



# 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)*

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## FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Dear Friends,

The 2006 Social Justice Sunday Statement – "The Heart of Our Country: Dignity and justice for our Indigenous sisters and brothers" – was launched at the Reconciliation Church at La Perouse in Sydney on Wednesday 14th September.

Mrs Elsie Heiss of the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry in Sydney acknowledged the Traditional custodians and welcomed all in attendance to the Reconciliation church.

Mr Tom Calma, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, launched the statement. Fr Brian McCoy SJ delivered a response. The addresses are available for download from the ACSJC website:  
<http://www.acsjc.org.au/Launch-Addresses.shtml> Bishop Christopher Saunders and members of the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council and its Secretariat are very grateful to all who have been involved in the production, launch and promotion of the Catholic Bishops' statement.

## **TIME TO REINVIGORATE THE MOVEMENT FOR RECONCILIATION**

In launching the statement, Mr Tom Calma noted the profound and visionary address of Pope John Paul II and reflected on the progress that has been made in Australia over the past twenty years in respecting Indigenous culture, pursuing land rights and making progress towards national reconciliation.

"The Australian population has improved its understanding of Indigenous culture and history. While not easily measurable, I think there is much good will amongst the wider Australian society and commitment to developing good relations with my people. I know that politicians and social commentators, in the main, have a more sophisticated language and understanding of Indigenous perspectives and Indigenous issues."

Noting that the reconciliation movement has been powerful since Pope John Paul's speech, and that people across the nation walked for reconciliation in great numbers, Mr Calma expressed concern "that there is a diminishing optimism, both within my community; the Aboriginal community, and throughout the wider Australian population. I hope this is not the case, and it is why I particularly welcome the social justice statement of the Australian Catholic Bishops at this time - it is inspiring and necessary.

"I have a strong sense that it is time to reinvigorate - find our commitment, our energy and continue to build the bridges between black and white. We need to not only bridge the gaps of understanding; we need to bridge the gap in life opportunities. I would like to see a time when there is no difference in the statistics that represent Indigenous and non-Indigenous social determinants."

Commenting on the Federal Government's recent amendments to the Northern Territory Land Rights Act, Mr Calma said, "There is a strong federal government push to take control over communities on Indigenous land by taking out 99 year leases over larger Indigenous townships. At the same time, the government is also describing homelands - smaller Aboriginal outstations - as cultural museums. It seems that the government will work to control and centralise (and perhaps privatise) services in large communities while withdrawing services to smaller communities that it considers unviable. This is a social justice issue, and a human rights issue and we must not stand by and let this happen unchallenged."

Mr Calma said, "I commend 'The Heart of Our Country: Dignity and justice for our Indigenous sisters and brothers' to you and especially draw your attention to the 'What else can we do?' section of the statement, and I commit to work with you to achieve dignity and justice for my Indigenous brothers and sisters."

## **LOOK BACK IF YOU WANT TO GO FORWARD**

Jesuit priest Dr Brian McCoy responded to Mr Calma's words that "we sometimes have to look to the past to assist us with the present and the future".

He recounted a Kukatja desert saying: 'marlakarti nyawa, kurranyu nyinama' - 'look back if you want to go forward'.

"What this saying reveals is a valuable Indigenous insight: to be human is to be intimately connected with one's past. 'Marlakarti nyawa' means more than 'let's have a quick look, see what happened in the past and then move on', as some of our political and community leaders sometimes propose. It means to look within and deeply engage our past. It is to allow the meaning of what is past to be revealed within our present.

"In our failure to establish a dignified and just relationship with Indigenous people we have suffered, and we are diminished as a nation as a result. It is this relationship that this Social Justice Statement calls us to acknowledge and address today."

Fr McCoy repeated the call of the Bishops for attentiveness to Indigenous voices. "As the voices of other Indigenous people have been silenced through the demise of ATSIC, and as important political decisions continue to be made without elected consultation, we need even more today to pay attention to those voices.

"These voices remind us of relationships that have been fractured in our shared history when we did not listen. They remind us that too often we have made decisions, and decided what was best, without sitting down, taking the time and allowing genuine relationships to develop.

"In recent months, and from a range of Government ministers, we have heard of the need for the introduction of a new paternalism and the abolition of remote outstation communities. There has been criticism that Indigenous people spend too much time grieving, that the teaching of culture within Aboriginal education should be lessened, and customary law not taken into account when sentencing," Fr McCoy said.

He said that the invitation of the Bishops' message, like the message of Pope John Paul II twenty years ago, is to encourage us to stop, look back, so that we can move forward. "We will only move forward, and we will only find dignity and justice for our Indigenous sisters and brothers, if we can turn around and allow our Indigenous past to be recognised for the place and the relationship it lives within us now."

### **CATHOLIC BISHOPS' STATEMENT AND ASSOCIATED RESOURCES**

Social Justice Sunday was celebrated on 24th September. There are many ways the message of the Bishops' 2006 statement can be celebrated throughout the year and beyond.

The Secretariat still has copies of the Statement for those who would like to place an order. The Statement can also be downloaded from the websites of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference (<http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/latest.html>) and the ACSJC (<http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>).

Your further promotion of the Bishops' Statement and how people can access it would be appreciated greatly. If we each emailed our networks, the weblinks to the Statement, as listed above, that would be an easy and practical way to promote the message.

There are other resources that are ideal for prayer and worship, personal reflection, discussion in classrooms and among groups. Prayers, teachers' resources, liturgy notes, the Ten-Steps leaflet and prayer card, PowerPoint presentations and addresses delivered at the launch of the Statement can all be accessed via the ACSJC website.

An associated ecumenical resource - a CD ROM - has been produced by Mr Graeme Mundine and Rev Jonathan Inkipin of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission in collaboration with the Social Justice Network of the National Council of Churches of Australia. Details on this important resource, entitled "Make Indigenous Poverty History", are available on the NCCA website: [http://www.ncca.org.au/natsiec/indigenous\\_poverty](http://www.ncca.org.au/natsiec/indigenous_poverty). Call NATSIEC (02) 9299-2215 or ACSJC (02) 9956 5811 for more details.

