



# ACSJC BRIEFING

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*From the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council, the social justice and human rights agency of the Catholic Church in Australia - [www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au)*

*If you cannot read the email version, go to: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/briefing>*

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## FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Dear Friends

The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council is now preparing for the launch of the Australia Catholic Bishops' 2007 Social Justice Sunday Statement in September. In this year's Statement, *Who Is My Neighbour? Australia's role as a global citizen*, the Bishops reflect on our engagement as Christians and Australian citizens on issues of social justice around the world.

We wish to draw your attention to this event and some associated resources that will be available for order and/or downloading from the ACSJC website.

Social Justice Sunday will be celebrated on 30 September. The Statement will be launched in the week prior to Social Justice Sunday. Hard copies of the Statement can be ordered through the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council.

Order forms are available on the ACSJC website.

## Who is my Neighbour?

Australia and Australians have a responsibility to be good global citizens: we have responsibilities beyond our national borders. This year's Social Justice Sunday Statement is a call for us Australians to act more in the interests of our neighbours who do not share our prosperity and security – an invitation to reconsider the way we live and act as individuals and as a nation.

Australians, especially when there is an emergency, respond with great generosity to those in need. Almost two million Australians donate time or money each year to an overseas aid or development organisation. Following the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, Australians donated more than \$870 million to aid and development work. However, it is easy to forget that in a sense there is a permanent emergency – the constant deaths from war, famine and disease all over the world.

One response is to understand that we are *interdependent* – that we depend on the work and living conditions of those less fortunate than we are – and that we need to act in *solidarity* with those people. This is especially the case now that globalisation is so significant in today's world. We depend on the manufacturing and agriculture of countries all over the world for our prosperity. In some ways, this has brought great benefit, but we must not forget the drawbacks of globalisation and must work to remedy its injustices.

The 2007 Social Justice Sunday Statement focuses on five challenges that confront Australians as global citizens. They are:

- foreign aid and development assistance
- military alliances and interventions
- the United Nations and international financial institutions
- climate change and energy policy
- border protection and refugees.

The Statement ends with some suggestions for individuals or parishes to become more involved in initiatives to increase global solidarity and action.

## To Order

Parishes, schools and groups can order printed copies (minimum of 10) from the ACSJC. Order form and cost details can be found on the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

## Social Justice Sunday - Complementary Resources

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

The following resources will soon be available on the ACSJC website ([www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au)) and can be downloaded free of charge:

- Social Justice Sunday Statement Summary
- Social Justice Sunday Liturgy Notes

- Teachers' Notes

Resources that are very useful in parishes and schools are the Social Justice Sunday Prayer Card and “Ten Steps” leaflet. These can be ordered from the ACSJC Secretariat on (02) 9956 5811.

Any assistance you can give in spreading the word about Social Justice Sunday would be greatly appreciated.

John Ferguson  
National Executive Officer

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## **CURRENT ISSUES/RESOURCES**

### **2007 ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUNDAY**

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics Council has released liturgical resources for the celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday on **JULY 1 2007**. The theme is “Love one another as I love you”.

Archbishop Barry Hickey, Chairman of the Bishops Committee for Relations with Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders says, “I urge Parishes to make use of this material in their Sunday Masses, and to involve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Celebrations. There may be such people in your area who would be happy to speak about Indigenous issues, particularly those relating to the faith and the Church. May this commemoration help our Catholic communities grow in awareness of the unity in love that should exist among all the sons and daughters of God.”

Mrs Elsie Heiss, NATSICC Chairperson, says, “The Aboriginal people were given the right to vote in 1967 after the overwhelming vote of ‘Yes’ in the Referendum. May marks the 40th Anniversary of the Referendum and is a time to reflect on the steps ahead of Aboriginal people. May we walk gently and be guided by our conscience.” (To download this resource, visit: <http://www.natsicc.org.au/liturgy.htm>)

### **RESPONSE TO GOVT PLANS TO ADDRESS CHILD ABUSE**

In an interview with *The Catholic Weekly*, The Chairman of the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council, Bishop Christopher Saunders, said he welcomed and supported decisive action to protect children in Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory and throughout the country.

“Child abuse in any Australian community needs to be addressed properly. This involves not only intervention, but also prevention strategies.

“Throughout Australia there was shock expressed at media revelations regarding the recent report

*Little Children are Sacred*,” Bishop Saunders said. “We have no right to be surprised. We should remember that this problem has been on the public agenda and known about for decades.

