

# Jesuit Social Services

## Easter 2007

standing in solidarity with those in need, expressing a faith that promotes justice

## Autumn Newsletter

371 Church Street Richmond 3121 Tel: (03) 9427 7388  
www.jss.org.au

Celebrating 30 years 1977-2007

### CELEBRATE WITH US!



It was 30 years ago that we began our work with a highly disadvantaged group of young people – young offenders exiting juvenile justice centres and prisons.

Peter Norden SJ, through his work visiting these facilities, concluded that many young people move back into the community without any support, accommodation or source of income. And so Four Flats, the precursor to the Brosnan Centre, was born.

From the outset the central feature of our work has been 'relationship' – forming relationships as a basis for effective intervention. Since 1977 our work has extended in a number of ways, including to young people with multiple and complex needs, vulnerable families and communities.

Advocacy has always been an important part of our work. This activity, plus our research and policy work, is a hallmark of the organisation. It is essential because our vision is to build a more just society - as such it's important that we address the social, political and economic structures that give rise to injustice and impact directly on people's lives.

In keeping with this, our 30th anniversary year sees us publishing a major piece of research in partnership with

**From the outset the central feature of our work has been 'relationship'**

Catholic Social Services Australia. 'Dropping off the Edge' builds on our previous studies into locational disadvantage and once again we have been fortunate that the research has been undertaken by Professor Tony Vinson. This work highlights that in a time of overall economic prosperity for Australia, there are distinct and entrenched pockets of disadvantage where people's lives are marked by their lack of access to many of the things most of us take for granted. The publishing of the research is only the first step – we will continue to advocate for the most disadvantaged, working for a fairer deal for them.

There is still a lot of work to do, but as we look back over the past 30 years we can see that together much has also been achieved. In keeping with our commitment to reflection and ongoing learning we are undertaking a history project – to consider where we've come from and how that informs who we are now, plus who we will become into the future.

In listening to people's stories I have been reminded of the passage from the prophet Isaiah that we read every year at the beginning of the season of Lent. It urges us to "let the oppressed go free, and break every yoke, to share your bread with the hungry, and shelter the homeless poor, to clothe the one you see to be naked and not turn from you own kin". But the words that really strike me are those that follow: "Then will your light shine like the dawn and your wound be quickly healed over. Your integrity will go before you".

As I've listened to staff, volunteers and supporters - past and present - I have witnessed just this: that their commitment to justice sees their light shining brightly and their integrity leading them forward. It is a gift to be part of this story.

**Julie Edwards, CEO**

## DROPPING OFF THE EDGE: *the distribution of disadvantage in Australia*

The latest research of Jesuit Social Services and Catholic Social Services Australia on the distribution of disadvantage in Australian communities.

The major area of research undertaken by Jesuit Social Services in the last ten years has been the mapping of disadvantage by postcode.

We have completed two previous studies: Unequal in life (1999) and Community Adversity and Resilience (2004). Both of these investigations were undertaken by Professor Tony Vinson on behalf of Jesuit Social Services and focused on 587 postcodes in New South Wales and 647 postcodes in Victoria.

Our latest study Dropping off the edge covers every community in Australia and was officially launched at Parliament House, Canberra on 28th February 2007.

Once again Emeritus Professor Tony Vinson, University of NSW, has been our lead researcher, but on this occasion Jesuit Social Services joined with Catholic Social Services Australia as partners in sponsoring the project.

I have acted as Project Manager during the life of the research and publication.

### Purpose of the Research Study

While it is quite clear that there has been an increasing level of prosperity in Australia over the last fifteen years, the experience of Jesuit Social Services and many other non government and church organisations throughout the country has been that the work required to assist the disadvantaged has not decreased during that time. For this reason we set about the task of investigating whether it is true that those who do not share the growing prosperity of Australia are being concentrated in particular localities – in metropolitan, rural or remote communities.