*John Ferguson*  
*National Executive Officer*

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## **CURRENT ISSUES/RESOURCES**

### **MEDIA RELEASE - THE HEART OF OUR COUNTRY (13 September 2006)**

As we mark the 20th anniversary of that remarkable day in 1986, what has Australia achieved in responding to the Holy Father's challenge to support Indigenous culture and pursue true reconciliation? Among many issues, the Statement "The Heart of Our Country: Dignity and justice for our Indigenous sisters and brothers" focuses on social and economic disadvantage. "How can it be that in this land of plenty, the average life expectancy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is 17 years less than for non-Indigenous Australians?" ask the Bishops. "In a nation that enjoys a vibrant economy, where governments boast of their careful financial management, the question remains: why have we not been able to eliminate these dire circumstances from the everyday experience of many Indigenous people?" (refer: [http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/Content/media\\_releases/2006\\_09\\_13\\_1158148346.html](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/Content/media_releases/2006_09_13_1158148346.html))

### **NCCA: CHURCHES CALL FOR RE-COMMITMENT TO INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIA**

"It is time for an urgent re-commitment to address the pressing problems faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples", said Rev. John Henderson, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in Australia, launching the NCCA's 2006 statement to mark Social Justice Sunday on September 24th. The "Make Indigenous Poverty History" ecumenical resource produced by the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Ecumenical Commission draws on the Millennium Development Goals to reduce poverty world-wide and calls for a similar commitment in Australia. "To Make Indigenous Poverty History, we believe that what is needed is a fuller and far more effective program of spiritual and material regeneration than currently exists. Indigenous Australia deserves the equivalent of the Millennium Development Goals to provide a real framework of change. At the bedrock must be genuine self-determination and funding commensurate with the size of the problem," Rev Henderson said.

([http://www.ncca.org.au/media\\_releases/060913\\_churches\\_call\\_for\\_urgent\\_recommitment\\_to\\_indigenous\\_australia](http://www.ncca.org.au/media_releases/060913_churches_call_for_urgent_recommitment_to_indigenous_australia))

#### **NATSICC: 'DREAMING FROM THE HEART'**

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council is preparing for the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Pope John Paul II's visit to Alice Springs by holding its 7th National Assembly, Dreaming from the Heart, in Alice Springs from 2 - 7 October, 2006. The original visit occurred in 1986 and was the venue for one of the Pope's most important speeches, his address to Aboriginal people. To find out more visit the NATSICC website ([http://www.natsicc.org.au/alice\\_springs\\_2006.htm](http://www.natsicc.org.au/alice_springs_2006.htm)).

#### **SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH RESOURCE: 'THE HOUR HAS COME'**

A community awareness package, "The Hour Has Come: Working towards a justly reconciled Australia", has been produced. It consists of five reflection and discussion sessions drawn from the words spoken by Pope John Paul II in 1986. Attractively presented in full colour, the resource encourages participants to reflect on the words of the Pope, to consider the state of affairs in Australia at present and to build a local plan of action to address the issues. Cost per package: \$8.00. For further information email [enquiries@sosj.org.au](mailto:enquiries@sosj.org.au) or write to: Josephite Leaders' Social Action Office, P.O. Box 326, CURTIN, ACT 2605. (refer: <http://www.sosj.org.au/justice/index.html>)

#### **AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL - ACTIONS AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY**

Amnesty International has expressed grave concern at the death sentences handed down by the Indonesian Supreme Court to four more Australian citizens - Tan Duc Thahn Nguyen, Si Yi Chen, Matthew Norman and Scott Rush. Death sentences had already been handed down to Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran. Their names are the latest additions to the growing list of people under the sentence of death in the Asia Pacific region. So Amnesty International is suggesting a range of letter writing actions targeted to Australian and South-East Asian political leaders seeking firm opposition to the death penalty and the abolition of this penalty in all jurisdictions in the region. For further information and suggestions, visit the Amnesty International website at: [http://www.amnesty.org.au/Act\\_now/action\\_centre](http://www.amnesty.org.au/Act_now/action_centre)

#### **YOUNG CHRISTIAN WORKERS - 'RISE TO GLORY: THE WORKERS' STORY'**

Young people entering the labour market will get a new resource to teach them their rights at work. The Young Christian Workers have produced a board game "Rise to Glory: The Workers' Story" with the support of the Law and Justice Foundation. The 'snakes-and-ladders' style game teaches job rights in a fun and interactive way. The game addresses issues such as harassment, bullying, workplace agreements and much more. It has been designed for pre-vocational workshops, community organisations and schools. The YCW also holds workshops on the topic within schools and community organisations. For further details about the board game and how to get a copy, call (02) 9682 6719 or email [Annemarie.eldick@ycw.org.au](mailto:Annemarie.eldick@ycw.org.au) (refer [http://www.nswactieu.labor.net.au/news/general/1158028339\\_10245.html](http://www.nswactieu.labor.net.au/news/general/1158028339_10245.html))

### **ANTI-POVERTY WEEK (15 - 28 October 2006)**

Anti-Poverty Week was established in Australia as an expansion of the UN's annual International Anti-Poverty Day on October 17. The aims the Week are to strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and to encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems. Everyone who is interested in helping to reduce poverty and hardship here or overseas is encouraged to organise their own activities during the Week or join in some being organised by other people. To find out about activities being held during the Week, how you can join in and to access resources about issues of poverty and hardship, visit the "Anti-Poverty Week" website at <http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au/> or call: 1300-797-290

