



No. 146 – June 2013

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>

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FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Dear friends,

Each year at the end of May and beginning of June, Australia marks Reconciliation Week. It is a time to reflect on and be thankful for the gift that our Indigenous brothers and sisters make to our society - and a time to look hard at the areas in which we have fallen short of our hopes and targets for the future.

As we think about the significance of this year's Reconciliation Week, I invite you to think about the Social Justice Statement that Australia's Catholic bishops issued in 2011. It was titled *Building Bridges, Not Walls: Prisons and the justice system* and its message was that the number of people in Australia's prisons is increasing, even though there is no comparable rise in crime rates.

'If our prison population is increasing,' the Bishops wrote, 'chances are that we are becoming a less fair society and those on the lowest rung of the ladder are doing it tougher than they were previously.'

One particular issue that concerned the Bishops was the rate at which Aboriginal and

Torres Strait Islander people are put in jail. They wrote:

'The great Australian shame is that Indigenous Australians are being imprisoned at a far higher rate than non-Indigenous people, and the rate is increasing rapidly.'

That was the case in 2011. About 18 months later, the Australian Institute of Criminology has released a report that indicates that the rate of Indigenous imprisonment has continued to increase. The report is part of the government's response to the 1991 Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, which called for the Institute of Criminology to monitor all deaths in custody. The report is titled 'Deaths in Custody in Australia to 30 June 2011' (refer: <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/current%20series/mr/1-20/20.html>)

The authors of the report could not put it more plainly. The proportion of Indigenous people in Australia's jails has almost doubled since the Royal Commission. They say:

'In 1991, when the final report was handed down by the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, Indigenous people represented one in seven people (14%) in prison and one in seven deaths in prison custody (14%). In 2011, Indigenous people represented just over one in four people in prison (26%) and one in five deaths (21%).'

To put this in context, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people represent 2.5% of Australia's population but 26% of those in our prisons.

In fact, the *rate* at which Indigenous people have died in custody has decreased. On latest figures, that rate is among the lowest since the Royal Commission, but the *number* of such deaths is among the highest.

The Director of the AIC, Adam Tomison, says in his foreword:

‘At the heart of the problem is the over-representation of Indigenous persons at every stage of the criminal justice system. Any efforts to reduce the number of Indigenous deaths in custody must therefore incorporate a focus on reducing the number of Indigenous people who end up in prison.’

The Bishops also pointed out in *Building Bridges, Not Walls* that for young Indigenous Australians, the numbers in detention were even more out of proportion to the total population than for adult Indigenous people. The AIC’s report shows that the situation remains dire for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: they now represent 46.2% of those in juvenile detention.

The Bishops’ 2011-12 Statement strongly supported the idea of searching for constructive alternatives to prison, including diversionary programs. The AIC’s report also addresses this strategy, but points out that there are serious barriers. There are strict criteria for eligibility for any such program; there is a lack of culturally appropriate programs; and in too many remote areas, there are no programs at all. The report cites research that reveals that Indigenous young people were nearly three times less likely to be cautioned than they were to appear in court and two times less likely to have a police conference than appear in court.

The AIC report does give credit to state and federal governments for some initiatives: extensive funding of services for early child development, education, training and health, and initiatives to strengthen Indigenous economic participation.

Australia’s Catholic bishops have consistently called for a participatory, inclusive approach inworking with our Indigenous brothers and sisters - an approach that is based less on law and order and more on consultative community development, respect for traditional culture and the establishment of true partnerships.

This is a theme that the National Congress of Australia’s First Peoples has taken up in

addressing the issue of over-representation of Indigenous people in the prison system. In a submission to the Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, they called for a commitment by Australian governments to ‘justice reinvestment’ that would emphasise prevention and early intervention rather than an inflexible cycle of arrest, court and imprisonment. The submission criticises ‘an increasingly rigid approach to offending’, including, in the most extreme cases, mandatory sentencing laws that exist in the Northern Territory and Western Australia. (Refer: http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Committees?url=legcon_ctte/justice_reinvestment/submissions.htm)

Les Malezer, Co-Chair of the National Congress, points out:

‘Top-down approaches have never been successful or been owned by communities. Solutions that make the most of the strengths and knowledge within our communities have a much greater chance of success.’

Australian society must ask itself how participatory, consultative and respectful our approach is when so few opportunities exist to divert Indigenous people away from our justice system and into constructive and inclusive ways of acting and responding.

At the launch of the 2011-12 Statement, Bishop Christopher Saunders said:

‘Even though the face of the prisoner is concealed behind the walls of prison, they remain part of our society and, in many ways, reflect the standards of our society. Poverty, inequality, lack of access to education, lack of family support and lack of care for people who suffer from mental illness: all these factors make it more likely that the less fortunate will end up incarcerated instead of getting the help they need.’

The movement towards reconciliation, which is the theme of this opening week of June, demands that Australians step out of their lives of comfort and listen with open hearts to the voices of those who are on the margins of our society. The manifest inequality reflected in

the operation of our prison system is a rebuke to all of us.

John Ferguson
National Executive Officer.



Current Issues / Resources

MEDIA RELEASE - 'FAMILIES BEHIND RAZOR WIRE'

Bishop Christopher Saunders has expressed deep concern over the proposed detention of children and families in remote immigration facilities. 'There is something particularly uncaring about locking away children and families in a starkly isolated facility such as Curtin in the Kimberley. I have seen first-hand the conditions of this place and the physical and mental trauma experienced by older detainees who had already suffered greatly. The Minister says that families and children will be detained for migration checks for the shortest possible time. But the Government gave similar undertakings in 2008, and recent figures reveal that the average time adults and children are spending in detention is almost five months.' (Refer: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>)

A JUST AUSTRALIA - NO DECENCY IN DETAINING INNOCENT CHILDREN

In July 2010, Prime Minister Julia Gillard said Australia's basic decency did not accept the idea of punishing women and children asylum seekers by locking them up. Latest figures show there are 1062 children in closed detention facilities. In 2008, the Government declared that detention should be used only as a last resort and for the shortest practicable time. Two years later, the Federal Government said it would remove most children out of immigration detention facilities and into the community. The number of children in detention is at an all-time high. Find out what action you can take at: <http://www.ajustaustralia.com/>.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUNDAY - 7 JULY

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) has produced wonderful resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday. The theme this year is 'Peace and Mercy for all'. Included are a range of Ceremonies, rituals and prayers that may be utilised where approved and appropriate. NATSICC advises that you consult your parish Priest or pastoral council when

preparing your Mass. When using traditional ceremonies, it is imperative that local Indigenous community are consulted. A list of State and Territory Aboriginal and Islander Catholic Ministries (AICMs) can be found at www.natsicc.org.au in the 'Your NATSICC' section. The 2013 resources are extensive and include Small Group Activity sessions. NATSICC hopes that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday is celebrated in all Parishes and Catholic Schools. To access the resource, visit, http://www.natsicc.org.au/files/218_2013_booklet_small_final.pdf

REDFERN JARJUM COLLEGE SYDNEY PRINCIPAL

Redfern Jarjum College is a new Jesuit primary school for children of families in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities of Redfern and surrounding areas. The College is a small Special Assistance school, in light of the needs of the children. Applications are invited from experienced educational leaders for the position of Principal. The successful applicant would be a visionary and innovative educator, with a deep commitment to, and understanding of, Aboriginal children and their culture, as well as to the philosophy of the College. For full details of the position visit: <http://www.rjc.nsw.edu.au>. Applications close: Friday 14 June 2013.

