Contact: [admin@socialpolicyconnections.com.au](mailto:admin@socialpolicyconnections.com.au) or 03 9890 1077, RSVP by 12 July. Web: <http://www.socialpolicyconnections.com.au/?p=2902>.

21 JULY. FILM SCREENING: 'INTO ETERNITY' (VIC). Japanese for Peace, in conjunction with Friends of the Earth, the International Campaign to abolish Nuclear Weapons and MAPW, presents a screening of this film which explores the practical, political, philosophical and ethical problems associated with the storage of nuclear waste. For more information on this film see <http://www.intoeternitythemovie.com/>. Cost: \$15. 7.00 to 9.00 pm, Classic Cinema, 9 Gordon Street, Elsternwick. Web: <http://jfp.org.au/en/2011/06/21/screening-of-a-documentary-film-into-eternity/>.

21 JULY. PUBLIC LECTURE: HUMAN RIGHTS, REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS (NSW). Presented by The Australian Sociological Association Migration, Ethnicity and Multiculturalism Thematic Group and Macquarie University Centre for Research on Social Inclusion. Speakers: Professor Stephen Castles, University of Sydney and Associate Director, International Migration Institute, University of Oxford; Hon Catherine Branson QC, President of the Australian Human Rights Commission and Human Rights Commissioner; Paul Power, CEO, Refugee Council of Australia; etc. 9.30 am to 1.00 pm, Australian Human Rights Commission, Level 3, 175 Pitt Street, Sydney. Contact: [tasa.migration@gmail.com](mailto:tasa.migration@gmail.com), RSVP by 15 July. Web: [http://www.cnet.ngo.net.au/images/stories/07\\_human\\_rights\\_lecture.pdf](http://www.cnet.ngo.net.au/images/stories/07_human_rights_lecture.pdf).

22 JULY. CASTAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS LAW CONFERENCE (VIC). Topics include: recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander people in the constitution; the intervention; Islamophobia and multicultural Australia; human rights approach to drugs; etc. Speakers: Associate Professor Megan Davis, Director, Indigenous Law Centre, University of New South Wales and member, United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; Mr Rex Wild QC, Barrister and co-author, Little Children are Sacred report; Professor Samina Yasmeen, Director, Muslim States and Societies, University of WA. Cost: \$100-\$200. 8.45 am to 5.00 pm, Spring Street Conference Centre, 1 Spring Street, Melbourne. Contact: 03 9905 3327 or [castan.centre@monash.edu](mailto:castan.centre@monash.edu). Web: <http://www.law.monash.edu.au/castancentre/events/2011/conference-2011.html>.

23 JULY. CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE SYDNEY FORUM: 'JOURNEYS TO JUSTICE' (NSW). This unique forum will provide guests with an opportunity to listen to our expert panellists on the relevance of justice in today's society. Panel: The Hon Magistrate Jacqueline Milledge, Local Courts NSW; The Hon John Hannaford, former Examiner, Australian Crime Commission; Ms Sandie Cornish, Manager, Research and Social Policy, Rosemount Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services. Facilitator: Marita Winters, Director, Catholic Enquiry Centre. Cost: \$30. 1.00 to 3.00 pm, Australian Museum Theatre, corner College and William Streets, Sydney. Contact: 02 9390 5153, RSVP by 7 July. Web: <http://www.cwlsydney.org.au/news.html>.

26 JULY. FORUM: 'HOW CAN WE LET CHILDREN HAVE LIVES LIKE THIS? PUTTING AN END TO CHILD EXPLOITATION' (SA). Exploited children, including those who are trafficked, are deprived of their childhood, their right to freedom, access to education and their dignity. The unspeakable horrors to which they are subjected are an affront to our humanity. This important forum will look at how to help put an end to child exploitation. 6.00 pm, The Grainger Studio, 91 Hindley Street, Adelaide. Web: <http://www.onejustworld.com.au/Home.aspx>.

2 AUGUST. GUINNESS AND GOD: SAM CLEAR (ACT). A night of action-packed, visually stimulating, captivatingly unique story-telling that will both inspire and challenge all age groups to place their trust in God and to

put love into action. Topics covered: God's trustworthiness; justice and love in action; and unity in truth and love. 6.30 to 9.00 pm, King O'Malley's Irish Pub, Canberra City. Contact: 02 6163 4300, 0404 758 419 or [info@guinnessandgod.com](mailto:info@guinnessandgod.com). Web: <http://www.guinnessandgod.com>.

