



January 2012



Rev. Cheryl Holmes
CEO

From the CEO

Reflection

As we move into this New Year I hope that these first weeks are a gentle start to 2012 for you. Over the past months the HCCVI has completed a [new strategic plan 2012-2015](#) which is now available on the website. Thank you to all who participated in the consultations leading to these significant directions for the organisation.

In November 2011 the HCCVI submitted a funding proposal to the Victorian Government and we wait to hear what this might mean for our next three-year service agreement.

In response to a request from a number of churches the HCCVI has developed a template [MOU/Service Agreement for use between faith communities and hospitals](#) where the faith community appoints a chaplain to a facility. This has been widely distributed but is also available on the website.

Current research being undertaken by the HCCVI to address the question "who is responsible for spiritual care in public metropolitan hospitals" is nearing completion. Thank you to all who have contributed ideas and feedback to this project, and to our researcher, Debbie Zauder, for her work on this. This project will provide valuable information to the HCCVI as we continue to develop best practice models for spiritual care delivery.

There is much happening as you will see from the following news and reports!

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[Spiritual care for Buddhists](#)



Dan Murphy
Manager - Education
& Training

Education & Training ...

Opportunities

Much has been happening in Education & Training since our first newsletter:

The Continuing Education Conference, our monthly Professional Development program, has been completed for 2011 and evaluated, and a [new program for 2012](#) has been developed.

This is available on our website, along with a registration form.

Applications are due by February 1 2012.

A unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) has been planned

Healthcare Chaplaincy
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Aged Care

Support & Development

Mental Health

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for 2012 in Bendigo, in response to the identification of this as a priority by the Loddon-Mallee Working Party. Following many expressions of interest, five participants have been interviewed and selected for this program. The unit is an extended part-time format, conducted from March to October, with two sessions of two days each month, and will be under the auspices of The Austin CPE Centre, coordinated and supervised by Dan Murphy.

HCCVI's application for a grant under the National Workforce Development Fund (a Federal Government program) for seven people to participate in an Advanced Diploma in Management was successful. The training provider selected is Groupwork Institute of Australia, due to their program and approach being well suited to our field.

Aged Care & Community Services ...



Jacqueline Taylor
Manager - Aged Care &
Community Services

New Aged Care Subcommittee for Loddon Mallee

People from as far afield as Mildura recently responded to an invitation to express interest in forming an Aged Care Subcommittee to work alongside the Loddon Mallee Rural and Regional Development Working Party.

At a meeting held in Bendigo on December 13 information was presented about HCCVI and two of its current projects, the Rural

& Regional Development Project and the Aged Care Project. This was followed by an open discussion where participants talked about their experiences of pastoral care services in aged care in Loddon Mallee. It was recognised that pastoral care services have much to offer, but that there is currently a gap between what is available and the perceived need in the region. Participants were enthusiastic about finding pathways for promoting and developing more Pastoral Care services.

It was decided to go ahead and form the new Aged Care Subcommittee. The foundation members are Irene Nolan (Bendigo based researcher and educator in spiritual care), Margaret Van Dillen (Benetas St Laurence Court Eaglehawk/Kangaroo Flat), Sally Rosengrave (Dementia Behaviour Management Advisory Service, Bendigo Health), Tracie Pearson (Echuca Community for the Aged), Marree Vinnicombe (Cohuna Retirement Village), Debbie Rogers (Waranga Aged Care, Goulburn Valley Health), and Jacqueline Taylor (HCCVI).

This is great news for the aged care sector in Loddon Mallee – it will now have a voice with which to advocate for pastoral and spiritual services.

Meetings will be held approximately bimonthly. Teleconferencing is available. The next meeting is scheduled to be held in Bendigo on Tuesday February 21 2012 from 10.15-11.15 am. It would be great to have representation from other aged care providers, both from the residential and community sectors. If you are interested but unable to attend you are also welcome to receive meeting notes. You can do this by contacting [Jacqueline Taylor](mailto:Jacqueline.Taylor@agedcare@hccvi.org.au) at agedcare@hccvi.org.au.

Spirituality in Aged Care Education Pilot and Facilitator Training

In our last eNewsletter, aged care providers were invited to participate in HCCVI's 'Spirituality in Aged Care Education Package' Pilot Project. This groundbreaking training is designed for all staff and volunteers of residential aged care facilities as well as other health organisations that aspire to a person-centred care model. Individual invitations were distributed widely across Victoria in December. Participant response has been excellent. We expect to have pilots running in both metropolitan and regional areas, and in private, not for profit and Department of Health facilities. These will take place in the next few months. Uptake for the Facilitator Preparation has been equally popular and this will go



Chaplaincy, Spiritual Care Services for Buddhists

Helping others can be an important part of a Buddhist's practice and development. There is no one Buddhist view of illness and death; Buddhism has a large body of teachings that intersect with care giving and there are many different approaches which are reflected in the diversity of traditions and cultures we find here in Victoria.

In early 2011 the Buddhist Council of Victoria accepted a small grant from HCCVI to develop a chaplaincy service for Buddhists. As this is the first attempt to try to engage our community in developing a coordinated approach to service delivery we began by consulting with key groups in order to gauge their support for the idea. We also surveyed over 30 main Pastoral Care Coordinators in order to get an understanding of consumer needs and delivery protocols. This stage of the project is now completed and a report of our findings will be available after February 2012 on the BCV website, www.bcv.org.au

The next stage of the project will focus on:

- ❖ training Buddhist chaplains
- ❖ educating healthcare workers, and
- ❖ developing a website to help pastoral care services locate chaplains.