### **LHMU - SUPPORTING AUSTRALIA'S LOW-PAID CLEANERS**

The Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Workers Union represents low-waged service sector workers and is running the 'Clean Start: Fair Deal for Cleaners' campaign across Australia. The LHMU is organising various activities during Anti-Poverty Week, in many different states. Consider the support that you can provide for one or more of these projects. The LHMU is inviting the clergy from different faith groups to speak from their pulpit, minbar and bimah in support of low-paid immigrant cleaners on the weekend starting Anti-Poverty Week: October 15. It is holding rallies in capital city CBD areas on October 17. The LHMU is taking out a full-page newspaper advert on October 16 or 17 in support of low-paid immigrant cleaners which will include the names of significant, ethnic, religious, political, business and media figures who are prepared to stand up for cleaners. On October 18 the union is sponsoring an open talk, along with the Forum on Australian-Islamic Relations, at the NSW LHMU auditorium, on the effects on Australia's civic society if immigrant groups are marginalised into poverty trap jobs. Professor Julian Disney will be the main speaker and an Imam will respond on behalf of the Islamic community, while an immigrant female cleaner will speak on behalf of cleaners. If you want more information or can assist, please call the LHMU on (02) 8204 3006 or email [andrewc@lhmu.org.au](mailto:andrewc@lhmu.org.au). (further info: [http://lhmu.org.au/lhmu/news/2006/1158558400\\_20650.html](http://lhmu.org.au/lhmu/news/2006/1158558400_20650.html); [http://lhmu.org.au/lhmu/news/files/LO105\\_CS\\_Com\\_Broc\\_Final\\_R%20\(2\).pdf](http://lhmu.org.au/lhmu/news/files/LO105_CS_Com_Broc_Final_R%20(2).pdf))

### **SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE QLD - 'PATCHWORK PROJECT'**

The Social Action Office (SAO) of the Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes, Queensland is running a community project to monitor the impact and lived experience of the new industrial relations, individual contracting and welfare to work environments. You can participate in the project by joining a 2 hour workshop of story sharing and recording in your organisation, group or workplace or by simply reflecting on and writing up a short story of change and sending it back to SAO. For more information contact: (07) 3891 5866 or visit: [http://www.sao.clriq.org.au/ir\\_campaign/ir\\_patchwork.html](http://www.sao.clriq.org.au/ir_campaign/ir_patchwork.html)

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## LATEST PUBLICATIONS

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

### **ORDER NOW! - 2007 SOCIAL JUSTICE DIARY**

The 2007 Diary focuses on the theme of globalisation. It includes the dates of significant events, anniversaries and special days which celebrate particular aspects of social justice and highlight the theme. It provides a social justice program for the full year. Information and ideas for prayer and reflection are included.

This is an essential resource for teachers and parishes. Cost: \$6.60 (inc. GST), plus postage. To download an order form, 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)

### **2006 SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY STATEMENT - STILL TAKING ORDERS**

The ACSJC is still taking orders for 2006 Social Justice Statement (minimum of 10 - affordable price). A special order form for the Social Justice Sunday Statement is available on the ACSJC website:

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

The Statement can be downloaded at: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/> and <http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/latest.html> and

[http://www.acsjc.org.au/CONTENT/publications/documentation/documentation\\_sjs01.html](http://www.acsjc.org.au/CONTENT/publications/documentation/documentation_sjs01.html)

**PRAYER CARD & LEAFLET:** Ten steps towards dignity and justice for Indigenous Australians

Now available. Call (02) 9956 5811

**ECUMENICAL CD-ROM: MAKE INDIGENOUS POVERTY HISTORY**

Now available. Call (09) 9956 5811

**STATEMENT SUMMARY, LITURGY NOTES, TEACHERS' RESOURCES, POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

Now available at: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

**SERIES PAPER: CATHOLICS AND NATURE: TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ATTITUDES IN AUSTRALIA**

Concern for the environment has played a significant role in the Catholic Church in Australia since the 19th century. Fr Charles Rue SSC traces the development of environmental thought in Australian Catholicism.

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

**SERIES PAPER: FROM MONEY TO MEANING: YOUNG PEOPLE AND WORK**

Catholic Social Justice Series No.56 - the Australian Young Christian Workers addresses the issue of young people and casual work.

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

## **PASTORAL LETTER: THE VOICE OF VULNERABLE WORKERS IN THE CHANGING WORLD OF WORK**

The Pastoral Letter issued by Bishop Christopher Saunders for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker in 2006 is available and can be downloaded from the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

*(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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## **OCTOBER NOTICES**

**1-14 OCTOBER. EDMUND RICE CENTRE IMMERSION PROGRAM - INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIA** (BROOME, WA). A model of active citizenship that allows participants to learn through 'experiential learning' what it means to be part of a global humanity. Cost: \$1800. Information: Tel. (07) 9335 4353. Email: [erc@powerdsl.com.au](mailto:erc@powerdsl.com.au). Web <http://www.ercfremantle.org>.

**1 OCTOBER. ABC RADIO, 'BACKGROUND BRIEFING'** (National). Catholic Social Services Australia's Executive Director, Mr Frank Quinlan, will discuss the new Welfare to Work legislation on ABC Radio National's 'Background Briefing' at 9.10am on Sunday 1 October. The program will be repeated on Tuesday 3 October, at 7.10pm. Web: <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/backgroundbriefing>

**3 OCTOBER. SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: 'RESPECTING THE RIGHTS'** (NSW). Speakers: Terry Cooke & Rev Jonathan Inkpin. The Kincumber Hotel, Avoca Drive (cnr Carrack Rd) Kincumber. Enquiries: (02) 4367 2743 or (02) 4334 3174  
<http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/news.htm>.

**4 OCTOBER. SEMINAR: 'THE SITUATION IN DARFUR'** (VIC). Speakers at this public seminar include Dr Alex Bellamy of the University of Queensland and Dr David Dorward of La Trobe University. 5.30pm - 7.00pm, the Law School, University of Melbourne. Enquiries [human-rights@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:human-rights@unimelb.edu.au) Web: <http://www.law.monash.edu.au/castancentre/events/>

**4 OCTOBER. COMMUNITY DINNER: STOLEN WAGES AND MISSING TRUST FUNDS.** Speakers Elouise Cobell (Blackfeet tribe, Montana, USA) and Viola Sheridan (a Gangulu woman) share their experiences of fighting to get back stolen wages and trust fund monies. 5:45 pm for Dinner 6:30 pm. Riverside Receptions, 50 Oxlade Drive, New Farm. Enquiries: email [events@antarqld.org.au](mailto:events@antarqld.org.au). Web: [http://antarqld.org.au/webcalendar/view\\_entry.php?id=82&date=20061004](http://antarqld.org.au/webcalendar/view_entry.php?id=82&date=20061004).