“Decisive action needs to be long-term, not merely short-term. We must not only consider *what* is done but *how* it is done. More is needed than a law and order response. Importantly, wherever possible the communities themselves must be involved in the solutions which will necessarily include the supply of a whole range of social services and resources. The Church welcomes any increase in support to address this issue and emphasises that the way forward needs to be in partnership with Indigenous communities. In this context any legislation regarding the policy proposals that is forthcoming needs to be scrutinised closely in parliament.

“Despite any rhetoric to the contrary, the Northern Territory Government, recognised leaders in the Aboriginal community and Church and community organisations working with the communities have a key role to play in any effective process designed to deal with the issues outlined in this report. This is evidenced by their contribution to the report itself. They have on-the-ground knowledge and are the people who have established long-standing relationships with the communities.

“It is worth noting that sensationalised reporting of the abuse in these communities will not do nearly as much to address the issue as will determination, hard work and the application of adequate resources”, Bishop Saunders said. (refer: <http://www.catholicweekly.com.au/>)

Questioning whether Government authorities understand the background of Aboriginal communities, Darwin's Bishop Ted Collins has warned against adopting a “bullyboy” approach and called for consultation with Indigenous people. “They need to work in partnership with Indigenous people in their local communities,” he said.

“It can easily happen with Aboriginal people, many of whom already feel powerless end up feeling further disempowered.

“Do they know the background of the Aboriginal people sufficiently, are they going to rush in and try to be sort of bullyboys or something like that, or are they going to treasure the culture of Aboriginal people? I think that is really important,” he said. (refer: <http://www.cathnews.com/news/706/123.php>)

## **OPEN LETTER TO THE HON. MAL BROUGH MP**

An open letter organised by the Australian Council of Social Service has been sent to the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs welcoming the apparent commitment of the Federal Government to tackling violence and abuse in certain Indigenous communities but warning against an over-reliance on top-down and punitive measures and without sufficient additional resources to address the issues.

The signatories offer support to Indigenous communities and the Government in: developing programs that will strengthen families and communities to empower them to confront the problems they face; consulting adequately with the communities and NT Government, and community service, health and education providers; developing a long term plan to address and resolve the causes of child abuse including joblessness, poor housing, education and commit the

necessary resources to this. (The open letter can be accessed at:  
<http://www.acoss.org.au/News.aspx?displayID=99&articleID=2683>)

## **REPORT, "LITTLE CHILDREN ARE SACRED"**

The Northern Territory Government's Board of Inquiry into the Protection of Aboriginal Children from Sexual Abuse was established on 8 August 2006 and was co-chaired by Ms Patricia Anderson and Rex Wild QC. The purpose of the Inquiry was to find better ways to protect Aboriginal children from sexual abuse. The Report "Little Children are Sacred" was released on 15 June 2007. The report can be downloaded from: <http://www.nt.gov.au/dcm/inquirysaac>

## **INDIGENOUS JUSTICE COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Tom Calma released his annual Social Justice Report in mid-June. He called on the Federal Government to address serious flaws in their Indigenous affairs programs and services.

"It is clear to me that there are serious problems with the federal Government's new whole-of-government arrangements in Indigenous affairs. The government has promised much in the way of accountability and progress on Indigenous issues, but has little to show for this over the three years since it abolished ATSIC," Commissioner Calma said.

"Current federal Government policy treats Indigenous people as 'problems to be solved' rather than as active partners in creating a positive life vision for our communities," Mr Calma said.

"The federal Government has consistently emphasised that engagement with Indigenous peoples is a central requirement for the new arrangements to work. But in practice, the new arrangements are a top-down imposition – with policy set centrally and unilaterally by government and then applied to Indigenous peoples," Mr Calma said.

"This lack of effective participation of Indigenous peoples in the new arrangements is a fundamental flaw in the federal Government's approach to Indigenous affairs and will continue to undermine the ability of government to meet its commitments," he said.

The report, *Social Justice 2006*, can be found at:  
[http://www.humanrights.gov.au/social\\_justice/sjreport06/](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/social_justice/sjreport06/)

## **REPORT – "ONE PEOPLE, ONE PLACE, ONE FUTURE – BREAKING THE SILENCE"**

The Brisbane Archdiocesan Journey of Healing and Reconciliation working group has produced a Reconciliation Kit for use in churches, schools and community groups. The resource includes background information, homily notes, prayer and liturgy resources, key issues on reconciliation, timelines, personal accounts and an acknowledgement protocol. In his foreword to the Kit, Bishop Joseph Oudeman says, "Having recommitted ourselves to the process of reconciliation in our land and having reflected on what the [2006] Social Justice Statement identified as the key challenges of John Paul II's [1986] message, it is important that we make every effort to take action to advance

the cause of reconciliation during the coming year.” The Reconciliation Kit can be downloaded at: <http://www.uq.net.au/cjpc/2007kitmay.pdf>