### Methodology

Disadvantage is measured regularly by the Australian Bureau of Statistics using a limited number of variables including income, education, employment and housing. Professor Vinson's work with Jesuit Social Services now combines more than twenty variables, giving a much richer picture than is available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Most of the additional variables that we have used have been obtained from the State and Territory Government departments of health, education, community services and family services. For every postcode area or equivalent in each State and Territory of Australia, we can now produce a report on how that area ranks on a range of more than twenty disadvantage factors. Our research not only enables government authorities to measure such individual measures of disadvantage but also enables them to rank each of the localities in each State or Territory in terms of cumulative disadvantage.

### Policy Implications

This research was possible because of the positive response Jesuit Social Services received from each of the Premiers or Chief Ministers requesting their support in gathering the data from their government departments.

The report will have clear benefit to state government administrations throughout the country. The data that has been compiled will be of significant benefit to Federal

Government departments also. Never before has the statistical information from State Government departments been combined with information obtained through the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

**Those who do not share the growing prosperity of Australia are being concentrated in particular localities.**

During the last two months, along with Frank Quinlan, the National Director of Catholic Social Services Australia, I have been consulting with Federal politicians and senior Commonwealth Government policy advisers and public servants about the implications of the research report Dropping off the edge.

We believe that the findings of the report have important implications for all political parties as our nation moves towards a Federal Election later this year.

This research work reflects the Mission Statement of Jesuit Social Services: Jesuit Social Services is a community of people, in solidarity with those in need, providing practical programs of service and committed to social action, advocacy and research as an expression of that relationship.

**Father Peter Norden S.J.**  
Associate Director

To order a copy of the full report tel: (03) 9427 7388 or visit [www.jss.org.au](http://www.jss.org.au)



### EASTER GOODIES FROM THE GATEWAY KITCHEN

Abbotsford Biscuits will offer several new lines this Easter. Locally produced eggs made from imported and Australian couverture (premium chocolate) will be packaged with our label, plus new biscuit lines. Our dark chocolate fudge is back due to popular demand. Order form with this newsletter or from [www.jss.org.au](http://www.jss.org.au). We will be selling our goods at the Melbourne Food & Wine Festival at Federation Square 24th and 25th March and the 4th Saturday of the month at the Abbotsford Convent Slow Food Market.



Fr Joe Caddy Chairman, Catholic Social Services Australia, Julie Edwards CEO, Prof. Tony Vinson and Fr Peter Norden SJ.

# YOUR CHANCE TO HELP CREATE A PIECE OF HISTORY

To celebrate our 30th anniversary and to capture the essence of who we were and who we're becoming, Professor Greg Denning is facilitating a series of conversations throughout the year. Past and present friends and associates are warmly invited to attend the conversations, join an on-line conversation circle at [conversation.circle@jss.org.au](mailto:conversation.circle@jss.org.au) or send in written stories and photos - all of which will contribute to a commonplace book. The conversations will be full of stories: sad/happy, angry/understanding, down-to-earth/idealistic stories. These will be an exchange of the gifts of our experiences.



This will all culminate in the publication of a history - not a boring litany of facts, but something which captures the memories, spirit and ideals of Jesuit Social Services.

*"Have a conversation with yourselves. Then say something. And make whatever you say make the world better in some way."*  
Prof Greg Denning.

Further conversations will take place at the Brosnan Centre, 10 Dawson Street Brunswick from 7pm – 9pm on:

March 26th	<b><i>A Sense of Place</i></b>
April 30th	<b><i>A Living Presence</i></b>
May 28th	<b><i>Memory and Hope</i></b>

## I REMEMBER 20 YEARS AGO...

When I first started work at the Brosnan Centre around 1987, I was rather apprehensive, because my experience as a Good Shepherd Sister was with girls in our care.

My role as a religious sister in the seven years I was with the Brosnan Centre was one of presence - just being there. In the beginning I found it hard just being, as I was more used to doing. But as time went on, I discovered how valuable it was just to be around with the young people who came to the Centre, who were at times angry, fearful and aggressive, or quiet, silent and seemingly lost.