**6 OCTOBER. PUBLIC LECTURE: 'HUMAN RIGHTS CHALLENGES IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC'** (VIC). The Castan Centre for Human Rights Law at Monash University presents its annual lecture, delivered by Dr Shaista Shameem, Director of the Fiji Human Rights Commission, formerly on the UN Commission of Experts reviewing judicial processes in human rights cases in Timor-Leste in 1999. 1.00 pm - 2.00 pm, Supper Room, Level 3, Melbourne Town Hall. RSVP by

Wednesday 27 September to (03) 9905 3327 or email  
castan.centre@law.monash.edu.au. Web:  
<http://www.law.monash.edu.au/castancentre/events/shameem-lecture.html>.

**7 OCTOBER. CATHOLIC CHURCH TV AUSTRALIA SCREENS 'EDMUND RICE - THE QUIET REVOLUTIONARY'**. This week sees the anniversary of Edmund Rice. This film tells us the story the work of the Christian Brothers in the educational, welfare, and pastoral projects they run with their lay colleagues. 2.00 pm, Catholic Church TV, Aurora Channel, Foxtel Digital.

**7-19 OCTOBER. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S FREEDOM FESTIVAL** (NSW). Bands tour in NSW to Lismore (7 October), Byron Bay (8 October), Armidale (11 October), Katoomba (12 October), Newcastle (13 October), Sydney (14 October), Wollongong (19 October). For more information:  
<http://shop.amnesty.org.au/freedom>.

**8-11 OCTOBER. INTENSIVE: ECOLOGY AT THE HEART OF FAITH, PRESENTED BY FR DENIS EDWARDS** (NSW). This Intensive will explore how ecological conversion is central to following Jesus. 'Ecology at the Heart of Faith' is the title of Fr Edwards's new book, which will be launched on Sunday 8 October at 6pm. Presented by the Broken Bay Institute. 8 October: 2pm - 5pm; 9-10 October: 9:30am - 4pm; 11 October: 9:30am - 12:30pm. Caroline Chisholm Centre, Building 2, 423 Pennant Hills Road, Pennant Hills, NSW. Tel: (02) 9473 4570. Email: [bbi@bbi.catholic.edu.au](mailto:bbi@bbi.catholic.edu.au). Web: <http://www.bbi.catholic.edu.au>.

**10 OCTOBER POLITICS IN THE PUB** (QLD). 'The Anatomy of Racial Tension in Australia: the quest for understanding, cohesion and hope'. 7:00pm Brisbane Powerhouse (Spark Bar) 119 Lamington Street New Farm Qld 4005. Contact: (07) 3358 5600. Email: [info@newfarmneighbourhood.org](mailto:info@newfarmneighbourhood.org). Web [http://www.newfarmneighbourhood.org/politics\\_inthe\\_pub.htm](http://www.newfarmneighbourhood.org/politics_inthe_pub.htm).

**10 OCTOBER. WORLD DAY AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY: LANTERN PARADE** (QLD). A lantern procession through the city with a vigil at the Old Windmill on Wickham Terrace, with speakers and actions against the death penalty. 5:45pm beginning at the Amnesty Office, 150 Edward St. Contact: (07) 3210 5204 or 0415 996 268. Email [sjеспerson@amnesty.org.au](mailto:sjеспerson@amnesty.org.au). Web: <http://www.qld.amnesty.org.au>.

**12 OCTOBER. LECTURE: 'STEWARDSHIP - HANDLING GOD'S CREATION RESPONSIBLY'** (VIC). Bishop Christopher Toohy, Chair of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Commission for Justice and Service, will deliver the annual Rerum Novarum Lecture for 2006. Focussing of the theme of Stewardship, the lecture will consider how human activity has impacted upon Earth's climate patterns, the consequences of climate change and how our relationship with the environment raises many moral and spiritual questions. 6.30 for 7.00pm, Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert Street, East Melbourne. \$10/Concessions available. Enquiries to the Melbourne Catholic Commission for Justice, Development and Peace: (03) 9926 5710 or [justice@melbourne.catholic.org.au](mailto:justice@melbourne.catholic.org.au) Web: <http://www.ccjdp.org>

**12 OCTOBER. FORUM: 'HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE AGE OF BORDER PROTECTION'** (VIC). A forum presented by The Justice Project Inc and the National Centre for Hellenic Studies and Research, Latrobe University. Speakers include The Rt Hon Malcolm Fraser AC CH; Mr Julian Burnside QC; and Dr James Jupp AM FASSA. 8.00pm, West Theatre, Latrobe University, Kingsbury Drive, Bundoora. RSVP essential by 5 October to [s.petrou@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:s.petrou@latrobe.edu.au) Web: <http://www.law.monash.edu.au/castancentre/events>

**12-17 OCTOBER. MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL PRESENTS 'NGAPARTJI NGAPARTJI'**. Performer and Spinifex man Trevor Jamieson returns with an ensemble cast for this world premiere, telling of the impact of the Cold War on Trevor's family and country in the South Australian desert. 7.45 pm (Sunday 15 Oct at 4.00 pm), Fairfax Studio, Victorian Arts Centre, 100 St Kilda Rd, South Melbourne. Phone (03) 9281 8000. Web: [http://www.theartscentre.net.au/whats-on\\_detail.aspx?view=791](http://www.theartscentre.net.au/whats-on_detail.aspx?view=791).

**13 OCTOBER. CONFERENCE: 'CLIMATE CHANGE - CAUSES, CONSEQUENCES AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT'** (VIC). Melbourne Catholic Commission for Justice Development and Peace in association with Catholic Earthcare Australia is convening this conference which will consider Christian perspectives, scientific warnings and contributions from community stakeholders. Speakers include Archbishop Denis Hart, Bishop Christopher Toohey, Col Brown and Vicky Walker. Cost: \$75. 8.15am registration for 9.00am - 4.30pm at the Olympic Room, Melbourne Cricket Ground. Enquiries: (03) 9926 5709 or [justice@melbourne.catholic.org.au](mailto:justice@melbourne.catholic.org.au) Conference bookings: (03) 9287 5566 or [office@css.org.au](mailto:office@css.org.au) Web: <http://www.melbourne.catholic.org.au/ccjdp/>

**14 OCTOBER. CATHOLIC CHURCH TV AUSTRALIA SCREENS 'OUR FORGOTTEN PEOPLE'**. This week is World Mental Health Week. As this film shows us, some of the most vulnerable members of our community are being largely forgotten and groups like the St Vincent De Paul are picking up the pieces. 2.00 pm, Catholic Church TV, Aurora Channel, Foxtel Digital.