### **CAMPAIGN – "MAKE INDIGENOUS POVERTY HISTORY"**

The Make Indigenous Poverty History Campaign continues in 2007 with 40 Days of Action for 40 Years of Inaction. To see how you can get involved in this campaign of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission and to obtain a wide range of resources go to <http://www.ncca.org.au/natsiec/indigenouspoverty>

### **HREOC PUBLICATION – "BRINGING THEM HOME"**

As part of the 10th anniversary of the tabling of the "Bringing Them Home" report on May 26, the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission is producing a magazine style publication of stories, poems and photographs from Indigenous people across Australia who were removed from their families. HREOC is interested in receiving written and artistic submissions from Indigenous people that outline the experiences of people removed from their families. For more information visit: <http://www.humanrights.gov.au/bth/>

### **DARFUR AUSTRALIA NETWORK - REMEMBERING THE FORGOTTEN PEOPLE**

On 17th October 2007, The Darfur Australia Network (DAN) will remember the forgotten people of Darfur. Three million knotted squares of material, representing the three million displaced by this crisis, will be incorporated into an art installation. The colourful material was chosen as it symbolises the colourful clothes of Darfuri women. We hope this raises awareness about the scale of the crisis in Darfur, raises funds to help support the victims and advocates to the Australian government to help protect those displaced by the war in Darfur. For more information on how you, your school, parish, workplace or group can be involved visit <http://www.darfuraustralia.org/action/forgotten> DAN have also set up a petition for this project which is available online at <http://www.darfuraustralia.org/action/petition> . You can also find out more about the activities of DAN in Sydney and Melbourne by visiting their website [www.darfuraustralia.org.au](http://www.darfuraustralia.org.au).

### **HREOC PROGRAM – "COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS"**

The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission is taking a creative, whole-of-community approach to target a range of contemporary problems facing Australian Muslim communities under a new program titled Community Partnerships for Human Rights.

Race Discrimination Commissioner Tom Calma, says the program's goal is to increase social cohesion and counteract extreme discriminatory views and intolerance at the local and broader community level. "This will be achieved through human rights education and by working with groups at risk of being marginalised including young Muslim Australians," he said. The new program and projects are a consequence of increased funding to HREOC by the Australian Government of \$4.4 million over four years under the COAG National Action Plan to Build on Social Cohesion, Harmony and Security. (For further information visit: [http://www.humanrights.gov.au/racial\\_discrimination/partnerhips](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/racial_discrimination/partnerhips) and [http://www.humanrights.gov.au/media\\_releases/2007/42\\_07.html](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/media_releases/2007/42_07.html))

## **NATIONAL INITIATIVE – AUSTRALIA FAIR**

In the lead-up to Australia Day 2007, a new national initiative from the Australian Council Of Social Service has highlighted the overwhelming support by Australians of ‘a fair go for all’ and called on Australians to encourage decision makers to make this a reality. *Australia Fair* provides the tools to enable people to get involved in creating a fair go for all Australians. Typing in a postcode on the site takes individuals to links to email their local Member of Parliament, write to their local newspaper editor, start or join a local discussion group or call local talkback radio stations. For more information visit: <http://www.australiafair.org.au/public/Default.aspx>

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## **LATEST PUBLICATIONS**

(Orders: phone (02) 9956 5811 or download an order form from the ACSJC website:  
<http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/CONTENT/PDF/TEMPLATE-ORDERFORM.pdf>)

### **2007 SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY STATEMENT – ORDER NOW!**

This year’s Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Sunday Statement is entitled “Who is my Neighbour? Australia’s role as a global citizen”. The ACSJC is now taking orders for the Statement. An order form is available on the ACSJC website:  
<http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

### **SERIES PAPER: TO EACH AS ANY HAVE NEED: JUSTICE AND HEALTHCARE**

Sr Elizabeth Hepburn IBVM is the author of Catholic Social Justice Series Paper No.59. A constant theme in Catholic teaching is the sanctity of human life. Underpinning that sanctity is the concept of the ‘seamless web’: life that is sacred from conception to grave, for poor or rich, neighbour or foreigner. Someone who is denied health care may be denied life itself. Dr Elizabeth Hepburn, a prominent Australian ethicist and Loreto sister, addresses these issues in this paper and brings long and profound experience to the task. As Dr Hepburn points out, the idea that we have a duty to care for the sick and frail is one that goes back to the roots of Judaic tradition and to the earliest Christian communities. Illness, as she says, disempowers people and prevents them from being full members of society; effective health care restores them to the wholeness of human life.