PETITION: 'KEEPING THEM HOME'

Recent data shows that the number of children being moved into out-of-home care in the Northern Territory has just about doubled since 2007. Two-thirds of these children are being placed with non-Indigenous families away from their communities. Elder Rev Dr Djiniyini Gondarra, as spokesperson for Yolngu Makarr Dhuni calls for this trend to be reversed by increasing family support services in communities. He has written to the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, Adam Giles, asking him for his support. The group 'concerned Australians' says the process of removing children is appalling and identifies the problem - funding for community programmes has been slashed and the money that is there is being directed

to the training of new foster placements as opposed to the preventative and supportive programmes within communities. To find out more and to sign the petition, visit: <http://concernedaustralians.com.au/>

UN REPORT: 'PROMOTING EMPOWERMENT OF PEOPLE IN ACHIEVING POVERTY ERADICATION'

The 51st Session of the United Nations Commission for Social Development has issued a summary of its priority theme: 'Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all'. The Summary emphasises how empowerment refers to enhancing the capabilities and functioning of marginalised and disadvantaged social groups, including people living in poverty, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, youth and older persons, to fully participate in social, political economic and cultural life, and to exercise greater choice and control over their own wellbeing. Empowerment requires an enabling environment that supports policies and an attitude change to permit all people of all abilities to participate in decision-making processes that affect their lives. 'Empowerment derives and builds upon the intrinsic resources of human beings and their inner potential for taking charge of their own destiny. ... [it] does not imply a set of measures that a group of people may prescribe to another group to adopt and implement. The process of empowerment will ideally combine policies and behaviours that seek to enhance choice and capacities of those who are experiencing powerlessness and discrimination.' (refer: www.un.org/esa/socdev/csocd/2013/summaries/Chairsummaryofdiscussiononprioritytheme.pdf).

REPORTS: RENTAL STRESS AND FOOD INSECURITY FOR LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

Anglicare has released two reports: *Rental Affordability Snapshot* which noted 'Short supply of affordable rentals is forcing households who rely solely on Government benefits to spend a good deal more than 30 percent of their income on rent - they are in serious rental stress in a city already facing the highest living costs in Australia'. Read the report in full here: <http://www.anglicare.org.au/news-research-events/latest-news/rental-affordability-snapshot>.

In the second report, *Hard Choices*, Grant Millard, Anglicare Sydney CEO, commented that 'Some 95% of the people surveyed in

NSW and ACT indicated that they had run out of food in the last three months due to unexpected expenses like medical bills, car repairs, large power bills and sudden increases in rent.' Read the report in full here: <http://www.anglicare.org.au/news-research-events/latest-research/going-without-in-a-time-of-plenty>.

The Salvation Army released the results of their National Economic and Social Impact Survey 2013, titled 'It's Not Asking Too Much ...'. Data for the survey was collected from 2,705 clients from 237 Salvation Army Centres across Australia and paints a bleak picture of everyday life for many people in our communities. See their presentation here: <http://thesalvationarmysouthernterritory.cmail5.com/t/y-l-trjhjyl-pkukytjhj-s/>.

ACOSS: 'INITIAL BUDGET ANALYSIS 2013-14'

The Australian Council of Social Service has issued an initial briefing on the 2013-14 Federal Budget, outlining key measures announced in the Budget in areas of interest to ACOSS members. There is a general background on Budget revenue and expenses. These key measures outlined: income support; employment, education and training; health; housing, community services; policies affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; energy, climate change and taxation. The paper ends with a general outline of the major initiatives and savings as nominated by the Government. (refer: http://acoss.org.au/images/uploads/2013-14_ACOSS_Initial_Budget_Analysis_final_2.pdf)

CAMPAIGN: 'DETENTION4DETENTION'

As part of their involvement in the International Detention Coalition to 'End Child Detention', the Young Christian Students Movement is inviting schools to undertake a 'Detention4Detention' - doing voluntary lunchtime detention with other high school students all around Australia to provide asylum seekers with a message of hope, and a welcome to our country. They are asking students to take action by signing a petition and taking photos in support. YCS will be meeting politicians from around the country in the coming months to let them know about this action the support for change in local communities engaged in this campaign. Visit the website to access the material: <http://www.cathoyouthadelade.org.au/media/files/5290.pdf>

ON-LINE RESOURCE: 'REFUGEE FACTS'

'Refugee Facts' has been designed to provide quick facts and comprehensive background information on asylum seekers in Australia, in the interest of ethical and accurate reporting. Authors John Menadue AO, Arja Keski-Nummi and Kate Gauthier have compiled this manual, which provides key information and statistics for journalists, editors and advocates on asylum seeker issues. It has been designed to provide quick facts and accessible background information on asylum seekers in Australia in the interest of accurate reporting. Visit: <http://refugeefacts.cpd.org.au/>

CAMPAIGN: 'OUT OF SIGHT, IN OUR MINDS'

Out of Sight is a collaboration between GetUp and ChilOut to raise public awareness about the plight of child and adult asylum seekers who are detained on Manus Island, Papua New Guinea under Australia's watch. The campaign calls for no children in detention and for an end to offshore processing. With a total media ban and severe restrictions on NGO visits, it is near impossible for Australian public to really know what's going on in overseas detention facilities. The detainees feel isolated and unsure of their futures. As Australians we have the power to change this dire situation. Through this campaign we can bring the stories of the children and adults on Manus Island into the public eye and build public pressure on both parties towards a fairer asylum policy. Find out more: www.outofsight.org.au.

CAMPAIGN: swYtch ... THE FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH IN AUSTRALIA

Simply put - swYtch aims to change the way we think about mental illness and improve Australia's mental health services. Remember mental health affects 1 in 5 Australians every year - so the chances are someone close to you will benefit from this work. This campaign is being run by ConNetica in partnership with some 40 organisations. The project will see the release of a major report prior to the Federal election that showcases innovative mental health practices across Australia, identifies needs, and recommends practical and cost effective mental health services. To get involved, visit the swYtch website here: <http://www.swytch.org.au>.

REPORT: THE JUVENILE DETENTION POPULATION IN AUSTRALIA

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) *Juvenile detention population in*

Australia 2012 report focuses on trends in the numbers and rates of young people in detention in Australia. The numbers of young people in detention remained quite stable over the 4-year period to the June quarter 2012. Similarly, there was little change in the number and proportion of young people in detention who were unsentenced over the 4-year period. However, the level of Indigenous over-representation in unsentenced detention increased over the 4-year period (from 24 to 31 times), but decreased slightly for sentenced detention (from 32 to 30 times). Read the report at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/access/201305/juvenile-detention.html>.

LAW AND JUSTICE FOUNDATION RESEARCH PAPERS

The Law and Justice Foundation have released two recent papers on underprivileged people and their increased vulnerability to a wide range of legal problems. The first one focuses on economic disadvantage: *Concentrating disadvantage – a working paper on heightened vulnerability to multiple legal problems* (read here: <https://promo-manager.server-secure.com/ch/10045/18mzm/582637/b9649dvx8.pdf>); and the second one centres on homelessness: *Home is where the heart of legal need is – a working paper on homelessness, disadvantaged housing and the experience of legal problems* (read here: <https://promo-manager.server-secure.com/ch/10045/18zv5/579258/1e5a7ryrt.pdf>).

ROB MCNAMARA EXHIBITION - CALL FOR WORKS: 'RIGHTING/WRITING THE DIRECTION' field (furthering inclusive learning and development) invites established and emerging artists of all mediums to explore the theme 'righting/writing the direction' and to submit artworks for possible inclusion in this year's Exhibition. This theme is designed so that you can respond to either 'righting the direction' or 'writing the direction' (or both if you're feeling ambitious!). field hopes that in working to the theme, artists will embark upon a learning experience, and that the resulting exhibition is a diverse, challenging and enriching experience for its viewers. The exhibition will run from 9 - 21 August at Collingwood Gallery. Entries are due on 28 June. Information on how to enter is available here: http://www.field.org.au/infocast13/field/exhibition/exhibition_may.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/OrderFormPublications.pdf>)

PASTORAL LETTER - FEAST OF ST JOSEPH THE WORKER 2013

The Pastoral Letter for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker for 2013 is entitled 'Time for a New Start - a call to increase allowance payments'. It is available for download in regular and 'three-column' versions at: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

DISCUSSION GUIDE: 2013 WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE

The theme for the 46th World Day of Peace Message from Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI is *Blessed Are the Peacemakers*. This message reminds us at that we all have a role to play in building peace in our communities and the world. The Message focuses on human dignity, rights and responsibilities, as well as the fiftieth anniversaries of Pope John XXIII's *Pacem in Terris* and of the beginning of the Second Vatican Council. The ACSJC has prepared a Discussion Guide for Pope

Benedict's Message, which is available on our website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

SERIES PAPER - 'WHERE DO WE STAND? WITH WHOM DO WE STAND?'