**15 OCTOBER. MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SINKING OF SIEV X** (ACT). Service to honour the 353 people who drowned on the refugee boat called SIEV X. Guest Speaker: Jon Stanhope, Chief Minister of the ACT. The Kippax Uniting Church Tongan Choir will be performing. 2.00 pm, Weston Park, Yarralumla. RSVP and enquiries: [info@sievxmemorial.com](mailto:info@sievxmemorial.com); phone 0428 622 309.

**15-17 OCTOBER. MICAH CHALLENGE AUSTRALIA NATIONAL GATHERING, 2006**. 2007 is the halfway point for meeting the Millennium Development Goals to halve global poverty. Voices for justice need to be heard more than ever. Join Micah Challenge Australia's first national gathering to meet others, worship, be inspired and speak up together. Billets and venues in Canberra. Further enquiries: [voices@micahchallenge.org.au](mailto:voices@micahchallenge.org.au). Phone: (02) 9571 8855 or (02) 9453 1586. Web: <http://www.micahchallenge.org.au>.

**15-21 OCTOBER. PERTH AND POVERTY IMMERSION PROGRAM (WA).** Run by the Edmund Rice Centre, Fremantle. Participants encounter poverty in Perth at first hand, and are given the opportunity to discuss and make sense of their experience. Information: Tel. (07) 9335 4353. Email: [erc@powerdsl.com.au](mailto:erc@powerdsl.com.au). Web <http://www.ercfremantle.org>.

**17 OCTOBER. LISTEN UP YOU MOB! A 'MAKE INDIGENOUS POVERTY HISTORY' FORUM FOR ANTI-POVERTY WEEK.** Guest speakers: Professor Marie Bashir AC, Governor of NSW; Mr Milton Orkopoulos, NSW Minister for Aboriginal Affairs; Mr Jeff McMullen, Ian Thorpe's Fountain for Youth Trust; Panel of Young Indigenous Speakers. Organised by the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission (NATSIEC) in conjunction with the NSW Ecumenical Council. 1.00 pm for 1.30-3.00 pm, NSW Parliament House Theatre, Macquarie St, Sydney. RSVP: [grussell@ncca.org.au](mailto:grussell@ncca.org.au). Further details at <http://www.ncca.org.au/natsiec/miph>.

**18 OCTOBER. SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: 'MY RIGHTS, YOUR FREEDOM. WHERE DOES ONE END AND THE OTHER START?'** (NSW). Speaker: Ken Moroney and others. At the Sutherland RSL Club, Sutherland, Sydney. Enquiries: (02) 9520 0617 or (02) 9548 2475. Web: <http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/news.htm>

**18 OCTOBER. DAVID SUZUKI ADDRESSES THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB (ACT).** David Suzuki is a world-renowned geneticist, professor, public lecturer, and environmental and civil rights activist. 11.45am-1.30 pm, National Press Club, 16 National Circuit, Barton ACT. Members \$45.00, Student members \$30.00, Guests \$59.00 (prices include GST). Telephone (02) 6121 2199; Email [npc@npc.org.au](mailto:npc@npc.org.au); Website <http://www.npc.org.au>.

**20 OCTOBER. THE INGRAM COLLOQUIUM ON INTERNATIONAL LAW AND DEVELOPMENT (NSW).** An initiative of the International Law and Policy Group of the Faculty of Law, University of NSW. 8.30am-5.45pm, Square House, University of New South Wales, Anzac Parade, Kingsford. Cost (GST inclusive) includes lunch and refreshments: Regular: \$ 99.00; Students: \$ 44.00. Tel (02) 9385 2257; Email [gtcentre@unsw.edu.au](mailto:gtcentre@unsw.edu.au); Web <http://www.law.unsw.edu.au>.

**20 OCTOBER. CONCERT: 'ROCK FOR REFUGEES!' (QLD).** The annual concert raising funds for the Refugee Claimants Support Centre. A night of great music and entertainment including; Halfway, Wipsnade Zoo, Indigenous Intruderz, The Black Arts and The Slides. 7.30pm, The Globe, Fortitude Valley. Tickets available from Rockinghorse, Skinnys, Butterbeats and <http://www.globetheatre.com.au>. \$10 pre-purchased or \$15 at the door. Enquiries: (07) 3357 9013 or [refugees@refugees.org.au](mailto:refugees@refugees.org.au) Web: <http://www.barc.org.au/cms/>

**21 OCTOBER. CATHOLIC CHURCH TV AUSTRALIA SCREENS 'MISSION WITHOUT LIMITS'.** This week we remember the anniversary of the death of Fr Jules Chevalier, founder of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, the Sisters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. This film shows us what inspired Fr Chevalier and how those who follow in his way develop his work for anyone in need. 2.00 pm, Catholic Church TV, Aurora Channel 183, Foxtel Digital.

**21 OCTOBER. PUBLIC LECTURE: 'THE MURPHY LEGACY IN TROUBLED TIMES'** (ACT). The ANU College of Law's Centre for International & Public Law and National Institute of Social Sciences & Law invite you to attend this free public seminar. The afternoon draws together four speakers with different perspectives on Lionel Murphy and his approaches to law and judging; providing valuable lessons on the pressing issues of today, 20 years since his death. Speakers include Graham Fricke QC, Sue Tongue, Dr Jocelyne Scutt, Dr Thomas Faunce. 12.15pm-4.30pm, The Studio Theatre, National Museum of Australia, Acton Peninsula, Canberra. RSVP essential on (02) 6125 0454 or [cipl.rsvp@anu.edu.au](mailto:cipl.rsvp@anu.edu.au) Web: <http://law.anu.edu.au/cipl/events.asp>

**22 OCTOBER. LATIN AMERICAN & ASIA PACIFIC SOLIDARITY GATHERING** (VIC). Organised by Latin American Solidarity Network. International guests include representatives from Bolivia, Venezuela, Fiji, Brazil, Sri Lanka, Chile, Philippines and more. Email [lasnet@latinlasnet.org](mailto:lasnet@latinlasnet.org). Web: <http://www.latinlasnet.org>.