One of the intolerable aspects of health care in today’s world is the fact that privileged sections of society and regions of the globe have access to decent and effective treatment, while the underprivileged do not. Even in a rich country like Australia, our Indigenous sisters and brothers have a life expectancy far shorter than that of the community as a whole, and they are subject to far greater incidence of cardiac, renal and other diseases. Diseases that we can treat routinely are common causes of death in many countries. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage – postage rates listed below)

## **PASTORAL LETTER – FEAST OF ST JOSEPH THE WORKER 2007**

The Pastoral Letter for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker, entitled, “Keeping Time – Australian families and the culture of overwork”, considers the pressures experienced by a growing number of workers trying to juggle the demands of the jobs with the needs of their families. Available for download in regular and ‘three-column’ versions at: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

## **DISCUSSION GUIDE – WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE 2007**

On 1 January, the Holy Father delivered his World Day of Peace message. The theme of his message is *The Human Person, The Heart of Peace*. The ACSJC discussion guide consists of a brief overview of the Pope’s message, some points for reflection and prayer. A helpful resource for group and classroom discussion. Download at: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

## **SERIES PAPER: CHOICE FOR WHOM? A DISCUSSION OF THE 2005 INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS LAWS**

Catholic Social Justice Series No 58. At a time when Australia’s industrial relations laws are undergoing radical change, Dr Tim Battin offers an analysis of the theory underpinning the 2005 industrial relations legislation, and measures that rationale against the precepts of Catholic social teaching. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage – postage rates listed below)

(\$6.60 a copy, plus postage. Postage rates for Catholic Social Justice Series Papers: 1 copy \$1; 2-3 copies \$1.45; 4-5 copies \$2.45)

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## **JULY NOTICES**

**30 APRIL – 26 AUGUST. EXHIBITION & TALKS, ‘BROKEN LINKS: THE STOLEN GENERATIONS IN QUEENSLAND (QLD)**. A moving exhibition marking the 10th anniversary of the ‘Bringing them home’ Report. The history of Indigenous child removal is portrayed through the records and documents held in Queensland institutions and the personal stories of five Aboriginal Queenslanders. Hear their stories and discover more about the Stolen Generations in a series of free talks including: Dr Mark Copland at 12.30 – 1.30pm 18 July, 12.30pm-1.30pm; Sharon Kinchela at 12.30 – 1.00pm 3 Aug. All talks are held in the Philip Bacon Heritage Gallery, level 4, State Library of Queensland, Stanley Place, South Bank. Bookings are free. (refer: <http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/whats-on/exhibit/cur#links>)

**13 JUNE – 18 JULY, LECTURE SERIES, ‘WHATEVER HAPPENED TO RECONCILIATION?’ (VIC)**. ACU National School of Philosophy public lectures to be held at the Christ Lecture Theatre on ACU National's Melbourne Campus (St Patrick's), will feature a different high-profile speaker each Wednesday evening for six weeks in June and July from 6.30 to 8.30pm. Free and open to the public, bookings not required. Remaining dates are: 4 July, Prof. Paul Patton; 11 July, Prof. Frank Brennan; 18 July, Prof. Robert Manne. For more information contact [jasmin.chen@acu.edu.au](mailto:jasmin.chen@acu.edu.au). (refer: [http://www.acu.edu.au/acu\\_national/news\\_events\\_calendar/events](http://www.acu.edu.au/acu_national/news_events_calendar/events))

**19 JUNE – 21 AUGUST. MULTIFAITH TRAINING PROGRAM IN PASTORAL CARE (ACT).** The Pastoral Care Board of the ACT in association with The Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture and The Canberra and Region Centre for Spiritual Care and Clinical Pastoral Education Inc. is running a 10 day program over 10 weeks. The course on pastoral care in a multifaith context includes certification for an introductory unit of Clinical Pastoral Education from the NSW College for CPE and certification for an introductory unit of Multifaith pastoral care. The unit will be run on Tuesdays, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Blackall Street, Barton, ACT. For more info call (02) 6244 2261 or (02) 4473 7570.