Paper no. 73 in the ACSJC's Catholic Social Justice Series is titled 'Where Do We Stand? With Whom Do We Stand? People with disability and the call of Jesus'. In it, authors Patrick McArdle and Patricia Mowbray explore the issue of disability and ask what we as Christians are called to do for our brothers and sisters. Too often, they say, those who live with a disability are ignored or shunned by our society. In fact, the authors argue, we all live in precarious and vulnerable situations and unless we appreciate and confront our own vulnerabilities and are willing to enter into true relationship with those living with disability, we will struggle to recognise them as fully human in the way Jesus did. (\$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

NATIONAL

Until 30 June. Stand Up Sunday. While the overthrow of Saddam Hussein may have been a victory for coalition forces, ongoing changes in leadership have been a disaster for Iraqi Christians. Constant threats, terrorist attacks, families being forced to leave their homes and communities with no protection, and a recent spate of kidnappings have all been aimed at demoralising the already dwindling Christian population.

Life has become unbearable. Open Doors invites you to choose any Sunday in June and say 'enough is enough'. Support our Christian brothers and sisters in Iraq by Praying, Giving

(to support placement of Christians who have had to flee) or Writing (to the Iraqi Ambassador in Australia). Register now to receive your Stand Up Sunday Resource Pack at <http://www.opendoors.org.au>.

3-13 June. Catholic Mission Getting Involved Globally (GIG) Program: Timor Leste Immersion. Immersion is first and foremost a 'being with' others. Experience the hospitality of our nearest Asian neighbour in this mission encounter in communities in Timor Leste. Lead by experienced facilitators, communities in the Majority/Developing World will host participants. Facilitator: Luke Keighery. Contact: 1800 257 296. Web: catholicmission.org.au/educationformation/gig.

5 June. World Environment Day: 'Think Eat Save'. Think.Eat.Save is an anti-food waste and food loss campaign that encourages you to reduce your food print. According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), every year 1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted. This is equivalent to the same amount produced in the whole of sub-Saharan Africa. At the same time, 1 in every 7 people in the world go to bed hungry and more than 20,000 children under the age of 5 die daily from hunger. Given this enormous imbalance in lifestyles and the resultant devastating effects on the environment, this year's theme encourages you to become more aware of the environmental impact of the food choices you make and empowers you to make informed decisions. Discover more at: <http://unep.org/wed/>.

16 - 22 June: Refugee Week - 'Restoring Hope'. Refugee Week is Australia's peak annual activity to raise awareness about the issues affecting refugees and celebrate the positive contributions made by refugees to Australian society. Refugee Week is always held from Sunday to Saturday of the week which includes 20 June (World Refugee Day). In 2013, Refugee Week will be held from Sunday 16 June to Saturday 22 June. The theme 'Restoring Hope' reminds us that, while a refugee's journey begins with danger, it also begins with hope. Refugees flee their homelands not only because they fear persecution, but also because they have hope: they hope to find freedom from persecution, and safety and security for themselves and their families. To find out more, visit: <http://www.refugeeweek.org.au/>

20 June. Vinnies CEO Sleepout. There are more than 100,000 Australians who find themselves homeless each night of the year. Just under half of these are women; a quarter are under the age of 18. This Sleepout is a unique way for business leaders to raise awareness and important funds in support of essential homeless services across the country. Register: <http://www.ceosleepout.org.au/>.

22 June. Walk Together. Everyone is invited to Walk Together in recognition that we've all walked different paths to form part of the Australian story. We're Aboriginal Australians, we're refugees, we're skilled migrants, we're long-term Australians, we're international students, we're asylum seekers ... we're people. It's time to Walk Together into a future where diversity is celebrated, fear is replaced

with welcome and where everyone belongs. Contact: welcome@welcometoaustralia.org.au to register your interest to walk in your city. Web: <http://www.welcometoaustralia.org.au/volunteer/item/501-walk-together>.

30 June - 13 July. Palms Encounter Timor-Leste. Encounters provide opportunities for people to learn about the work of Palms development volunteers on mission overseas. Encounters are small groups of 8-10 who will travel with a Palms staff member to visit Palms' volunteers in country and learn about their work. This is a unique opportunity for those interested in social justice and development, and will provide an opportunity to witness first-hand how communities can work in solidarity to reduce poverty. Contact: sarah@palms.org.au or 02 9518 9551. Web: www.palms.org.au/encounters/.

7 - 14 July. NAIDOC Events. National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) celebrations are held around Australia to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The week is celebrated not just in the Indigenous communities but also in increasing numbers of government agencies, schools, local councils and workplaces. Resources, ideas, events: <http://www.naidoc.org.au/naidoc-events/>.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

30 May. Christians for an Ethical Society Forum: 'Child Protection: getting it right'. Speaker: Mary Ivec, Regulatory Institutions Network, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific. Over the past five years Mary worked on the *Regulation, Child Protection and Building Capacity in the Community and in Child Protection Systems* project. Cost: \$5. 7.30 pm, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Blackall St (corner Kings Ave), Barton. Contact: 02 6257 1786. Web: <http://www.ces.org.au/>.

31 May. Restorative Justice Public Lecture: 'Violence, Victimhood and Recovery: On "Doing" Eternal Life'. Speakers: Christopher Marshall; and John Braithwaite, Distinguished Professor and Founder of the Regulatory Institutions Network, Australian National University. Christopher Marshall and John Braithwaite are major contributors to the restorative justice movement in Australia and

Aotearoa New Zealand. This lecture relates to Christopher's recently published book, *Compassionate Justice: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue with Two Gospel Parables on Law, Crime, and Restorative Justice*. John Braithwaite will respond to the lecture, followed by Q&A. 7.30 pm Friday, Chapel, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Blackall St (corner Kings Ave), Barton. Contact: 02 6272 6252. Web: <http://www.stmarks.edu.au/news/entry/restorative-justice-by-christopher-marshall>.

5 June. Press Club Luncheon: The Hon Greg Combet AM MP: 'The Clean Energy Future Plan one year on: How carbon pricing is working' The Gillard Government's carbon price started on 1 July 2012. As the one-year anniversary approaches, Minister Combet will provide an update on how the carbon price and the Government's wider clean energy policies are working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and drive investment in clean and renewable energy. Greg Combet AM MP is the Minister for Climate Change, Industry and Innovation. Cost: \$79. 11.30 am to 1.30 pm, 16 National Circuit, Barton. Contact: 02 6121 2199 or npc@npc.org.au. Book: <http://www.npc.org.au/upcomingspeakers.html>.

6 June. Press Club Luncheon: Bill McKibben: 'Global warming: do the maths'. Bill McKibben is one of the world's most respected and admired writers, speakers and activists on global warming. In 2009 Bill co-founded the grassroots climate campaign 350.org, which has coordinated 15,000 rallies in 189 countries. Cost: \$79. 11.30 am to 1.30 pm, 16 National Circuit, Barton. Contact: 02 6121 2199 or npc@npc.org.au. Book: <http://www.npc.org.au/upcomingspeakers.html>.

6 June. St Vincent de Paul Society Forum: 'Homelessness, It's About You, Can we halve homelessness in Canberra by 2020?' As Canberra celebrates its Centenary, homelessness remains a key civic challenge. A part of the Centenary of Canberra, the forum raises the profile of poverty and homelessness in our community. Can we find new solutions and new approaches by looking afresh at homelessness in Canberra? Speakers: Andrew Penfold, CEO, Australian Indigenous Education Foundation; Fr Chris Riley, Youth

off the Streets; Dr John Falzon, SVDP National CEO; etc. Cost: \$35. 2.30 to 6.30 pm, ANU Commons, 26 Barry Dr, Canberra. Book: <http://www.vinnies.org.au/homelessness-forum-act>.