**22-26 OCTOBER. REFUGEE WEEK.** This year's theme is 'Journeys'. For more information, go to the website of the Refugee Council of Australia, <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/index.html>.

**25 OCTOBER. SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: 'ACTING JUSTLY'** (NSW). Speakers: Claude Mostowik, Director, MSC Justice & Peace Centre and Julie Morgan, Franciscan Promoter for Justice, Peace & the Integrity of Creation. Kings Head Tavern, King Georges Road, South Hurstville, Sydney. Enquiries: (02) 9546 2028. Web: <http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/news.htm>

**28 OCTOBER. CATHOLIC CHURCH TV AUSTRALIA SCREENS 'CONFLICT RESOLUTION'**. This week is disarmament week and World Mission Day. 'Conflict Resolution' looks at one of the ways our generosity is put to long-lasting effect in East Timor and beyond. It's a very practical application of 'loving our neighbour, as we love ourselves'. 2.00 pm, Catholic Church TV, Aurora Channel, Foxtel Digital.

**29 OCTOBER. REFUGEE PICNIC DAY** (NSW). Amnesty International Australia and its support networks invite you to bring along your picnic rug and share it with refugees and supporters alike for a BBQ and afternoon of entertainment and celebration. Entertainment includes music, theatre performance, a jumping castle, picnic games, friendly sporting matches and craft activities. 12 noon-5pm, Parramatta Park - The Crescent (formerly The Amphitheatre) (O'Connell Street entrance). For further information contact [nswaia@amnesty.org.au](mailto:nswaia@amnesty.org.au).

**29 OCTOBER. CONCERT: 'NOBODY KNOWS THE TROUBLE I'VE SEEN'** (NSW). As part of Refugee Week, St. Patrick's Catholic Church has chosen to highlight the plight of refugees through poetry and music. The concert will honour poets Mohsen Soltanyzand and Bernadette Sham. Thomas Keneally will be reading their poetry and Angela Chan will sing songs composed by Godelieve Ghavalas. The Solidarity Choir of Sydney and James Nightingale on Saxophone also. 1.30pm, St. Patrick's Church, Cnr Grosvenor & Harrington Sts, Sydney. \$5

donation. Enquiries: (02) 9557 9101 or [angelachan@inet.net.au](mailto:angelachan@inet.net.au) Web:  
<http://www.active.org.au/sydney/calendar/?day=29&month=10>.

**31 OCTOBER. QUIZ NIGHT TO SUPPORT THE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDER'S OFFICE (WA).** All proceeds support the EDO's free legal services, protecting WA's environment. MC Bernadette Young of 720 ABC. Tables of 8-10: bring your friends. Gourmet food for sale: make it dinner. Tickets \$15 / \$12 EDO members or \$100 for a pre-paid table. 6.30 pm, Royal Park Hall, 180 Charles Street (cnr Vincent) West Perth. Bookings essential. Phone (07) 9443 7454 or email [katrina73@inet.net.au](mailto:katrina73@inet.net.au). Web <http://www.edowa.org.au>.

**31 OCTOBER. ADDRESS: 'FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN A TIME OF TERROR' (NSW).** Sydney PEN presents Frank Moorhouse, who will speak on freedom of speech in a time of terror. He has played a critical role in defending freedom of speech in Australia since the 1960s. Free admission but bookings advisable. 5.30pm Mitchell Theatre, Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, Level 1, 280 Pitt St, Sydney. Enquiries: phone 1300 364 or email [sydney@pen.org.au](mailto:sydney@pen.org.au) Web:  
<http://www.pen.org.au/index.php?menu=Upcoming%20Events&subMenu=Sydney>

**1 NOVEMBER. CITY OF SYDNEY PEACE PRIZE LECTURE WITH IRENE KHAN (NSW).** 6:00pm for 6:30pm, Seymour Centre. Tickets are available from the Seymour Centre Box Office. Adult: \$32.60, Concession: \$22.60. Tel (02) 9351 7940; Email [spf@arts.usyd.edu.au](mailto:spf@arts.usyd.edu.au); Web  
<http://www.sydneypeacefoundation.org.au/news.shtml>.

**2 NOVEMBER. SYDNEY PEACE PRIZE AWARD CEREMONY AND GALA DINNER.** 7:00pm Great Hall, University of Sydney. For more information, contact the Sydney Peace Foundation on (02) 9351 4468 or email [spf@arts.usyd.edu.au](mailto:spf@arts.usyd.edu.au). Corporate tables are available. Web  
<http://www.sydneypeacefoundation.org.au/news.shtml>.

**2-3 NOVEMBER. 4TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND MENTAL HEALTH (NSW).** Speakers include Andrew Jakubowicz (Professor of Sociology, University of Technology Sydney), Mary Crock (Author and Associate Professor of Law, University of Sydney), James Haire (Professor of Theology, Charles Sturt University), and many others. Mitchell Theatre, Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney, 2000. Information: Email: [director@save.org.au](mailto:director@save.org.au); Phone (02) 9266 0766; Address: S A V E - Australia Inc, PO Box A2208, Sydney South, NSW, 1235. Web:  
<http://www.save.org.au/events/ConfReg2006.pdf> .

**3-5 NOVEMBER. CONFERENCE: NEW RACISMS: NEW ANTI-RACISMS.** Presented by the University of Sydney Research Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences (RIHSS) and the Department of Anthropology. Enquiries: [ghassan.hage@arts.usyd.edu.au](mailto:ghassan.hage@arts.usyd.edu.au).

**DECEMBER AND JANUARY: EDMUND RICE CENTRE FREMANTLE PRESENTS IMMERSION PROGRAMS IN INDIA AND TIMOR LESTE.** A model of active citizenship that allows participants to learn through 'experiential learning' what it means to be part of a global humanity. Information: Tel. (07) 9335 4353. Email: [erc@powerdsl.com.au](mailto:erc@powerdsl.com.au). Web <http://www.ercfremantle.org>.