**30 JUNE. FUNDRAISER EVENT, 'JRS WINTER SOLSICE BALL' (NSW).** The Jesuit Refugee Service is holding its Winter Solstice Ball at Darling Harbour in Sydney to help fund its important work. For further information contact (02) 9356 3888 or [dstreet@nine.com.au](mailto:dstreet@nine.com.au) (refer: <http://www.faithdoingjustice.com.au/whatson.php>)

**2 JULY. FUNDRAISER, 'DOLLAR DAY 2007' (ALL STATES).** The Otherway Centre is the home of the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry in Adelaide. It has been serving people for 25 years and it relies on donations and fundraising. On Dollar Day, The Otherway Centre asks us to give \$1 and encourage our church, club, office, school or workplace to do the same. For more information visit <http://www.acc.asn.au/Dollar%20Day.htm>

**2–6 JULY. IMMERSION PROGRAM, 'PERTH AND POVERTY' (WA).** The Edmund Rice Centre for Social Justice in Fremantle is running a poverty immersion is an invitation to make sense of Australian poverty, and to walk a mile 'in their shoes'. Participants will explore the paradox of poverty in rich countries. Why and how can this happen? What does it look like, especially through the eyes of the poor? Whose problem; whose responsibility; what might appropriate responses begin to look like? For program information contact (08) 9432 2400, or [ercdeputy@powerdsl.com.au](mailto:ercdeputy@powerdsl.com.au)

**3 JULY. PANEL DISCUSSION, ISLAM: PEACE AND WARFARE (QLD).** A public discussion will occur in Brisbane. Suliman Sabdia, President of Islamic Council of Queensland, will introduce the panel and Dr Helen Durham or the University of Melbourne will facilitate the event. Speakers Include: Professor Abdullah Saeed, Director of Centre for the Study of Contemporary Islam at the University of Melbourne; Imaam Mohammed Nawaaz, Resident Imaam at the Islamic Society of Algester; and Halim Rane, PhD Scholar at the Griffith Islamic Research Unit. 6.00 – 7.30pm at the Banco Supreme Court, Queensland Courts Complex, George Street, Brisbane (refer: <http://www.unaa.org.au/praxis.php/category/view/4>)

**4 JULY. BIENNIAL WILLIAM COOPER MEMORIAL LECTURE (VIC).** Linda Burney MP, NSW Minister for Youth, Fair Trade and Volunteering, will deliver the lecture, providing an opportunity for reflection on the recent history of Aboriginal political activism and to provide a forum for discussion of the efficacy of differing political strategies. 6.00 – 8.30pm, Monash Conference Centre (CBD). Contact the Monash University Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies for further info: (03) 9905 4200 or [cais@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:cais@arts.monash.edu.au) (refer: <http://www.monash.edu.au/events/public-lectures/full.html#13>)

**4 JULY. SEMINAR, 'WHAT HAVE WE TRADED AWAY - A LOOK AT THE AUSFTA TWO YEARS ON' (NSW).** A lunchtime seminar for academics, journalists, community organisations, unions and interested members of the public to explore the impacts of the Australia/US Free Trade Agreement two years since the deal was ratified. Event organised by AFTINET. Cost \$10. 12:30pm, Jubilee Room, NSW Parliament House, Macquarie St Sydney. (refer: <http://www.active.org.au/sydney/calendar/?display=zoom&event=4300>)

**4 JULY. SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB, PADDINGTON (NSW).** ‘The Heart of the Matter: Hope’ with speakers Nadia Wheatley and Tamer Makram. Bellevue Hotel, 159 Hargrave Street Paddington. For more information 9387 3152.

**4 – 6 JULY. SYMPOSIUM, ‘LAW AND LIBERTY IN THE WAR ON TERROR’ (NSW).** The Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law is running a symposium on the challenges that responding to the threat of terrorism presents to the rule of law. This symposium will bring together experts from Australia, Canada, UK and the US to provide in-depth analysis of anti-terror laws and debate complex issues such as torture, freedom of speech and detention without trial. The symposium dinner guest speaker is Sir Gerard Brennan, former Chief Justice of Australia. The symposium will be held at the Law Theatre, Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales, Kensington, Sydney. Registration and program details at: <http://www.llwt.unsw.edu.au> or call (02) 9385 2257.

**5 – 28 JULY. EXHIBITION, ‘REGARDING FEAR AND HOPE’ (VIC).** Presented concurrently at the Faculty Gallery, Caulfield Campus and at Monash University Museum of Art, Clayton Campus, Regarding Fear and Hope examines two abiding emotions that are dominating the contemporary political and cultural landscape. Exploring current issues of immigration, diverse identities, racism, refugees and difference, the exhibition features the work of both Australian and international contemporary artists. Monash University Museum of Art, Ground Floor Bldg 55, Monash University, Clayton Campus Wellington Road, Clayton VIC (refer: <http://www.monash.edu.au/events/exhibitions/full.html#6>)

**8-12 JULY. CONFERENCE, ‘GLOBAL NEIGHBOURS AND FAITHFUL CITIZENS: THEOLOGY IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN’** Presented by the Australian and New Zealand Association of Theological Schools and CSU's Centre for Public and Contextual Theology, the international conference titled 'Global Neighbours and Faithful Citizens: Theology in the Public Domain' will include international speakers Prof. Will Storrar, Prof. Elaine Graham and Dr Nico Koopman. Day registration is available. University House, Australian National University Canberra. For more information and registration contact (02) 6273 1572 or <http://news.csu.edu.au/director/events.cfm?itemID=60BD396FD9E49221B3A82BF6AF2D8737> .