2 AUGUST. HERB FEITH MEMORIAL LECTURE AND BOOK LAUNCH (VIC). This special event features Her Excellency Kirsty Sword Gusmão, Mr Peter Mares and Ms Jemma Purdey, author of From Vienna to Yogyakarta: the Life of Herb Feith. 6.00 to 8.00 pm, H1.16, Ground Floor, Building H, Monash University, Caulfield Campus, 900 Dandenong Road, Caulfield. Contact: 03 9903 4616 or [eric.cheng@monash.edu](mailto:eric.cheng@monash.edu), RSVP by 25 July, spaces limited. Web: <http://arts.monash.edu.au/blogs/events/2011/08/02/lecture-2011-herb-feith-memorial-lecture-and-launch-of-from-vienna-to-yogyakarta-the-life-of-herb-feith/>.

4 - 7 AUGUST. UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CONFERENCE (WA). The theme of this conference is 'Goals for Life' - progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Discussion will focus on follow-up from the UN Summit held late in 2010 to examine progress towards the goals. The aim is to continue the dialogue to improve strategies in the hope of achievement of the goals. Cost: conference \$160, dinner \$80. Metro Hotel, 61 Canning Highway, South Perth. Contact: 08 6380 7304 or [office@unaa-wa.org.au](mailto:office@unaa-wa.org.au). Web: <http://www.unaa-wa.org.au>.

5 AUGUST. WRAP WITH LOVE: 702 ABC KNIT-IN (NSW). Each year thousands of wraps are hand made and given to people who are suffering from cold and trauma. Volunteers knit or crochet the wraps, which are distributed where needed. Wrap with Love Inc is a voluntary organisation which started in 1992 and has given 255,322 wraps to needy people throughout the world. 7.00 am to 1.00 pm, ABC Studios, Harris Street, Ultimo. Contact: 02 8399 3000 or [wwl@pacific.net.au](mailto:wwl@pacific.net.au). Instructions on making wraps, and various venues and drop-off points, are listed on the website: <http://www.artsandcraftsnsw.com.au/Wrap.htm>.

5 AUGUST. VCOSS CONFERENCE: 'STATE OF THE STATE: WHAT'S HAPPENING, WHAT'S DIFFERENT, WHAT'S POSSIBLE?' (VIC). The

conference will explore the opportunities and risks that political change presents to long-term social challenges, and ways to achieve real structural change. Speakers: The Hon Ted Baillieu, Premier of Victoria; Naomi Eisenstadt, former Director, Social Exclusion Task Force UK, Senior Research Fellow, Oxford University; Dr Cindy Blackstock, Executive Director, First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada. Cost: \$120-\$350. 8.00 am to 4.00 pm, RACV Club, 501 Bourke Street, Melbourne. Contact: [congress@vcoss.org.au](mailto:congress@vcoss.org.au) or 03 9654 5050. Web: <http://www.vcoss.org.au/community-notice/congress2011.htm>.

8 - 9 AUGUST. QCOSS CONFERENCE: 'RESILIENT COMMUNITIES - FAIRER QUEENSLAND' (QLD). Building resilience in communities and fairness for disadvantaged people. Speakers: Robert Fitzgerald, Australian Productivity Commission; Myles McGregor-Lowndes, Australian Centre for Philanthropy, QUT; John Falzon, St Vincent de Paul; Geoff Woolcock, Griffith University; Mike Salvaris, Australian Centre for Human Rights Education, RMIT; etc. Cost: \$66-\$650. Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, corner Merivale and Glenelg Streets, Southbank. Contact: 07 3004 6900 or [conference@qcross.org.au](mailto:conference@qcross.org.au). Web: <http://www.qcross.org.au/content/qcross-conference-2011>.

10 - 12 AUGUST. SISTERS INSIDE CONFERENCE: 'IS PRISON OBSOLETE?' (NSW). This conference will initiate and support the development of innovative and creative responses to issues affecting women in prison throughout the world. The conference will focus on professional development opportunities for stakeholders in this specific marginalised sector. Speakers: Antoinette Braybrook, Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service Victoria; Debbie Kilroy, Sisters Inside Inc; Kim Pate, Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies; etc. Cost: \$0-\$600. Citigate Central Hotel, 169-179 Thomas Street, Sydney. Contact: 07 3844 5066. Web: <http://sistersinside.com.au/conference2011.htm>.

12 - 13 AUGUST. NATIONAL INDIGENOUS LEGAL CONFERENCE: 'THE PURSUIT OF EQUALITY: FROM INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS TO INDIVIDUAL ADVANCEMENT' (NSW). The sixth annual National Indigenous Legal Conference

is being organised by the New South Wales Bar Association. Key themes: Indigenous Identity, Indigenous Rights and Indigenous Governance. There will also be sessions on Northern Territory Intervention, protecting culture and sentencing Indigenous offenders. Cost: \$50-\$750. Dockside, The Balcony Level, Cockle Bay Wharf. Contact: 02 9232 4055 or [khall@nswbar.asn.au](mailto:khall@nswbar.asn.au). Web: [http://www.adfvc.unsw.edu.au/PDF%20files/National\\_Indigenous\\_Legal\\_Conference.pdf](http://www.adfvc.unsw.edu.au/PDF%20files/National_Indigenous_Legal_Conference.pdf).

12 - 17 AUGUST. QUEEN STREET STUDIO REFUGEE EXHIBITION (NSW). The exhibition visually explores the realities of refugees from overseas and in Australia through several bodies of work. 1.00 to 5.00 pm, Queen Street Studio, 10-14 Kensington Street, Chippendale. Contact: [nswccintern@amnesty.org.au](mailto:nswccintern@amnesty.org.au). Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/nsw/event/25971/>.

13, 20, 27 AUGUST. PACE E BENE WORKSHOP: 'NONVIOLENT PEACEMAKING: IN YOUR COMMUNITY ... IN YOUR WORLD' (NSW). A three-day workshop in nonviolent peacemaking for beginners and experienced practitioners. Come and learn about: the principles and power of active nonviolence in the tradition of Jesus, Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr; connecting personal transformation and social change; and concrete skills for putting nonviolent power into practice. Cost: \$90, concession available. 9.00 am to 4.30 pm, Edmund Rice Centre, 15 Henley Road, opposite Flemington Station, Homebush West. Contact: [gill@ozburrows.com](mailto:gill@ozburrows.com). Information and registration: <http://www.paceebene.org.au/engage-syd-2011.html>.

17 - 19 AUGUST. CONFERENCE: 'A SENSE FOR HUMANITY: THE ETHICAL THOUGHT OF RAIMOND GAITA' (SA). On the occasion of Gaita's retirement from the positions of Professor of Moral Philosophy at King's College London and Foundation Professor of Philosophy at the Australian Catholic University, this conference will explore the broad influence of Gaita's work, including such fields as philosophy, politics, social work, psychology law and literature, and in public ethical debate. Speakers: Stephen Buckle, John Coetzee, Christopher Cordner, Nick Drake, Miranda Fricker, etc. Cost: \$200, concession \$60. Hetzel Lecture Theatre, Institute Building, corner Kintore Avenue and North

Terrace, Adelaide. Contact:  
08 8201 2257 or [craig.taylor@flinders.edu.au](mailto:craig.taylor@flinders.edu.au).  
Register: [www.flinders.edu.au/ehl/firth/firth-](http://www.flinders.edu.au/ehl/firth/firth-)

[conferences/a-sense-for-humanity-the-ethical-thought-of-raimond-gaita/a-sense-for-humanity-the-ethical-thought-of-raimond-gaita.cfm](http://conferences/a-sense-for-humanity-the-ethical-thought-of-raimond-gaita/a-sense-for-humanity-the-ethical-thought-of-raimond-gaita.cfm).

# News Monitor

## **Proposed power bill increase ‘completely unreasonable’: Vinnies**

St Vincent de Paul labelled as ‘completely unreasonable’ for low-income households a proposed increase of \$265 per year on retail electricity pricing for the average customer in NSW, the *Catholic Weekly* reported.

## **Call for overhaul of caring for disabled**

A total overhaul for Disability Care and Support in Australia is needed, as the current system is under-funded, crisis-driven and generally uncoordinated, CatholicCare CEO Bernard Boerma told the *Catholic Weekly*.

## **Pay rises threaten CSSA services**

Catholic Social Services Australia told Prime Minister Julia Gillard it will be forced to cut or potentially close services unless it receives extra funding to cover the cost of pay rises flowing from last month’s landmark equal pay case, reported *The Australian*.