14 June. Global Poverty Walk - Make Poverty History. Matt Napier is walking from Perth to Sydney bouncing an AFL football to raise awareness of global poverty. Matt arrives on the lawns of Parliament House 1.30 pm. Come along to meet Matt and cheer him on, on the last leg of his 4,400 km journey. You can also join Matt on his walk at: 1.00 pm, Senator Kate Lundy's office, 11 London Circuit or 1.20 pm, Albert Hall, Commonwealth Pde. Contact: sue.earl@tear.org.au or kate.clayton@tear.org.au. Web: <http://www.tear.org.au/news/global-poverty-walk-make-poverity-history-canberra-june-14th>.

1 - 5 July. Centre for Ecumenical Studies Winter School: 'Looking Beyond Division'. Introducing the study of Ecumenism. Speakers: Reverend Dr Michael Kinnamon, Visiting Professor of Ecumenical Collaboration in Interreligious Dialogue, Seattle University; Dr Tamara Grdzeldze, Orthodox Church of Georgia, theologian, WCC Faith and Order Commission; etc. Cost: \$420-1600. Catholic Theological College. Contact: 02 6272 6213 or raywilliamson@csu.edu.au, RSVP by 8 June. Web: <http://www.acc-c.org.au/>.

7 - 10 July. Freilich Foundation Biennial Winter School: 'Indigenous Issues: Past, Present and Future'. This course is for school teachers and other professionals working in Australian schools who wish to further broaden their understanding of issues that confront our understanding of Indigenous Australia. This school will explore the past (facts and myths), and question how it continues to shape the present, and the future both in negative and positive ways. Speakers: Professor Jon Altman, Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, ANU; Professor William Gammage, Humanities Research Centre, ANU; Professor Desmond Manderson, Australian Research Council Future Fellow, ANU; etc. Cost: \$400-450. 1.00 pm, Sir Roland Wilson Building, McCoy Circuit, Australian National University. Book: <http://freilich.anu.edu.au/events>.

NEW SOUTH WALES

31 May. Make Poverty History Photo Exhibition and Community Forum: 'The Road to 2015'. This is an open discussion regarding the Millennium Development Goals to halve global poverty by 2015, and in particular Australia's contribution towards the achievement of this goal. In order to achieve this, the Australian Government must keep its international promise to the United Nations to invest 0.7% of its income to overseas aid by 2020, targeting those that are most in need and investing in sustainable solutions. No cost. 5.30 to 7.30 pm, Bankstown City Library, 62 The Mall, Bankstown. Web: <http://www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au/Calendar.aspx?EID=3799&month=5&year=2013&day=29&calType=0>.

1 June. Faith in Action: 'Through the Jesuit Spirituality of Pope Francis'. Hear renowned speaker Sandie Cornish as she unpacks Catholic Social Teaching through the Jesuit spirituality of Pope Francis. Learn the basic tools to move from faith into action in your everyday life. Through prayer, reflection, sharing and input we will identify issues facing us today, discover the riches of Scripture and Church Social Teaching and explore ways of beginning to develop our understanding and response to these issues. Cost: \$10. 9.30 am to 3.30 pm, Xavier Centre Conference Rooms, 38 Harbour St, Wollongong. Contact: darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au or 02 4222 2463, RSVP by 24 May. Web: http://dow.org.au/diocese/resources/doc_download/651-faith-in-action-through-the-jesuit-spirituality-of-pope-francis.

1 or 26 June. Insights Gathering: Screening of 'Breaking the Silence'. 'Breaking the Silence' is a DVD commissioned by the Insights Team of the diocese in direct response to requests from members of the community. Taking some eighteen months to produce, this DVD is stark in its simplicity. Patricia Feenan, mother of deceased priest James Fletcher's victim, Daniel Feenan, and Bob O'Toole, who was sexually abused by a Marist Brother at school, speak about their experiences, their treatment by the Church community and the impact of the abuse on their lives. To this day Insights made an agreement with Bob and Patricia that the DVD would only be used with facilitated groups.

1 June: 9.30 to 11.30 am, St Paul's Primary School Hall, Felton St, Gateshead.

26 June: 7.00 to 9.00 pm, Holy Cross Parish Hall, 30 Oakland St, Glendale.

Contact: 02 4979 1384 or insightsteam@mn.catholic.org.au. Web: http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/media/335825/flyer_-_dvd_gathering_may-june.pdf.

2 June. Coalition for Justice and Peace Palestine (CJPP) Lunch. Mona el-Farra, Palestinian Doctor and Activist, will speak on life in Gaza. Dr el-Farra's speaking tour is sponsored by CJPP with support from the South Coast Labor Council and Apheda South Coast Branch. 12.30 to 3.30 pm, Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation, 22 Kenny St, Wollongong. Contact: mail@sclc.com.au or 02 4229 2888, RSVP by 27 May. Web: <http://www.coalitionforpalestine.org>.

3 June or 22 July. 'Tree of Life' performances. 'Tree of Life' tells the true life stories of young refugees from Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran and Serbia who attend Miller High School and Intensive English Centre, Liverpool Boys High School and Fairvale High School. It provides a powerful insight into the refugee experience as told by the children who experienced it. Cost: \$35, concession \$20. Ensemble Theatre, 78 McDougall St, Kirribilli. For performance times and to book tickets, contact 02 9929 0644. Web: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/n/event.php>.

6 June. News from Nauru and Messages from Manus. This event will feature presentations from Ellen Hansen, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR Regional Office, Canberra, on UNHCR's reports on its missions to the offshore processing centres in Nauru and Manus Island; Professor Gillian Triggs, President, Australian Human Rights Commission, on the Commission's human rights concerns relating to offshore processing; and barristers and solicitors currently representing asylum seekers in Nauru. 6.00 to 8.00 pm, Wotton + Kearney, Level 5, Aurora Place, 88 Phillip St, Sydney. Contact: comms@pilchsw.org.au. Web: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/n/event.php>.

11 June. Book Launch: 'A Decision to Discriminate'. This event is part of the

Guringai Festival and includes a screening of the film 'Our Generation'. Launched by Graeme Mundine. 6.30 to 9.00 pm, Ryde Library, 1 Pope St, Ryde. Contact: 02 9869 1737 or darryl_drake@optusnet.com.au. Web: www.concernedaustralians.com.au/ADTD_booklaunches.html#Geelong.

12 June. Broken Bay Institute: Understanding the Hebrew Scriptures Jewish-Christian Conversations. The topic will be 'Exodus and Passover: The Relationship to Christian Traditions of Eucharist'. Speakers: Rabbi Gad Krebs, Masada Synagogue, St Ives; and Dr Antoinette Collins, Lecturer in Theology, The Broken Bay Institute and University of Newcastle. No cost. 6.00 to 8.00 pm, Caroline Chisholm Centre, Father Harris Davis Room, Level 8, 423 Pennant Hills Rd, Pennant Hills (enter via City View Rd). Contact: trish.madigan@dbb.org.au or 02 9847 0428. Web: <http://www.bbi.catholic.edu.au/news-and-events/fx-view-event.cfm?loadref=132&id=38>.

12 June. Australian Human Rights Commission RightsTalk: Marta Maurás, member and Vice President of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. Marta and the National Children's Commissioner, Megan Mitchell, will hold a discussion around Marta's role and responsibilities as a member of the United Nations Committee on the Conventions of the Rights of the Child; ask her to reflect on the fourth periodic report of Australia in June 2012 and the concluding observations made by the Committee in 2012 as well as the impressions that she has formed on her current visit to Australia, focusing on areas of strength as well as areas requiring improvement. No cost. 7.30 to 9.00 am, Australian Human Rights Commission, L3, 175 Pitt St, Sydney. Book: <http://rightstalkmartamauras.eventbrite.com>.

14 June. Politics in the Pub: 'Genocide in Sri Lanka: Why No Response from Australia?' Speakers: Gordon Weiss, former UN spokesperson on Sri Lanka, author of *The Cage: The Fight for Sri Lanka and The Last Days of the Tamil Tigers*; and Dr Sam Pari, Spokesperson for Australian Tamil Congress. 6.00 to 7.45 pm, The Gaelic Club, 1/64

Devonshire St, Surry Hills. Contact: 02 9674 9179 or psaratchandran@gmail.com. Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org.au/>.