**8 – 14 JULY. NAIDOC WEEK (National).** The national theme for NAIDOC WEEK 2007 is, ‘50 years: Looking Forward, Looking Blak’. NAIDOC celebrations are held around Australia to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. For events in your part of the country, visit: <http://www.naidoc.org.au/>

**9 JULY. COMEDY, 'DEADLY FUNNY, THE NAIDOC SHOW!' (VIC).** As part of the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, NAIDOC are presenting an evening of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stand up comedy featuring MC Sean Choolburra and comedians Josie Atkinson, Allira Edwards, Gregg Fryer, Shiralee Hood, Max McGuire and Mia Stanford. Fitzroy Town Hall, cnr Moor & Napier Streets Fitzroy. Doors Open 7.00pm. Cost \$5. Enquires Ph. 03 9417 7711 or web [www.deadlyfunny.com.au](http://www.deadlyfunny.com.au)

**9–12 JULY. INDIGENOUS THEOLOGY CONFERENCE, ‘CHRIST AND CULTURE’ (QLD).** A national Indigenous theology and spirituality conference organised by the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission of the NCCA. The conference program will celebrate and encourage further development of Australian Indigenous theology and spirituality. A highlight of the conference will be the keynote addresses and workshops by a number of leading Indigenous Christian thinkers. Together we will experience a wide range of stimulating workshops and other activities. The Conference will be held at the Australis Noosa Lakes, Noosaville, Queensland. Registration is now open. Visit <http://www.ncca.org.au/natsiec/conference2007> for details.

**11 JULY. SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB, BLACKHEATH (NSW).** ‘A Voice for Justice’ with speakers Pat Drummond and Rev Ruth Thomas. The Gardners Inn. For more information 4787 6198.

**11 – 13 JULY/8 – 9 SEPTEMBER. WINTER SCHOOL, ‘JUSTICE AND THE CHURCH’S MISSION’ (NSW).** As part of the Catholic Institute of Sydney’s Winter School program, Sandie Cornish, ssc, LSS, MPP, will lecture on the social justice dimension of the mission of the Church and identify some of the key concepts used in contemporary discussion on mission and justice and Catholic social teaching. For further information contact (02) 9752 9500 or [cisinfo@cis.catholic.edu.au](mailto:cisinfo@cis.catholic.edu.au) (refer: <http://www.cis.catholic.edu.au/news&events.htm>)

**11–13 JULY. CONFERENCE, ‘BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY AND SOCIAL RESILIENCE’ (NSW).** The theme for the 2007 Australian Social Policy Conference is ‘Social Policy through the Life Course: Building Community Capacity and Social Resilience’. This theme encapsulates two interrelated issues in social policy. The first concerns life-course transitions, including the diverse challenges and opportunities which people experience within their age, gender, social, economic and cultural contexts. The second focuses on identifying the interconnections between social investment policies, services and programs which build both community capacity and social resilience for individuals situated within their social networks. University of New South Wales. For more information contact (02) 9385 7802 or [aspc2007@unsw.edu.au](mailto:aspc2007@unsw.edu.au) or visit <http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/ASPC2007/index.htm>

**12 – 13 JULY. CONFERENCE, ‘MAINTAINING THE WELL BEING OF NEWLY ARRIVED YOUNG PEOPLE’ (VIC).** The South Eastern Region Migrant Resource Centre - Dandenong is delivering this conference which will explore the importance of well being and the impact it has on refugee and culturally and linguistically diverse young people's settlement. This conference is an interactive learning experience for youth workers, community development workers, teachers, well being workers and others. The conference will be held in Melbourne. For further details visit [www.casey.vic.gov.au/insideinfo/article.asp?Item=7939](http://www.casey.vic.gov.au/insideinfo/article.asp?Item=7939) or contact (03) 9706 8933 or [nancyb@sermrc.org.au](mailto:nancyb@sermrc.org.au)