*(email news of your forthcoming social justice event by the last week of each month to: admin@acsjc.org.au)*

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## SEPTEMBER NEWS MONITOR

### **INDONESIA ALLOWS EXECUTED CATHOLIC'S BODY TO RETURN HOME:**

Seeking to calm tensions following the execution of three Catholics convicted of inciting religious violence, Indonesian authorities relented on an earlier decision and allowed one of the three to be buried before a crowd of 10,000 in his Flores hometown.

**AIDS IS PNG'S TOP PROBLEM, STUDENTS TELL BISHOP:** Speaking with Melbourne Auxiliary Bishop Christopher Prowse, Papua New Guinea students named AIDS as the top problem facing the country but none of them identified abstinence or faithfulness to one partner as among the best strategies for combating the disease.

**JOSEPHITE CALL FOR NUNS TO UNITE ON INDIGENOUS ACTION:** "The level of Indigenous health is still appalling", Josephite Sr Katrina Brill said in a Social Justice Sunday call to Australian nuns to join forces on Indigenous issues.

### **COLUMBANS CALL ON CHRISTIANS TO FAST AND PRAY THIS**

**WEEKEND:** With the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and the Jewish New Year both opening during the month, the Columbans called on Christians to join with other Abrahamic traditions in prayer and fasting.

**FILIPINO BISHOPS SEEK SOLIDARITY FROM AUSTRALIAN CHURCH:** In a statement timed to coincide with the Australian Church's Social Justice Sunday, Filipino bishops called on their Australian counterparts for support in safeguarding the human rights of Filipino Indigenous people under pressure from Australian mining companies.

**INDONESIAN CATHOLICS EXECUTED:** After their last request for the sacrament of reconciliation was refused, three Catholics who had been convicted of anti-Muslim violence were executed near Palu, the capital of Sulawesi province in Indonesia.

### **\$A60 BILLION NEW UK MISSILES "ABSURD": SCOTTISH CARDINAL:**

Welcoming peace walkers to Edinburgh, Cardinal Keith O'Brien, president of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland, described the investment of billions of pounds in more nuclear weapons as "iniquitous, irrational and absurd".

### **TAX SYSTEM CREATING POVERTY TRAPS: CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:**

High effective marginal tax rates are creating poverty traps by acting as disincentives for people on low incomes to join the workforce or to increase their hours of work, says Catholic Social Services director, Frank Quinlan.

**BENDIGO BISHOP BACKS ENGLISH TEST FOR MIGRANTS:** Citizenship is not just a passport, Sandhurst diocese Bishop Joe Grech said, and he has "no problem" with proposed new requirements including an English test and a four-year wait to obtain citizenship.

**BROOME DIOCESAN JUSTICE OFFICE SLAMS NON-INDIGENOUS APPOINTMENT:** The appointment of a non-Indigenous person to a \$200,000 a year advisory role with the Western Australian Government on Aboriginal issues is a "step back into the past", according to Br Shane Wood of Broome diocese's justice and peace office.

**MENTAL PATIENTS FILLING PRISONS: CHAPLAIN:** A Melbourne prison chaplain, Fr Joe Caddy, called on the Government to redirect some money from its mental health budget to new initiatives and reform of prisons, which he says are becoming institutions for mentally ill people.

**SANDHURST TEACHERS IMMERSE IN PHILIPPINES PROGRAM:** Formation in Catholic Social Teaching is a key focus for fifteen Catholic primary school teachers from Victoria's Sandhurst diocese who left for a 10-day immersion and training program in Cebu with Filipino teachers.

**LAY LEADER SAYS CIVILISATION CLASH A POLITICAL CHOICE:** Speaking at a seminar for dialogue between European, Mediterranean and Arabian Gulf cultures, St Egidio community founder and leader, Professor Andrea Riccardi, said that intercultural shock was not inevitable despite attempts to create a worldwide culture of conflict.

**CONTRACT WORKERS WIN BETTER PROTECTIONS:** In a win for outworkers in the clothing industry, Brisbane's Catholic Justice and Peace Commission (CJPC) welcomed the Government's decision to accept last month's Senate committee recommendations for better legislative protection for some contract workers.

**ABORIGINAL ELDER TELLS CATHOLICS TO CHALLENGE INDIGENOUS INJUSTICES:** Launching the bishops' social justice statement on Indigenous disadvantage, Aboriginal elder Tom Calma said he is concerned by the Government's strong "push to take control over communities on Indigenous land", saying it is a social justice issue that must be challenged.

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS LOSING POOR FAMILIES,** said CARDINAL PELL: Sydney's Cardinal Pell intervened to cap school fee increases in line with the Consumer Price Index in order to stem the drift of students from poorer families away from Catholic schools.

**BISHOPS' SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT FOCUSES ON INDIGENOUS DISADVANTAGE:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Tom Calma, launched this year's Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Sunday statement, which focuses on dignity and justice for Indigenous Australians.

**THIEVES PLUNDER VINNIES CENTRE:** St Vincent de Paul volunteers in the South Australian city of Whyalla are devastated following a break in at their local Vinnies centre in which money, food and phone vouchers worth \$2000 were taken and the offices ransacked.

**CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICE CALLS FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS:** Frank Quinlan, CEO of Catholic Social Services Australia, announced that nominations are now open for its 2006 awards for individuals and organisations working in social services.

**INDIGENOUS ELDER ADVISES RELIGIOUS ON SALE OF "SACRED SITES":** Drawing on the experience of Aboriginal communities who negotiated the sale of their traditional lands, Maitland Parker, a Banyjima elder from WA's Pilbara mining region, advised leaders of religious communities that they must accept the sadness that comes with letting go of surplus properties.

**NZ BISHOPS WARN OF PACIFIC ECOLOGICAL CRISIS:** New Zealand's bishops called upon the Catholic community to make the lifestyle choices and sacrifices necessary to protect the planet, warning that climate change is already among the most urgent threats facing the people of the Pacific.

**PRIEST THREATENS TO TAKE AUSSIE MINE TO COURT:** A Filipino priest threatened to take a Melbourne-based mining company "to the Supreme Court to stop it" from fully reopening its Philippine mine after it was shut because of two cyanide spills.

**OLDER PEOPLE STRIKING FINANCIAL TROUBLE: VINNIES:** The average age of clients seeking financial advice from the Society of St Vincent de Paul risen from 36 to 55, according to a Sydney counsellor, who said that the fifties are a volatile age group where job loss can cause grave stress.

**NEW GAZA SETTLEMENT TENDERS CONCERN CARITAS JERUSALEM:** The Caritas Medical Centre in Gaza marked its third anniversary under the sound of missiles falling on Gaza and with the announcement that Israel issued tenders for 690 new settlement units around occupied East Jerusalem.

**PRIEST CALLS FOR CLEMENCY FOR BALI NINE DEATH SENTENCES:** The eventual execution of the Bali Nine members condemned to death will have far-reaching consequences for Australia-Indonesia relations, the parish priest of drug mules Scott Rush and Michael Czugaj warned, calling on the Prime Minister to intervene in a bid for clemency.

**CARDINAL MARTINO BACKS SCOTTISH BISHOPS OVER UK MISSILE STANCE:** In a letter to Edinburgh Cardinal Keith O'Brien, Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace President Cardinal Renato Martino endorsed a statement by the Scottish Catholic bishops calling on Britain to scrap the Trident nuclear missile system.

**TOOWOOMBA DIOCESE REJECTS DIMA'S GUEST WORKER CLAIMS:** The Toowoomba Catholic Social Justice Commission dismissed claims by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs that there is a direct path to permanent residency for Toowoomba's guest workers, saying it is "not as straight forward as suggested".

**ARCHBISHOP'S REPORT EXPOSES ZIMBABWEAN HOMELESSNESS DEBACLE:** Nothing been done by the Zimbabwean Government to re-house 700,000 people made homeless as a result of a botched housing "clean up" demolition operation, according to a devastating report released by Archbishop Pius Ncube of Bulawayo.

**CARDINAL CHALLENGES MUSLIMS TO DEFEND PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS:** Muslims must speak up for the rights of Christians in Islamic countries and work with Christians towards a "mutual witness" to the shared values of peace and justice, British Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor said in Melbourne.

- courtesy Church Resources' CathNews, stories in detail at <http://www.cathnews.com/news/609>

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## OCTOBER SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR

### NATIONAL ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CATHOLIC COUNCIL

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Catholic Council (NATSICC) was formed in Cairns in January 1989 at the first National Conference of the Aboriginal and Islander Catholic Councils. In 1992 the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference officially recognised and welcomed it as the national representative and consultative body to the Church on issues concerning Indigenous Catholics.

#### **NATSICC Vision Statement:**

*"The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council promotes and celebrates the cultural identity of our peoples across the nation, by living and expressing in all its endeavours the spirituality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic peoples. Through this expression and recognition of our cultural identity we will find our rightful place within the Catholic Church in Australia."*

Website: <http://www.natsicc.org.au>

### **OCTOBER 2 TO 7 NATSICC NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, DREAMING FROM THE HEART**

To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Pope John Paul II's visit to Alice Springs in 1986, NATSICC is holding its National Assembly in the Red Centre. From ancient times, the message stick has been used in Aboriginal culture to call people from different tribes together. The Message Stick Relay that commenced on May 1, 2005, when each State and Territory NATSICC Councillor was given a

Message Stick at a National Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, will culminate at Alice Springs. These Message Sticks were taken back and relayed around parishes, local communities and schools. As they moved from place to place, they carried an invitation to all of us to celebrate the message of hope and reconciliation in our own hearts and communities. These message sticks will be brought to Alice Springs and joined together for the start of the Assembly. For more information: [http://www.natsicc.org.au/alice\\_springs\\_2006](http://www.natsicc.org.au/alice_springs_2006)

*Lord, we are companions on a journey ...  
You know my hurts and pains those frustrations I feel in this land...  
Reconcile and guide me in justice and in faith  
For we're on our way to Alice (Springs)  
where you expressed your love for me.  
Lord, set me free and let me be the servant I want to be  
Lord, I thank you for hearing and understanding me  
For Lord, You are always on my mind and on my lips and in my heart  
And there's simply no other way that it could be.  
NATSICC Companion Prayer © November 2004*

### **THE NATIONAL ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ECUMENICAL COUNCIL**

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission (NATSIEC) is the peak ecumenical Indigenous body in Australia. It is part of the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA). With NATSIEC's guidance, the churches are working together for a fair deal for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, and for the healing of our nation.

NATSIEC Mandate:

*To provide a forum for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to speak and take action on issues of faith, mission and evangelism; of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander spirituality and theology; of social justice and land rights...  
To help rebuild self-esteem, pride and dignity within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.  
To promote harmony, justice and understanding between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the wider community...*

Website: <http://www.ncca.org.au/natsiec>

### **OCTOBER 17 INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY**

NATSIEC's Make Indigenous Poverty History Campaign

In November 2005, NATSIEC launched the Make Indigenous Poverty History campaign to ensure that the global campaign supporting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) does not overlook the poverty suffered by indigenous peoples around the world including Australia. The MDGs do not specifically target indigenous peoples but indigenous peoples are often the ones most affected by extreme poverty and usually rank at the bottom of most social and economic indicators. Poverty is a very real and debilitating experience for many Indigenous Australians. The MDGs are outcomes focused and there is a danger that in defining and measuring poverty in such a way, the specific causes of poverty amongst indigenous peoples will not be addressed. Measuring how many dollars a day somebody lives on will not encompass the wide gamut of factors that leads to indigenous poverty including; colonisation, loss of traditional lands,

loss of languages, loss of traditional law and loss of cultural practices. Behind the statistics of low income, unemployment, lack of education and family violence there are stories of dispossession; cultural annihilation; loss of languages; stolen generations and lack of recognition of Indigenous ownership of this country. For more information: [http://www.ncca.org.au/natsiec/indigenous\\_poverty](http://www.ncca.org.au/natsiec/indigenous_poverty)

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**AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE COUNCIL** Leo XIII House, 19 MacKenzie Street, PO Box 1615, North Sydney NSW 2059. Tel: (02) 9956 5811, Fax: (02) 9954 0056, Email: [admin@acsjc.org.au](mailto:admin@acsjc.org.au) Website: <http://socialjustice.catholic.org.au> \*\* ACSJC Briefing is sent by email at the beginning of each month (except January). To subscribe or unsubscribe, go to the front page of the website Comments and contributions are also welcome.