There were great moments when they would come in and greet me with a smile on their faces, and I would think - this is going to be a good day! On the whole there were more good days than bad.



It was wonderful to see the change and growth that took place after a few months. The experience has made me more understanding of young people and their needs.

The staff were very dedicated and caring people who would go the extra mile and I learned a lot from them."

**Sister Pauline Zammit at the old Brosnan Centre in Sydney Road Brunswick circa 1989.**

## STAFF PROFILE:

*Zoe Horsfall - Resident Artist at the Artful Dodgers Studio*

**Z**oe has a fine arts degree in painting and a post graduate diploma in Interactive Media. Zoe does freelance work within the community, as well as working at the Gateway Artful Dodgers Studio. She believes it's important to maintain outside art practice as it lends her credibility in the eyes of the young people.

"Because of the length of time that people engage here, it offers a chance for real growth and change. The way that the Artful Dodgers Studio works is that it has projects that people engage in and these have real outcomes that everyone can see. But I think the most beneficial aspect is seeing the program participants make their own social connections, form their own groups to support each other.

We aim for this to be a positive experience for everyone.

People may come to work with us here for one year, two or even three. Lots of people get it together: go back to school, get a job, move on and that's a real joy.

But sometimes they stop attending - go back to hospital or go on a drug spiral. But then they come back again.

Recently a participant came back to the studio and I hadn't seen him for over a year. He'd been working but then things fell apart. When he turned up he was in a much better state than the first time. He came back to us - even that was a joy. I think that this time it will be a shorter stay. It is part of a cycle we often see.

We really get to see a progression in someone's life. It's about being there for when people are ready to make the step forward. Sometimes we are able to support people through times when there is nothing else in their lives. Sometimes our success is just keeping them on a steady path, not getting worse.

And sometimes when people do go on a downward spiral, we help to just keep them alive. We give them a window into what it is to achieve something, to be part of a group and to experience making art. Further down the track that's something they can come back to and reflect on - that has a huge impact.

Art is such a transformational thing. And often participants use their art as proof to outside people that they have done something or that they are not just a total write off. To show their mums or invite their mums and family members to the exhibition - that might be the only contact that they have had for a long time.

This is the first job that I have had where I've been able to use my skills while seeing that it has a direct effect on people. It has enabled me to see how art can enrich and transform other people's lives."



**Resident Artist Zoe Horsfall in the Gateway Artful Dodgers Studio.**

## JESUIT HONOURS FOR LONG TIME VOLUNTEERS



**Mark Raper SJ, Provincial of the Australian Province of the Society of Jesus awards Peter Johnstone and John Quin the Jubilee Medal of First Companions at our 30th Anniversary Mass on 18th February 2007.**

## CONGRATULATIONS TO FR PETER NORDEN SJ

**O**n Australia Day 2007 Fr Peter Norden SJ was appointed an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia for "service to community development through social research and programs to help marginalised young people and offenders, to the mental health sector and to the Catholic Church".



This marks 30 years since Peter started our work with young offenders exiting custody - the work which has grown into the diverse organisation that is now Jesuit Social Services.

## WE'VE COME A LONG WAY

**J**esuit Social Services has come from a small halfway house for young men being released from prisons to a diverse organisation addressing disadvantage in a number of ways. The experience of working with the most disadvantaged in the community led logically to this diversity. Jesuit Social Services is therefore an organisation that has followed the lead of young people in trouble. It has meant providing services directly as well as addressing the cause of disadvantage through research and advocacy."