**13 JULY. LECTURE, ‘LEBANON AND THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEE: A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE’ (ACT).** The NSW Ecumenical Council Presents, Sylvia Haddad, Executive Secretary of the Joint Christian Committee in Lebanon, a branch of the Middle East Council of Churches. Sylvia will speak about her experience as a Palestinian woman, working to assist the Palestinian refugee population in Lebanon. The Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, 15 Blackall St, Barton. 12.30-2.00pm. Lunch will be provided. For catering purposes, please rsvp to: 02 9299 2215 or [cloy@ncca.org.au](mailto:cloy@ncca.org.au)

**16 JULY. SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB, NORTH SYDNEY (NSW).** Under the theme of 'Maintaining Human Dignity...Mission Impossible' Andy Bullen and Justin Fleming will speak on 'Human Dignity and the Arts – Live in harmony with one another: dignity through prophetic art.' Union Hotel, Cnr Pacific Highway and West Street. For more information 9958 5963.

**18 JULY. SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB, BULLEEN (VIC).** 'Climate Change and Stewardship of Creation' with speakers Bishop Christopher Toohy and Penny Wheaton. The Venoto Club, Sala Venetia Room. Bookings call 9850 711. Arrive at 6 for 6.30 Dinner. Session starts 8.00pm – 9.30pm. For more information 0417 319 556.

**18 JULY. SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB, ENGADINE (NSW).** Under the theme of 'How can we leave the world a better place for our children' comes this month's topic, 'A place without hunger' with speakers Cath Leary and George Capsis. Sutherland United Services Club. For more information 9520 0617 or 9548 2475.

**19 JULY. PUBLIC LECTURE, 'CHOICE BETWEEN IMPOSSIBLES: ANCIENT ANSWERS TO CURRENT QUESTIONS' (NSW).** Joan Chittister, Benedictine Sister and best-selling author and international lecturer on contemporary spirituality, justice and peace will explore the resources that the Benedictine tradition offers Christians in our fractured times. Mt St Benedict College, 447A Pennant Hills Rd, Pennant Hills. 7.30pm. Cost \$20. Bookings: [bbeinke@goodsams.org.au](mailto:bbeinke@goodsams.org.au) or 02 8752 5300. Free parking is available on site.

**21 JULY. SOCIAL JUSTICE /WYD CROSS AND ICON EVENT (NSW).** Parramatta YCW and YCS are hosting this World Youth Day Cross and Icon event 'Rise Up! Called by the Cross to Action'. The event will include opportunity for reflection, discussion, music and drama and refreshments will be served. Blessed John XXIII Church, Stanhope Gardens. 2-4pm. Free event. For more information contact [sharmila.falzon@ycw.org.au](mailto:sharmila.falzon@ycw.org.au) or 02 9682 6719.

**25 JULY. SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB, MORNINGTON PENINSULA (VIC).** 'Crime and Punishment' with Brian O'Donnell and Sherryn Donald. The Royal Hotel. For more information 9775 2163 or 5976 1024.

**26 JULY. SEMINAR, 'RENEWING THE EARTH – SPIRITUALITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE' (VIC).** This is the fourth of five 'Re-forging Australia's future' events being hosted by Social Policy Connections. Speakers are Dr Charles Rue & Penny Evans, Stop Global Warming Group. Mercy Theatre, ACU National, 115 Victoria Pde, Fitzroy. Arrive from 5pm, Session runs from 6pm to 7.30pm. Non members cost is \$15. For more details and bookings contact Social Policy Connections on 03 9428 0799 or [spc.inc@optusnet.com.au](mailto:spc.inc@optusnet.com.au) .

**26-27 JULY. YOUNG WORKERS CONFERENCE, 'FIGHT FOR THE FUTURE' (SA).** The SA Unions U-Who Project is hosting this national conference. Young workers from all over the country are invited to come together, share their experiences and hear first hand how the Federal Government's Industrial Relations legislation is impacting on young people. Conference Partners are Young Christian Workers and Youth Affairs Council of SA. University of Adelaide, Conference Centre, Level Union Building. 8.30am-4.30pm. Cost: Free. More information and registration on <http://www.saunions.com.au/> or 08 8279 2222.

**28 JULY. WORKSHOP, 'CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT' (NSW).** As part of the Catholic Women's Leadership Development Program, a workshop will be presented by Beth Gilligan on 'Leading Meetings and Committees'. The workshop will be run on Saturday 28 July at the Caroline Chisholm Centre, Pennant Hills. Cost \$20, RSVP by 20 July. For

further info contact Catholic Women's League Australia – NSW Inc of (02) 48617048 or [patriciaharrison317@yahoo.com.au](mailto:patriciaharrison317@yahoo.com.au). (refer: [www.cwlansw.wordpress.com](http://www.cwlansw.wordpress.com) or <http://www.cacw.catholic.org.au/news/cww.asp?id=647>)

**30 – 31 JULY. FECCA CONGRESS, 'EMPOWERMENT AND INCLUSION' (TAS).** The 2007 Congress of the Federation of Ethnic Communities Council address the issue of inclusion and the different schools of thought on how Australia should shape its cultural and social identity. It will consider whether a society with a diverse population could possibly have a monocultural identity or how the concept of multiculturalism could shape a unique single Australian identity. The Congress will be held at the Wrest Point Resort in Hobart, Tasmania. For registration and program details, visit <http://www.fecca.org.au/congress/Home.cfm> or call (02) 6282 5755

**1 AUGUST. SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB, BRAIDWOOD (NSW).** 'Christianity and Islam' with Professor Anthony Johns and Mrs Shakira Hussein. Braidwood Servicemen's Club. For more information 4842 2829.

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## JUNE NEWS MONITOR

### **Tackle Indigenous problems, not symptoms: Caritas**

Praising the "renewed vigour" of Government proposals to tackle abuse and neglect in Australia's Indigenous communities, Caritas Australia warned that money alone will not solve problems and said that political will as well as a long term plan is needed.

### **Avoid "bullyboy" approach: Darwin bishop**

Questioning whether Government authorities understand the background of Aboriginal communities, Darwin's Bishop Ted Collins warned against adopting a "bullyboy" approach and called for consultation with Indigenous people.

### **Total ban on cluster bombs: Vatican appeal**

An international convention on arms limitation should include a total ban on cluster bombs, Vatican representative Archbishop Silvano Tommasi told a United Nations arms conference.

### **Changes stigmatise welfare recipients: Catholic Social Services**

Radical changes to family assistance payment proposed by Federal Family and Community Services Minister Mal Brough will result in the "effective stigmatisation of welfare recipients", Catholic Social Services Australia chief, Frank Quinlan said.

### **Accept refugees seeking asylum - Benedict**

An employee of a Caritas joint project for Darfur refugees was killed, as Pope Benedict reaffirmed that giving "hospitality to refugees is an obligatory gesture of human solidarity"

### **Jury members weep over Pine Gap guilty verdict**

After five hours deliberation, a "visibly distressed" NT Supreme Court jury found four Christian protesters guilty of 14 charges over a protest at the involvement of the Pine Gap spy base in the Iraq war.

### **Vatican, Amnesty in abortion stoush**

Amnesty International deputy secretary-general, Kate Gilmore, accused the Catholic Church of misrepresenting the organisation's position on abortion after Holy See Justice and Peace Cardinal Renato Martino slammed Amnesty for "betraying its mission".

### **See, judge, act: Latin American bishops tell Pope**

Latin American bishops sent Pope Benedict the draft conclusions of their recent conference at Aparecida Brazil, retaining the traditional but still controversial "see, judge, act" format.

### **Malawi Catholics sue Australian uranium miner**

A coalition of Malawi non-governmental organisations including the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace obtained a court injunction against an Australian uranium miner and the country's government for alleged breaches of procedures.

### **Protect street women, punish clients: Vatican**

Nations should protect women from the violence and "modern slavery" of prostitution and punish the men who are their clients, the Vatican said in a document on pastoral care for "street women" released yesterday.

- courtesy Church Resources' CathNews, stories in detail at <http://www.cathnews.com/news/706>

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## **JULY SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR**

**1 SUN** 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Sunday; National Aboriginal & Islander Week begins

**2 MON** Voluntary Native Title Agreement signed between the Gunggari People and the Cowley family

**7 SAT** International Day of Cooperatives: recognition of the indispensable role cooperatives play in economic and social development; Blessed Peter To Rot – killed in Papua New Guinea, 1945, and recognised as a martyr

**8 SUN** 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**10 TUE** Sinking of Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior in Auckland, 1985

**11 WED** World Population Day

**12 THU** Aboriginal Flag first flown, 1971

**15 SUN** 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**16 MON** First atomic bomb detonated in New Mexico, USA, 1945

**20 FRI** Neil Armstrong – first person on the moon, 1969

**22 SUN** 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**23 MON** Arbor Day commences Arbor Week

**29 SUN** 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Notes on these dates are available in the printed ACSJC Social Justice Diary (cost \$6.60, to order go to [http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/publications/social\\_justice\\_calendar.html](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/publications/social_justice_calendar.html), or call 02 9956 5811)*

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