Venerable Bom Hyon

Project Manager

BomHyon.Sunim@bcv.org.au

ahead on February 15-16.

It has been very encouraging to note the interest in training aged care staff and volunteers in the area of spirituality to enable them to offer better service to their clientele.



Mental Health ...

New in South West Health

In our last newsletter I reported on the creation of a new and exciting mental health pastoral care position in South West Healthcare, based in Warrnambool and taking pastoral care across the region. In October Michael Downes began this pioneering venture in pastoral care within mental health. At the end of January and early February a forum on spirituality and mental health will be conducted in Warrnambool in order to raise staff awareness of spiritual issues, to keep them informed on the

role and also to provide a space for staff to raise questions or issues.

Another recent focus has been beginning to organise the 2012 Spirituality and Mental Health Conference which will be held in the second half of the year.



Support and Development ...

Regional and Rural Development

Regional and Rural Working Parties have been meeting for eight months since their establishment in February 2011. I conducted an evaluation of these new networks, and feedback regarding the benefits and outcomes is positive with the following points to note:

- ❖ HCCVI's focus on and support of pastoral care development in the regions is needed and well-received
- ❖ We need to ensure that rural and remote towns are linked with the work that we are doing
- ❖ Regional working parties provide an important means of advocating and promoting pastoral care in their local regions
- ❖ Disseminating information about the breadth of the work done by HCCVI as the peak body is important for regional working parties.

In Loddon Mallee, successful events were conducted during Pastoral Care Week in late October at St John of God Hospital and at Monash University Clinical School. Both events provided an opportunity for gathering, reflection, support and the sharing of information about pastoral care in the Bendigo area.

Barwon South Western Regional Working Party met in early December and welcomed David Hodgins from the Warrnambool Ministers' Association as a member. This will strengthen our links with the churches that provide volunteer pastoral care to health organisations in the area. Again, some successful events were held in Pastoral Care Week with a focus on outreach and self-care for pastoral care practitioners. The Working Party is looking at the possibility of delivering seminars/continuing education for pastoral care practitioners in the region – more about that in the next newsletter.

The Gippsland Working Party has been successful in obtaining a seeding grant from HCCVI to undertake a detailed mapping of pastoral care services in the region. This will enable the working party in having a baseline of pastoral care resourcing before exploring the possibility of doing further development work in this region. The pilot Pastoral Care



A Voice at the Table

An integrated model for pastoral care in aged mental health.

by Rosemary Kelleher with Olga Yastrubetskaya

Response to the spiritual needs of older people with mental illness and their families is essential to holistic care. This book is intended for use by pastoral care practitioners, multidisciplinary teams in aged mental health settings, clergy and others caring for these important members of our community.

Clinical information is intertwined with information about Victorian mental health law and pastoral care theory and practice. A systematic application of this approach in the everyday work of pastoral care practitioners is illustrated by extensive case studies.

\$22.00 (incl. GST) + postage

Available from

Healthcare Chaplaincy Council of Victoria Inc.

Trish Fernley, (03) 8415 1144

office@hccvi.org.au

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Coordinator position at Bass Coast Regional Health continues to grow from strength to strength and a number of volunteer pastoral workers have been trained and ready to visit in February 2012. South Gippsland Hospital is mid-way into their project mapping current pastoral care practice and assessing future needs in the Foster area. We look forward to the final report and data which will be available at the end of February.

All in all, much work continues to be done in three regions of Victoria with the dedication and commitment of pastoral care practitioners, faith communities and health sector representatives to ensure that good quality pastoral care is embedded in a person-centred model of health care.

2012 will see some further milestones completed and the outcomes will point the way forward for continued development of sustainable pastoral care provision and education in the regions as long as adequate funding is available.

On our website

[Employment vacancies](#)

[Upcoming conferences](#)

[Training opportunities](#)

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Spirituality, Theology and Health Research workshop



By **SIMON JONES**

In August 2011 there was an international gathering of professionals at the Spirituality, Theology and Health Research workshop, Duke University, Durham (USA). This workshop (the second for the year) was hosted by Dr. Harold Koenig. Dr Koenig is a practising psychiatrist, Director of Duke's Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health, and a leading international researcher on Spirituality and Health with more than 20 years experience. The purpose of this workshop is information and training on religion, spirituality and health research, and the application of research findings into practice.

Personally, this was not only an opportunity to learn more about spiritual and health research from international experts in the field, there was practical information related to my own study and research, for example, research proposals, writing a thesis, submissions for financial grants and journals. There were also opportunities for mentorship meetings with Dr Koenig and others, and networking with participants from various professional backgrounds and nationalities. While you are always able to read a book on this research or visit a website, I find that it is the one-on-one contact with other like-minded professionals where experiences and ideas can be shared which sparks my own enthusiasm for this study and work.

This workshop is being run in 2012 on July 16-20 and August 13-17 and is also being offered as a pre-conference workshop (May 13-16) before the European Conference on Religion, Spirituality and Health in Berne, Switzerland (May 17-19).

Thank you to the HCCVI for their support.

- ❖ Simon Jones is an Outdoor Program Coordinator with Out Doors Inc and is investigating the relationship between spirituality and mental health, wellbeing and recovery in the natural environment.



Left: Participants at the Spirituality, Theology and Health Research workshop, Duke University. Above: Dr Koenig (left) with Simon Jones.