**David Murray, Policy Director 1995-2001**



**Bernie Geary and David Murray were both managers of the original program now known as the Brosnan Centre. In 1995 Bernie became the Program Director of Jesuit Social Services and David returned as Policy Director.**

**In 2001 David was appointed CEO of The Youth Substance Abuse Service (YSAS) and in 2002 Bernie was appointed Executive Director of Jesuit Social Services. Bernie is now Victoria's inaugural Child Safety Commissioner.**

## WILL YOU HELP US CAPTURE THESE STORIES?

**W**e are seeking funding for the cost of publishing this 30th anniversary booklet. We want to produce a booklet that gives voice to some of the stories of Jesuit Social Services - for we believe that it will act as both a witness to what's possible when we 'stand in solidarity with those in need and express a faith that promotes justice'; and an inspiration for us to remain true to this call.

To support our project, please contact Emma Walters, Fundraising Manager on (03) 9427 7388 for further details.

**P**eter Johnstone is the inaugural Chair of the Board of Jesuit Social Services and has served in this role for over 10 years. Peter is rigorous about the governance responsibility that Boards hold. He is energetic and passionate, bringing keen insight, vigour and an eye for detail to every meeting. He is a man of integrity with a deep commitment to social justice, good public policy and corporate governance. Peter clearly leads by example - even being the first to contribute to Jesuit Social Services' fundraising program through Work Place Giving.

**John Quin** has given 30 years of uninterrupted service as a volunteer for Jesuit Social Services. He commenced this work in 1977 with Four Flats, later Brosnan Youth Services, and continues his commitment now as a member of the Board's Finance and Audit Committee.

# SUPPORT AFTER SUICIDE

**O**n 14th November 2005, Nicole Flottl received a phone call that changed her life as she learned that her young brother Cole has ended his, by hanging himself in their mother's home.

"After the funeral I found myself unable to get out of bed for nearly two weeks – I wanted to shut out the pain and all the emotions thinking, 'Take me too, this is too hard.' It was my mum who talked me into going to counselling because she had gone to Support After Suicide and said it really helped her. Something surfaced in me about not wanting my mum to think she was going to lose another child.

We went to the family information evening first, but I was a bit embarrassed to be there. I thought, 'What am I doing here? I don't need help. I'm not like you people'. But really, I was just so scared of all the emotions I just didn't want to look at - like anger and guilt; guilt that I should have been able to stop Cole dying.

I was terrified right up to the minute before I went in to the first group; and when we started to say why we were there I began to realise that it did happen to other people and we were all terrified and struggling with the same things.

It was having someone to really talk to and to rely on which made the difference, someone who understood

suicide specifically and would be willing to listen no matter what I said or how I said it. My counsellor, Linda, was my lifeline really.

With Linda it was all a matter of trust – trust in her and trust in me. It felt safe to open up those scary feelings and be really listened to, be really honest with myself.

And I have let my mask slip to let people, especially my family, really see me. If Cole could have opened up, maybe things might have been different.

I couldn't help Cole before he died, but now I fight every day for the cause. If I can save just one person or help one family or friend through this, then Cole hasn't died in vain.

It is great to know Support After Suicide is here, because without them I'm not sure I would be." Nicole Flottl



If you need support please telephone Suicide Helpline 1300 651 251 or Support After Suicide on 9427 9899.

**Cole McDonald was 23 years old when he suicided.**

# OUR NEW POLICY & PROGRAM DIRECTOR

**W**e are delighted that Tom Keating joined Jesuit Social Services in December 2006 as Program and Policy Director.

Tom began his professional career working with homeless young people and offenders in Brunswick and Broadmeadows, where he grew up. In 1979 he joined the Department of Human Services to establish the first emergency accommodation and support services for young people in Victoria. He subsequently managed child and family services in the North East of Melbourne, coordinated disaster recovery for the State following the Ash Wednesday bushfires and directed Victoria's Child Protection services. As Regional Director for the Hume Region for the Department, from 1983 Tom was responsible for the provision of health, welfare, disability and aged care services in the North East of the State.

Tom was a Pro-Vice Chancellor of Latrobe University from 1996 until 2006, and holds a continuing appointment as Associate Professor at that University. His book, *Institutions in Turbulent Environments* deals with how organisations deal with rapid change. He has published widely in the fields of rural health, service organization and management and emergency management.