14 - 16 June. Worldwide Marriage Encounter. A weekend for married couples. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset ... your marriage! This is a unique opportunity to recharge your relationship batteries, refocus on each other and fall in love all over again! Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville. Contact: 02 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au. Web: <http://www.wwme.org.au>.

15 June. NSW Refugee Week Launch: 'Restoring Hope'. This is a celebration of the valued contributions refugees make to Australian society. Speaker: Yarrrie Bangura, Baulkham Hills African Ladies Troupe. It will include: NSW Humanitarian Awards presentation, Australian Refugee Film Festival, Dario Palermo Refugee Art Exhibition and live music. 2.00 to 5.00 pm, Pitt Street Uniting Church, 264 Pitt St, Sydney. Contact: 02 9211 9333 or media@refugeecouncil.org.au. Web: <http://www.refugeeweek.org.au/events/launches.php>.

15 June. Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTAR) Forum. This forum is an insightful commentary and panel discussion by leaders in the field of Aboriginal Education. No cost. 9.30 am to 12.00 pm, The Club Room, NSW Teachers Federation, 23-33 Mary St, Surry Hills. Contact: antarnsw@antar.org.au. Web: <http://nsw.antar.org.au/>.

16 June. Catholics in Coalition for Justice and Peace Seminar: 'The Intervention and Constitutional Change: What does this really mean for Reconciliation?' Speaker: Jeff McMullen, a well-known journalist, author and film-maker. He has worked as an ABC foreign correspondent and a Four Corners and Sixty Minutes reporter. Throughout his professional life Jeff McMullen has written, filmed and campaigned around the world to improve the health, education and human rights of Indigenous people. 9.00 am to 12.30 pm, 9 Alexandra Ave, Croydon. Web: <http://www.paxchristi.org.au/plugins/events.cgi?all=1&num=10>.

16 June. Australian Religious Response to Climate Change's (ARRCC) Christian Climate Change Action Kit Launch. Speaker: Rev Tara Curlewis, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in Australia. 12.00 to 2.30 pm, Pitt Street Uniting Church, 265 Pitt St, Sydney (near Town Hall Station). Contact: info@arrcc.org.au, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.paxchristi.org.au/plugins/events.cgi?all=1&num=10>.

17 June. Film Screening: 'A Common Purpose'. This is a joint fundraising event for Coalition for Justice and Peace Palestine and other participating groups. In 1985, when apartheid was at its most violent, a black policeman was burnt to death and 25 people were convicted of his murder; 14 were sentenced to hang. This film portrays the legal complexity of a notorious trial that marks South Africa's transition from apartheid to democracy. The screening will be followed by a question and answer session with Prof Andrea Durbach, Deputy Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission and director, Mitzi Goldman. Cost: \$20-35. 7.00 pm, Dendy Cinema, 261-263 King St, Newtown. Contact: events@coalitionforpalestine.org. Web: <http://www.australiansforpalestine.net/80851>.

19 June. Ecumenical Service. The Reaffirmation Service is part of the Covenant that Bishop David Walker signed on behalf of the people of Broken Bay Diocese with the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle and the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. 7.45 pm, St John the Baptist Church, corner of Victoria and Blackwall Rds, Woy Woy. Web: <http://www.dbb.org.au/news/dsp-events.cfm?loadref=368&id=69>.

19 June. Official launch of The Golden Rule Poster. Speakers: Hon Victor Dominello MP, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Minister for Citizenship and Communities; and Dr Tom Calma AO; followed by panel discussion with representatives from different religions, facilitated by Dr Rachel Kohn. 10.00 am to 12.00 pm, Theatre, NSW Parliament, Macquarie St, Sydney. Contact: 02 9352 8000 or cmi@columban.org.au, RSVP by 12 June. Web: http://www.cimer.org.au/news_events.html.

19 June. Matt Laffan Memorial Address on Social Justice. In memoriam of the significant impact Matt Laffan had in his short life, Sydney Law School has established an annual social justice address in his honour. Speakers: Stella Young, editor of ABC's *Ramp Up*, disability advocate and comedian; and Dr Peggy Dwyer, Barrister. No cost. 5.30 to 7.30 pm, Auditorium (LT101), Sydney Law School, Level 1, Building F10, Eastern Ave, University of Sydney. Contact: 02 9351 0248 or law.events@sydney.edu.au, RSVP essential. Web: <http://sydney.edu.au/news/law/457.html?eventid=10229>.

21 June. Politics in the Pub: 'Remembering Rachel Corrie'. Speakers: Vivienne Porzolt, Spokesperson for Jews Against the Occupation, Sydney; Lisa Arnold, Apheda Project Officer, Middle East; and Rihab Charida, Daughter of Palestinian refugees and film maker. 6.00 to 7.45 pm, The Gaelic Club, 1/64 Devonshire St, Surry Hills. Contact: 02 9674 9179 or psaratchandran@gmail.com. Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org.au/>.

22 June. Fundraiser: Watoto Children's Choir. Watoto is an holistic care programme that was initiated as a response to the overwhelming number of orphaned children and vulnerable women in Uganda. It is positioned to rescue an individual, raise each one as a leader in their chosen sphere of life so that they in turn will rebuild their nation. Hosted by Camden Uniting Church. 6.00 pm, Camden Civic Centre, Oxley St, Camden. Contact: 02 4655 9303 or office@camdenuniting.org.au. Web: <http://www.camdenuniting.org.au/>.

22 June. Marking SIX years of the NT Intervention. June 21 2013 marks 6 years since the introduction of Northern Territory Intervention, now called 'Stronger Futures'. STICS will again be holding a rally condemning this racist policy and giving a voice to communities suffering worsening living conditions, child removal rates, incarceration rates, suicide rates, by bringing a speaker from the NT. The rally comes at an important time, with new categories of young people set to be forced onto income management in the NT, Bankstown and all 'trial sites' from July 2013.

12.00 pm, Paul Keating Park, Bankstown. Web: <http://stoptheintervention.org/>

24 June. Informal Tea and Conversation: 'Possibilities and Limits of Inter-religious Dialogue'. Speaker: Professor Catherine Cornille, Chair, Department of Theology, Boston College (Massachusetts). 2.00 to 4.00 pm, Function Room, Edmund Rice Building, Australian Catholic University, Strathfield campus. Contact: jonathan.tan@acu.edu.au, RSVP essential. Web: http://www.cimer.org.au/news_events.html.

28 June. Politics in the Pub: 'The Disgraceful Shortfalls in the NSW Health System'. Speakers: John Kaye, MLC, NSW Greens; and Dr Tad Tieze, Psychiatrist and campaigner. 6.00 to 7.45 pm, The Gaelic Club, 1/64 Devonshire St, Surry Hills. Contact: 02 9674 9179 or psaratchandran@gmail.com. Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org.au/>.

3 - 6 July. Broken Bay Institute (BBI) International Speaker Series: 'Strangers, Migrants and Refugees in the Bible'. Whether for professional or personal development, this event is not to be missed by anyone who cares about refugees and wishes to gain new perspectives and practical insights that will help you make a difference. Fr van Thanh Nguyen SVD, CTU, Chicago. Cost: \$500. 9.00 am to 4.00 pm, Caroline Chisholm Centre, Pennant Hills. Contact: 02 9847 0030 or bbi@bbi.catholic.edu.au. Web: www.bbi.catholic.edu.au/news-and-events/dsp-default.cfm?loadref=347.

15 - 16 July. National Forum on Children and Young People from Refugee Backgrounds. This forum will showcase research, policy and practice from around Australia in relation to children and young people from refugee backgrounds. The forum has been structured to identify and discuss emerging issues in relation to young people from refugee backgrounds in Australia and facilitate links between policy and practice. Speaker: Dr David Corlett, presenter, *Go Back to Where You Came From*. Cost: \$20-100. New Law Building (F10) Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney. Contact: 02 9351 0429 or law.events@sydney.edu.au. Book: <http://sydney.edu.au/news/law/457.html?eventid=10241>.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Until 4 June. Arab Spring Film Tour. We're living in the midst of the greatest turmoil the 21st century has seen. Young people have risen up demanding freedom and democracy, resulting in revolutions swarming with violence. The Arab Spring has quickly changed to a Christian Winter. Be confronted and challenged, but also inspired and motivated, by attending one of the meetings below:
1 June: 7.00 pm, Darwin Community Church, 58 Sabine Rd, Millner.
2 June: 7.00 pm, Darwin Baptist Church, Cnr Stuart Highway and Ross Smith Ave, Ludmilla.
3 June: 7.00 pm, Alice Springs Baptist Church, Cnr Crispe and Brown Sts, Alice Springs.
4 June: 7.00 pm, Katherine Heritage Church, Casurina St, Katherine.
No cost, an offering for the persecuted church will be taken at each meeting. Web: <http://www.opendoors.org.au/comingevents/arabspringfilmtour2013>.

1 June. Darwin Waterfront Harmony Soiree. This event provides an opportunity for multicultural community groups to showcase their culture and talent to the wider community. It will include food, entertainment, come and try activities and a lantern flotilla. From 4.00 pm, Darwin Waterfront Precinct. Web: http://www.dcm.nt.gov.au/strong_community/multicultural_affairs/harmony_soiree_2013.

3 - 5 June. National Native Title Conference: 'Shaping the Future'. The Conference is an opportunity for a diverse range of native title stakeholders from across the country to come together to discuss and highlight the future of native title practice, policy and law. It is the leading annual professional development event for staff of native title representative bodies/service providers and relevant government agencies, as well as independent native title practitioners and academics. The Conference program includes keynotes and plenary speeches, dialogue forums, technical workshops, topical workshops and Indigenous talking circles. Cost: \$550-990. Alice Springs Convention Centre. Register: www.aiatsis.gov.au/ntru/ntc13.html.

7 - 10 June. Barunga Festival. The Barunga Festival is a premiere celebration of Indigenous culture, music and sport in the Top End. This festival brings together the musical, artistic, cultural and sporting talents of the Katherine region as well as the Top End and Desert regions. Over the festival weekend, visitors are invited to be part of dancing ceremonies, share traditional bush tucker, make their own didgeridoo or woven basket to take home, listen to dreaming stories and enjoy the many cultural activities on offer. Cost: \$30, concession \$10. Book: <http://www.moshtix.com.au/v2/event/barunga-music-sports-and-cultural-festival/63656>.

26 - 28 June. International Diversity in Organisations, Communities and Nations Conference. The Conference examines the concept of diversity as a positive aspect of a global world and globalised society. Diversity is in many ways reflective of our present world order, but there are ways of taking this further without necessary engendering its alternatives: racism, conflict, discrimination and inequity. Presented by Commonground Conferences and CDU. 9.00 am, CDU Casuarina campus, Ellengowan Dr, Brinkin. Contact: 08 8946 6118 or peter.kell@cdu.edu.au. Web: <http://www.cdu.edu.au/about/events?width=500&height=auto&inline=true#june>.

QUEENSLAND

1 June. Mimburi Community Forum: Recognise - Constitutional Change. The University of the Sunshine Coast in collaboration with Mimburi Upper Mary Aboriginal Association Inc., and Maleny Neighbourhood Centre are holding this forum to discuss the referendum to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in the constitution. 1.00 to 3.00 pm, Mimburi. Belli Park. Web: <http://rsc4c.wordpress.com/>.

4 - 6 June. Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Care (SNAICC) National Conference: 'For Our Children: Living and Learning Together'. The SNAICC National conference is the largest conference of its type in the southern hemisphere and provides the opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islander organisations, policy makers, researchers, government representatives, other non-government organisations and industry representatives to gather and make renewed commitments to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. Cost: \$550-1100. Cairns Convention Centre. Book: www.snaicc.org.au/news-events/dsp-default.cfm?loadref=67, RSVP by 17 May.

7 June. QCOSS State Budget Breakfast. This Budget Breakfast provides the community services sector with an opportunity to find out how the State Budget will affect Queenslanders experiencing poverty and disadvantage. Speaker: Queensland Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, the Hon Tracy Davis MP. Cost: \$65-95. 6.45 to 9.00 am, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, cnr Merivale and Glenelg Sts, Brisbane. Register: <http://www.qcoss.org.au/qcoss-2013-state-budget-breakfast>, by 2 June. Contact: 07 3004 6936.

5 - 19 July. Caritas Fundraiser: The Run to Better Days. 15 days, 1400 kms, 22 young athletes. This initiative was started by a group of medical students from James Cook University and aims to generate action towards the fight to end global poverty. In July this year, Coordinator Daniel Charles and his team will run, in relay format, roughly 1400kms down the Queensland coast from Mackay to the Gold Coast in a bid to fundraise for Caritas Australia and to inspire young people to take action against global poverty. Along the way, they will be stopping to give presentations in schools, community organisations and universities, challenging young people throughout Queensland to consider that Australians can and should do more for the world's poorest people. Web: <http://runtobetterdays.wordpress.com/>.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

7 June. School Curriculum Resource Training: 'Genocide, justice and peace-building - Rwanda: 20 years and beyond.' RwandanStories.org is an award-winning website which brings together a remarkable collection of video, photography and journalism. It explores the origins, aftermath

and recovery from the Rwandan genocide through the eyes of both victims and perpetrators. The accompanying Vanishing Point curriculum resources help students to think through the ideas and actions that either lead to conflict or build peace. A hands-on professional development session on using this curriculum resource in the classroom. Cost: \$190-290. 9.30 am to 4.30 pm, University of SA, Mawson Lakes Campus, Room G1-17. Contact: sally@rwandanstories.org or 0431 202 029. Web: <http://www.cathoyouthadelaide.org.au/media/files/5344.pdf>.

17 June. Refugee Week Launch. The launch of SA Refugee Week will include the Migrant Resource Centre of SA's 30th anniversary publication by His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR, Governor of South Australia, followed by the launch of the Youth Poster Exhibition and Awards by SA Minister for Education and Child Development and Minister for Multicultural Affairs Jennifer Rankine. 2.30 to 4.00 pm, Kerry Packer Civic Gallery, Hawke Building, Level 3, UniSA, 50-55 North Tce, Adelaide. Contact: 08 8217 9510 or admin@mrca.com.au. Web: <http://www.refugeeweek.org.au/events/launches.php>.

26 June. Public Lecture: 'Asylum Reconsidered: On the Right to Sleep, Perchance to Dream'. Speaker: Professor Ranjanna Khanna. In her analysis of the asylum experience, Professor Khanna will reflect on the notion of hospitality, human-to-human and state-to-asylum seeker, and the philosophies that we may discern from the process of being hospitable - offering a haven and repose, but also what we may discern in the denial of these things. This lecture will launch the National Asylum Summit. Jointly presented by The Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre and Hawke Research Institute at UniSA. No cost. 5.30 pm, Allan Scott Auditorium, UniSA City West campus, Hawke Building, 55 North Tce, Adelaide. Register: http://w3.unisa.edu.au/hawkecentre/events/2013events/HRI_Asylum.asp.

TASMANIA

11 June. TasCOSS State Budget Analysis Presentation. TasCOSS's immediate post-

Budget response welcomed the money for DisabilityCare and the Gonski school funding reforms, and for the pay rises resulting from the 2012 community sector equal pay case. There is also funding for a new initiative in preventive health and for the establishment of a background checking system for people working with children. But, disappointingly, indexation of DHHS-funded grants to community services organisations will remain at 2.25 per cent for a third year - an effective reduction given rising overhead costs and a jump in demand for services. 10.00 am to 12.30 pm, Tailrace Centre, Launceston. Contact: beng@tascoss.org.au or 03 6231 0755, RSVP by 6 June. Web: <http://tascoss.org.au/>.

21 June. The Good Samaritan - Reflection Day. We all know the story of the Good Samaritan. Come along and explore the various characters of the story and how each speaks to us in our daily lives. Presenter: Jenny Scally rsj. BYO Lunch. Cost: donation. Emmanuel Pastoral and Spirituality Centre, 123 Abbott St, Newstead. Contact: 03 6334 1082. Web: <http://www.hobart.catholic.org.au/media/events/good-samaritan-reflection-day>.