## **Asylum seeker ‘exchange’ would violate children’s rights**

The Federal government’s plan to exchange asylum seekers with refugees detained in Malaysia would violate the UN Convention on the Rights of Children, the Archdiocese of Sydney said in a statement reported by Fides.

## **Don’t punish asylum seekers, Vinnies appeals**

The Australian Government must stop punishing asylum seekers and detaining children, the St Vincent de Paul Society’s National Council of Australia said in a media release.

## **Religious representatives want action on climate**

There is a tremendous groundswell for action on climate change in Catholic congregations, said Sister Geraldine Kearney, one of the representatives from all major religions who

met politicians in Canberra yesterday to discuss the subject, according to a report in the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

## **Catholic agency calls for financial transaction tax**

The Catholic international development agency CIDSE is leading a new push for developed nations to introduce a Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) to finance the fight against climate change, in statements published on its website.

## **Move to clean energy, Pope says**

Governments should back ‘the exploitation of clean energy sources,’ Pope Benedict told a group of ambassadors at the Vatican, reported the Catholic News Agency.

## **Vinnies CEO Sleepout raises more than \$3.4 million**

The Vinnies CEO Sleepout raised more than \$3.4 million, with more than 1,000 chief executives and leaders participating across the country, reported *The Australian*.

## **Visit to detention centre shocks priest**

A priest from the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart said a visit to the Scherger Immigration Detention Centre in Far North Queensland left him shocked and sick, reported the *Catholic Leader*.

## **Hosting asylum seekers in Nauru was a disaster: ERC head**

The past policy of hosting asylum seekers on Nauru was a disaster and little changed, Phil Glendenning, the director of the Edmund Rice Centre, told the ABC.

## **Charities concerned over review of cheque use**

Charities may be hit by a move that may eventually see the phasing out of cheques,

which represent about 60 per cent of their donations, reported the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

**Neither side of politics respects dignity of asylum seekers: commission**

Christians must promote respect and dignity for the human person in the current national debate on Australia's policy on asylum seekers - in which both sides of the political divide are willing to 'export' asylum seekers - said the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission of the

Archdiocese of Brisbane.

**Refugees face a 'hardening of attitude', says Vatican official**

A Vatican official in charge of migrant care said refugees faced a 'hardening of attitude' from countries they flee to, in an interview with Vatican Radio on the 60th anniversary of the founding of UNHCR, said a UCAN report.

- *Click on headlines or go to [cathnews.com](http://cathnews.com) for full details.*



## Social Justice Calendar

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Fri Tartan Day   | flags of Australia  |
| 2 Sat International Day of Cooperatives  | 16 Sat 1945: First atomic bomb detonated in New Mexico                              |
| 3 Sun Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time<br>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday<br>NAIDOC Week begins | 17 Sun Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time  |
| 5 Tue 1935: Dalai Lama born in Tibet -<br>awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989                                | 18 Mon Nelson Mandela International Day<br>(Birth, 1918)                            |
| 7 Thu 1945: Blessed Peter To Rot killed in PNG;<br>recognised as a martyr.                                     | 20 Wed 1969: First moon landing accomplished<br>by Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin  |
| 10 Sun Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time<br>1985: Sinking of Greenpeace ship<br>Rainbow Warrior in Auckland.   | 24 Sun Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time<br>Arbor Week commences                  |
| 11 Mon World Population Day  | 25 Mon Arbor Day  |
| 12 Tue 1971: Aboriginal Flag first flown.  | 26 Tue 1833: Emancipation Bill - Slavery<br>abolished throughout the British Empire |
| 14 Thu 1995: Aboriginal and Torres Strait<br>Islander Flags proclaimed official                                | 29 Fri 1905: Dag Hammarskjöld born in<br>Sweden                                     |
|  | 31 Sun Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time   |

*Notes on these dates are available in the printed ACSJC's Seasons of Social Justice Diary. The cost is \$6.60. To order go to [http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/publications/social\\_justice\\_calendar.html](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/publications/social_justice_calendar.html), or call 02 8306 3499.*

**AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE COUNCIL** PO Box 7246, Alexandria NSW 2015. Tel: (02) 8306 3499, Fax: (02) 8306 3498, Email: [admin@acsjc.org.au](mailto:admin@acsjc.org.au)  
Website: <http://socialjustice.catholic.org.au>. ACSJC Briefing is sent by email at the beginning of each month (except January). To subscribe or unsubscribe, go to the front page of the website Comments and contributions are also welcome.