**"Jesuit Social Services is a great organisation," says Tom. "One of the reasons I came to work here is that it's committed to working with the most disadvantaged and takes a strong stand on issues of social justice."**

# TAPPING INTO A NEW FEELING

**W**hen Gateway participant 17 year old Jillian met 67 year old volunteer Faye Callaghan she found a soul mate. They both loved tap dancing and decided they would put on a little show for Christmas.

Jillian was dealing with some big problems but the time spent with Faye reminded her of a good childhood experience of learning to tap dance.

"I've never seen a kid so happy," said Faye. "When I gave her the costume and put some stage makeup on her, Jillian danced her heart out. Doing something fun like dancing takes kids' minds off the things they are trying to put behind them. I want to bring joy to people's lives and doing this with the Gateway kids makes me so happy too, because I can see the confidence it brings out in them."

Faye taps for charity with a troupe of 'girls' with an average age of 69!



**Gateway participant Jillian and volunteer Faye Callaghan strutting their stuff!**

# PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS!

**T**hat's exactly what our Fundraising Manager, Emma Walters, has done by joining the Community Partners program. Emma joined the team at Jesuit Social Services last year, having moved to Melbourne from the UK. Seeing the work of the organisation first hand has made a huge impact on her.

"I love living in Melbourne – the diversity, the culture, the people and its surroundings and I feel privileged to be here. However, working for Jesuit Social Services has made me realise that not everyone is in a position to enjoy these benefits."

Emma has joined a growing number of Community Partners who wish to make a real

difference to our community by committing to monthly donations. Regular, guaranteed income enables Jesuit Social Services to plan ahead and be in position to identify and respond to new and emerging social issues.

By becoming a Community Partner you are helping to create a more inclusive and just society.

"To me, joining the Community Partners program is about backing the fantastic work of Jesuit Social Services and working together to help shape the society we want to live in. By becoming a Community Partner I feel part of a special group as I know that my contribution makes a difference – I feel like a 'true partner'".

**Fundraising Manager Emma Walters is proud to personally support the program she is asking others to join.**



# COMMUNITY PARTNER PLEDGE

*Yes! I would like to become a Community Partner by making a monthly contribution to Jesuit Social Services.*

DONATION AMOUNT	PAYMENT TYPE	CONTACT DETAILS
<input type="checkbox"/> \$30 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 or \$ _____	Credit Card: <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> American Express  Card Number <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>  Expiry Date: ...../...../.....  Signature:.....  OR <input type="checkbox"/> Direct Debit from my bank account  We will send you a Direct Debit Authorisation banking form by email or post for you to complete	Surname ----- First name ----- Address: ----- ----- Phone - H ----- Phone - W ----- Phone - M ----- Email -----

## Jesuit Social Services

Celebrating 30 years of providing services and advocacy for disadvantaged young people, families and communities

### 30th Anniversary Fundraising Dinner

The Atrium, Flemington Racecourse  
7pm, Saturday 28th April 2007



#### GUEST SPEAKER

Highly acclaimed author, poet, storyteller, award winning journalist and social commentator

*Martin Flanagan*

One of Australia's most respected and engaging writers brings his unique perspective on Australia today



Photo by Andrew McRae

#### PLUS

A special performance by one of Australia's greatest singer/songwriters

*Paul Kelly*

Booking form enclosed or ring (03) 9427 7388 by 20th April 2007.