VICTORIA

Until 28 July. Afghanistan Exhibition: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul. This exhibition, with more than 230 priceless treasures, some thousands of years old, offers a rare opportunity to discover the extraordinarily rich culture that is Afghanistan. Cost: \$24, concession \$16. 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, Melbourne Museum, 11 Nicholson St, Carlton. Contact: 13 11 02. Web: <http://museumvictoria.com.au>.

30 May. Nakba Commemoration Tour: Dr Mona el-Farra. Mona el-Farra, Palestinian Doctor and Activist, will speak on life in Gaza. 6.00 pm, Public Meeting RMIT University, Building 80, Level 2, Swanston St, Melbourne. Contact: 0431 519 577. Web: <http://www.coalitionforpalestine.org>.

5 June. Melbourne Law School Lecture: 'Asylum: Obligation to Need'. This lecture will discuss the implications of the likely increase in forced displacement during the

21st century resulting from deepening political instability in many regions of the earth and the effects of climate change. Speaker: Raimond Gaita, Professorial Fellow, Melbourne Law School and the Faculty of Arts, University of Melbourne. No cost. 7.00 to 8.30 pm, Melbourne Law School, 185 Pelham St, Carlton. Register: <http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au>, RSVP essential. Contact: law-events@unimelb.edu.au or 03 9035 1111.

6 June. Field Forum: 'NDIS and Work'.

The Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO), along with Australians for Disability and Diversity Employment (ADDE) Inc. and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), are holding this forum. It will investigate the relationship between the NDIS and Employment. Is there one? If so what does it look like? Speakers: Lesley Hall, AFDO CEO; Graeme Innes, Australian Disability Discrimination Commissioner; and Liz Cairns, State Manager, Disability Care Services. 10.30 am to 12.00 pm, Buckley's Entertainment Centre, 54 Fellmongers Rd, Breakwater. Contact: cheryl.gration@afdo.org.au, RSVP by 31 May. Web: <http://www.distss.org.au/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi/archive/field/20130510160351/>.

11 June. The Light in Winter Forum:

'The Future of Democracy - An Australian Experience'. Within the themes of power and voices, diverse communities come together to consider our notions of democracy in a global context and how we might evolve to embrace its ever changing face. When does the light turn on? What is it to be a compassionate nation? In the live cross with the national capital, during their Centenary of Canberra, we will explore the growth of Canberra as the contested place and space that continues to shape the modern Australian democracy as it continues to evolve. Moderator: Robyn Archer AO. Panelists: Minthura Wynn, Australia-Burma Society; Shabbir Wahid, President of Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin - Melbourne South East Chapter; Tammy Iliou, member of Melbourne's Greek community; Ubah Badi, member of Melbourne's Somali community. No cost. 6.30 to 8.30 pm, Deakin EDGE, Federation Square. Web: <http://www.fedsquare.com/events/the-future-of-democracy/>.

www.fedsquare.com/events/the-future-of-democracy/.

12 June. Lecture: 'Belonging to Country: Aboriginal Dispossession'. Deepening political instability in many regions of the earth, compounded by the effects of climate change, will probably cause more people to be uprooted than were uprooted last century. Strong nations are likely to protect themselves in ways that become increasingly brutal, testing the relevance and authority of international law. We must therefore think in new ways about how to respond morally, legally and politically to the fact that mere luck ensures that some people enjoy the fruits of the earth while others suffer the miseries of the damned. That amounts to no less than thinking about what it means to be a human being on this fragile earth. Hosted by Raimond Gaita. Speaker: Nicole Watson. 7.00 to 8.30 pm, Melbourne Law School, 185 Pelham St, Carlton. Contact: 03 9035 1111. Book: <http://events.unimelb.edu.au/events/3054-wednesday-lecture-hosted-by-raimond-gaita-belonging-to-country>.

13 June. Ethica Winter Warmer. The Winter Warmer Night enables people to browse Ethica's Fair trade products from Peru and buy bags, hats, scarves, children's clothing, finger puppets and more. 5.00 to 8.00 pm, Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre, 362 Albert St, East Melbourne. Web: http://www.ethica.org.au/epages/ethica.sf/en_AU/?ObjectPath=/Shops/ethica/Categories/News.

14 June. Forum: 'Stop the Creation of Another Stolen Generation'. This event will explore different aspects behind the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection system and what needs to happen to see real change through a dynamic conversation with Aboriginal and non-Indigenous leaders. Speakers: Professor Muriel Bamblett, SNAICC National Executive, CEO, Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency; Aunty Lorraine Peeters, Stolen Generations advocate; Professor Kerry Arabena, Chair for Indigenous Health, University of Melbourne; Megan Mitchell, Australia's National Children's Commissioner; etc. 11.00 am to 1.00 pm, Federation

Square, The Edge, Melbourne. Contact: Ashley.tennyson@snaicc.org.au, RSVP welcomed. Web: <http://lateralloveaustralia.com/2013/05/22/vic-melbourne-stop-the-creation-of-another-stolen-generation/>.

16 June. Discussion: 'Resisting war to make peace'. Pax Christi is holding this event where Professor Michael Hamel Green of Victoria University will discuss his experiences as a war resister, conscientious objector and peacemaker. 1.00 pm - shared meal; 2.00 to 4.00 pm, discussion, Kildara, rear 39 Stanhope St, Malvern. Contact: 0424 950 852. Web: <http://www.paxchristi.org.au/plugins/events.cgi?all=1&num=10>.

16 June. World Refugee Day Rally. Welcome Refugees, Close Manus Island, Close Nauru, End mandatory detention; Stop deportations to danger; Honour the Refugee Convention. Speakers: Graham Thom, Amnesty International; Misha Coleman, Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce; Michele O'Neil, State Secretary, Textile Union; etc. 12.00 pm, Exhibition Buildings, near cnr Nicholson and Gertrude Sts, Carlton. Contact: 0429 252 673. Web: <http://rac-vic.org/?p=490>.

17 June. Refugee Week launch: 'Restoring Hope'. Join in celebrating the valued contributions refugees make to Australian society. Includes speakers, presentation of the RCOA Refugee Champion Awards and live music. 10.30 to 11.30 am, Diversitat Northern Community Hub, 25-41 Arunga Ave, Norlane. Contact: 03 9600 3302 or melbourne@refugeecouncil.org.au. Web: <http://www.refugeeweek.org.au/events/launches.php>.

22 June. A Creative Refugee Week Performance: 'Restoring Hope'. The Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria in partnership with Multicultural Arts Victoria (MAV) and Melbourne Playback Theatre Company present a unique creative performance inspired by National Refugee Week theme Restoring Hope. Playback theatre's actors and musicians bring the audience stories of hope and resilience in a way that is entertaining, surprising, and transformative. No cost. 3.00 to 5.00 pm, fortyfivedownstairs, 45 Flinders Lane, Melbourne. Contact: cnunes@eccv.org.au.

RSVP essential. Web: http://eccv.org.au/library/ECCV_RESTORING_HOPE.jpg.

23 June. Silent Integrity Fundraiser: Family Movie Night. Movie night for the family, watching Monsters Inc 2. Prizes to be won. Silent Integrity is a not for profit organisation. Our belief and aim is to infiltrate and help eradicate human trafficking, specialising in child sexual exploitation and trafficking globally. Cost: \$15. 6.30 to 8.20 pm, Metro Cinema, 216 Dorset Rd, Boronia. Contact: 0417 255 793 or info@silentintegrity.org.au, RSVP by 16 June. Web: <http://lightfm.com.au/silent-integrity-family-movie-night>.

26 June. Foundation House Oration: 'What Prospects for the Pursuit of Global Justice?' Professor Tim McCormack, Special Adviser on International Humanitarian Law to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in The Hague and Professor of Law at the Melbourne Law School, will assess the efficacy of the global justice project. The event marks the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. 6.00 pm, Foundation House, 6 Gardiner St, Brunswick. Contact: omaras@foundationhouse.org.au or 03 9389 8923, RSVP by 21 May. Web: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/n/event.php>.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

30 May. Movie Screening: 'Silenced Voices'. This is a film about freedom of speech and the price some are willing to pay for it. Told as personal encounters of exiled journalists from Sri Lanka, the film explores how some have been threatened, some interrogated and some even killed in Sri Lanka for challenging the Government through exposing war crimes, human rights abuses and corruption. With scores of journalists forced to flee Sri Lanka, the civil society there today is traumatised into silence and the media is forced to self-censor. 6.30 to 9.00 pm, FTI Cinema, 92 Adelaide St, Fremantle. Contact: 0412 751 508 or humanrightstamileelamsrilanka@ymail.com. Web: <http://www.indymedia.org.au/perth-premier-movie-screening-silenced-voices>.

4 June. Coalition for Justice and Peace for Palestine (CJJP) Nakba Commemoration

Tour. Mona el-Farra, Palestinian Doctor and Activist, will speak on life in Gaza. Dr el-Farra's speaking tour is sponsored by CJPP with support from Friends of Palestine WA and Students for Palestine (UWA) and the Palestinian Community of Western Australia. 6.30 pm, Alexander Library Theatre, Cultural Centre, Northbridge. Contact: 0409 762 081 or FriendsOfPalestineWA@gmail.com. Web: <http://www.fopwa.org>.

27 - 30 June. Australian Association For Professional And Applied Ethics (AAPAE) Conference: 'Achieving Ethical Excellence'. Hosted by the School of Philosophy and Theology, University Of Notre Dame Australia, Fremantle. Speakers: Professor Raimond Gaita, Australian Catholic University/King's College, London; Dr. Christine Swanton, University of Auckland; Justice Neville Owen; Professor Dan Wueste, Clemson University; etc. Cost: \$200-700. University of Notre Dame Australia, Fremantle. Contact: 0428 153 315 or alandtapper@gmail.com. Web: <http://www.aapae2013conference.com.au>.

28 June. Fundraising Dinner: End of Financial Year celebrations. With the full support of His Excellency, The Mary MacKillop Foundation cordially invites you to their annual Fundraising Dinner. An exclusive evening with exquisite food, delightful wine and grand entertainment. Cost: \$160. 7.00 pm, The Ballroom, Government House. Contact: 02 8912 2714 or events@mackillopfoundation.org.au. Web: <https://www.mackillopfoundation.org.au/event/2013-perths-annual-fundraising-dinner-end-of-financial-year-celebrations/>.

2 July. Economics Conference: 'Freedom to Choose: The Economics of Government

Failure'. The speakers will consider how and why the costs of government failure can be substantial. Government intervention to resolve market failures may often fail to achieve an efficient allocation of resources. Speakers will make reference to Australian and international cases where the diagnosis of market failure may be accurate, but the recommendations and policies designed to correct such failures are inappropriate. Speakers will examine how both microeconomic and macroeconomic policies of various kinds may actually produce unintended, negative results and considerable resource wastage. The conference is sponsored by the Mannkal Economic Education Foundation and The University of Notre Dame. Cost: \$50-100. Fremantle Campus, University of Notre Dame. Contact: dhoare@nd.edu.au. RSVP by 18 June. Web: <http://www.nd.edu.au/fremantle/schools/business/freedomtochoose2013>.

5 - 16 June. Film Series: Undercover. This documentary was filmed live, and ventures on a journey among the suffering church in Bangladesh and India. Hear from fellow Christians about their experiences of violence, looting, burning of houses and forced re-conversion. Be inspired by their faith and how God is enabling many of them to reach out to their persecutors with love and forgiveness. The film will be screened in Derby, Broome, Kununurra, Karratha, Port Hedland, Mundaring, Fremantle, Rockingham, and Gosnells. Admission is free. An offering for the Persecuted Church will be taken at each meeting. Books and DVDs will be for sale. Details: <http://www.opendoors.org.au/comingevents/undercover2013>.

News Monitor

Govt slashes funding to aid agency Palms Australia

The Federal Government slashed funding to Catholic volunteer organisation Palms Australia. The loss of the its first government funding since 2004 would force the charity to cut its volunteer workforce by almost half, said Palms Australia executive director Roger O'Halloran, reported The Catholic Weekly.

Pope condemns Bangladesh 'slave labour'

Pope Francis condemned 'slave labour' after more than 400 people died in a factory collapse in Bangladesh, reported AAP on SBS.

Pope stresses workers' dignity after Bangladesh factory collapse

Pope Francis offered condolences and prayers, along with calls for worker safety, after a

factory collapsed and killed more than 350 people in Bangladesh, reported the Catholic News Agency.

Nun found guilty of US nuclear site break-in

An elderly Catholic nun and two peace activists were convicted for damage they caused while breaking into a US nuclear defence site, according to a BBC report on UCANEWS.

Carers want more detail about the disability levy and NDIS

Carers and families of profoundly disabled loved ones welcomed the public's positive response to a Disability Care levy. But they said the Government's announcement raises more questions than answers, reported the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney.

ACMRO applauds govt commitment to 20,000 refugees

The Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office applaud the government's commitment to provide refuge for 20,000 of the world's most vulnerable people through the humanitarian program, it said in a media statement.

Caritas disappointed over aid spending delay in Budget

Caritas Australia expressed disappointment that the government in its Federal Budget not followed through on its long-standing commitments to increase the foreign aid budget to 0.5% of Gross National Income, the organisation said in a media release.

Welfare agencies face service cuts under Federal budget

Welfare and social agencies across the country may be forced to cut services if funding issues are not addressed in this month's Budget, according to Catholic Social Services Australia, reported the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney.

Josephites, CSSA lament Budget failure to support needy

The Josephites expressed their regret that the Budget did not increase the Newstart

allowance. And Catholic Social Services Australia said that for the 800,000 Australians on income support, this Federal Budget provided very little comfort.

Pope calls for global, ethical finance reform, end to cult of money

Pope Francis called for global financial reform that respects human dignity, helps the poor, promotes the common good and allows states to regulate markets. "Money to serve, not to rule," he said in his strongest remarks yet as pope concerning the world's economic and financial crises, reported the Catholic News Service.

Stolen Generation's stories of heartache must not be forgotten

A Mass to commemorate Sorry Day on Sunday at the Church Of Reconciliation at La Perouse in Sydney heard Dr Elsie Heiss recount the story of her mother who was taken from her parents and siblings as a five-year-old and did not see them again until she was 27, reported the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney.

Welfare agencies join call to ban live betting odds

Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA) called for an urgent ban on live betting odds being posted during sports broadcasts on TV, reported the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney.

CHA said discussion needed about health inequity, not just waiting lists

While people around the country continue to focus on waiting lists in any discussion of health care in Australia, Catholic Health Australia said last Friday's report from the COAG Reform Council reveals - once again - the great injustice of health inequity continues to grow in this country, CHA said in a media release.

— *For details, click on headlines or go to cathnews.com*



Social Justice Calendar

- 2 Sun Corpus Christi (The Body and Blood of Christ)
- 3 Mon Day of Prayer for Catholic and Anglican Reconciliation
1992: High Court hands down decision in Mabo Case
1886: Catholic and Anglican Martyrs of Uganda
- 4 Tue International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
1989: Tiananmen Square Massacre
- 5 Wed World Environment Day
- 7 Fri Sacred Heart of Jesus
- 8 Sat World Oceans Day
- 9 Sun Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- 10 Mon 1838: Myall Creek Massacre
1935: Alcoholics Anonymous established in New York
- 11 Tue 1971: Neville Bonner first Aboriginal Australian to hold a seat in Federal Parliament
1975: Australia ratifies the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- 12 Wed World Day Against Child Labour
1988: Barunga Statement presented to Prime Minister Bob Hawke by Aboriginal leaders
- 16 Sun Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
International Day of the African Child
National Refugee Week commences
- 17 Mon World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
- 19 Wed 1945: Birth of Aung San Suu Kyi
1969: Arbitration Commission affirms equal pay for women performing equal work
- 20 Thu World Refugee Day
- 22 Sat 1989: Destruction of the Berlin Wall
- 23 Sun Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
UN Public Service Day
- 24 Mon The Nativity of John the Baptist
- 26 Wed International Day in Support of Victims of Torture
International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
- 30 Sun Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
1945: Introduction of unemployment benefits in Australia

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, 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 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.