## LEARNING TO CHANGE AND GROW

"My name is Justin and I have been at Perry House for a year and a half now and I have been taught a lot since I first stayed at Perry House. The things I have been taught are:

Keeping my room clean, mowing the lawns, do my washing and generally doing housework. The other housemates are pretty good but the staff are even better because whenever I am in trouble they always help solve my problems and they help me save my money for important things and whenever I want something. I currently do a music program run by Gateway and so far I can play the drums and play the bass guitar and also I can play into songs. The other good thing about Perry House is that I can keep in contact with my mum and my brother in Werribee. I also like going for runs and also going for walks. The vibe at Perry House is awesome and the size of the property is that big we can have a mini game of cricket and whenever the footy is on everybody is here when Collingwood plays. When I leave Perry House I can keep all the stuff I have been taught and prove that I can live by myself. The food at Perry House is awesome as well and I also do some of the cooking. I have been given responsibility of looking after our birds and making sure that they have enough food and water. I have also been taught how to iron, keep myself clean and do the gardening and trim hedges at the back and front of Perry House."



Pauline O'Donnell, Coordinator of Perry House with 19 year old Justin.

## THE GIFT OF FAMILY SPIRIT



Peter and Tracey Cooper and their children Dylan, Bronte and Paris with their donated Christmas hampers for the Brosnan Centre

At Christmas, the Brosnan Centre received great contributions towards Christmas hampers for our young people. Gifts flowed in from St Vincent de Paul (Parkville Conference),

Peninsula Support Group and St Macartan's Parish in Mornington.

The Cooper family also put together hampers - paid for by the family and assembled by the children - as their gift to our young people. The whole family came to the Brosnan Centre just before Christmas, presenting the hampers and asked to be told the story of the Brosnan Centre and our young people. The children sat attentively as Manager Peter Coghlan explained our purpose, history and the difficulties faced by our young people. Peter Cooper had a history of donating to the Brosnan Centre, but he wanted his children to have some involvement with contributing, in a practical sense, to people less advantaged - hence the hampers and visit to the Brosnan Centre.

## OUR PROGRAMS

Since 1977 when we began our work with young people exiting prison and juvenile custodial facilities, our current programs have broadened to include other young people with multiple and complex problems, families and disadvantaged communities.

- **Brosnan Centre** - supporting young offenders to make a successful transition from custody back into the community
- **Perry House** - providing a residential facility for young offenders with an intellectual disability
- **Community Justice Group Conferencing** - supporting young people to make amends for offending
- **Gateway** - providing pathways to education, training and employment for young people with multiple and complex problems

associated with mental illness, substance misuse and homelessness

- **Connexions** - delivering intensive youth support and counselling for young people with multiple and complex problems associated with mental illness, substance misuse and homelessness
- **Mentoring** - connecting young people involved with juvenile justice or leaving statutory care with volunteer adult role models from the community
- **Community Programs** - strengthening communities through community development initiatives in the public housing estates in the City of Yarra
- **African Program** - forging partnerships with communities from the Horn of Africa
- **Vietnamese Welfare Resource Centre** - responding to the needs of the Vietnamese community

- **Collingwood Community Information Centre** - delivering information and referral plus recreational and training programs for local residents
- **Support After Suicide** - providing support to individuals and families who are bereaved by suicide
- **Conversation Starters** - delivering training in early intervention strategies to community representatives to improve the wellbeing of families and prevent child abuse
- **Ignatius Centre**
  - **Policy and Research Unit** - working to effect social change through advocacy, research and policy development
  - **Education and Professional Services Unit** - articulating and disseminating our unique body of program and practice knowledge.

Yes! I would like to support the Jesuit Social Services Easter Appeal 2007.

Please tick donation amount

- \$50
- \$100
- \$250
- \$500
- \$1,000
- My choice
- \$ .....

Please make your donation payable to Jesuit Social Services Easter Appeal

Cheque enclosed OR  VISA  MasterCard

No:

Expiry Date:...../.....Signature:.....

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms .....  
FIRST NAME (S) SURNAME

Address: .....

.....Postcode:.....

Telephone: Home .....Work.....

Please send me details on:

- remembering Jesuit Social Services in my Will
- joining the Jesuit volunteer program
- please send me information about the ATO Workplace Giving Program.



Jesuit Social Services  
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THANK YOU. YOUR GIFT IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE