

# Annual Report

## 2008



Standing in solidarity with those in need  
Expressing a faith that promotes justice

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# Vision

Building a just society

# Mission

Standing in solidarity with those in need

Expressing a faith that promotes justice

# Values

## **Welcoming**

- forming strong, faithful relationships

## **Discerning**

- being strategic about where we can have the greatest impact

## **Courageous**

- standing up boldly to effect change

The Central feature of work is relationship:

Forming relationships as a basis for effective intervention - and that intervention is focussed on building people's capacity to be in relationship with others and to be able to participate in our community.

It means forming relationships that allow people to trust again and to imagine and realise other possibilities for themselves.

We don't give up on people.

# Characteristics

1. Respecting the value, dignity, and rights of each person
2. Establishing robust relationships to enhance social inclusion
3. Developing programs that facilitate growth and change
4. Shaping public policy through research, advocacy and action
5. Advocating with and for marginalised members of society
6. Being committed to working in areas of unmet need
7. Embracing differences of race, culture and faith
8. Expressing Christian values and the mission of the Jesuit Order
9. Working collaboratively for the greater good

# 2007-2008 Highlights

At Jesuit Social Services, we work at the hard end of the social welfare system. For 30 years, we have been helping individuals who have had a lifetime of abuse, neglect and trauma to turn their lives around.

Our organisation currently delivers a range of programs and operates with a budget of \$9million.

To help you understand the diversity of our work, this year we have created this 'highlights' section for our Annual Report. We hope you enjoy this snapshot of Jesuit Social Services.

For more detailed information about our programs, or information on how to support Jesuit Social Services, simply visit our website at [www.jss.org.au](http://www.jss.org.au)

## **Taking a lead role**

The Provincial of the Australian Jesuits, Fr Mark Raper SJ, consulted with the Board and Executive of Jesuit Social Services and has asked us to take be the lead agency of the Province nationally for its social justice endeavours. The Board believes we have the capacity, experience and commitment to respond positively to this challenge.

Specifically, we will extend our research, policy and advocacy work to continue to uncover the root causes of social exclusion in Australia and address them. We will work collaboratively with others to develop new programs in areas of need, building on the presence of other Jesuit activities where possible.

## ***Western Sydney – Holy Family***

- Our first program venture beyond Victoria is with Holy Family in Mt Druitt, Western Sydney, where we are building partnerships to strengthen community capacity through a new social services program.

## ***Volunteer support***

We have also expanded our volunteer activities, and this year took on responsibility to manage the Jesuit Volunteers Australia (JVA) program in Melbourne, Sydney and Perth, while continuing to provide opportunities via the Melbourne-based Jesuit Social Services Volunteer Program. Highlights for this program include:

- The introduction of a new volunteer training course.
- The homework program for the African community at Flemington, which continues to flourish and has a new volunteer coordinator.

At Jesuit Social Services, we have as many volunteers as we do paid staff!

## **The Jesuit Social Services team**

We are proud of our 120 staff members and the work they do, in some of the most difficult and demanding areas of human service such as criminal justice and substance abuse.

Over the past year we've added new positions and made new appointments within the organisation, to help us meet the objectives of our strategic plan. They include a new:

- Policy Director
- Program Director for Brosnan Youth Services
- Organisational Development Director, and
- Business Development Coordinator.

## **Using language people can understand**

For Jesuit Social Services, communications is all about infusing the hearts and minds of people to develop their commitment towards building a just society. To that end, this year we have redeveloped the Jesuit Social Services website to make it easier to access and navigate, and created new information material for the following programs:

- Gateway, including an Abbotsford Biscuits brochure
- Brosnan Centre
- Connexions
- Support After Suicide, and
- our Bequest program.

We also developed a new Jesuit Social Services brochure.

# 2007-2008 Highlights

## Financial support

Jesuit Social Services seeks the generosity of friends and supporters who can help us fulfil our mission of 'standing in solidarity with those in need and expressing a faith that promotes justice.' This year's fundraising highlights include:

- Fourteen new Community Partners. This donor program raised \$40,592 for our services and programs.
- The continued strengthening of our first foray into corporate partnerships with National Australia Bank, who provide skilled volunteers to contribute to Jesuit Social Services at various levels, and who matched employee donations dollar for dollar through their Workplace Giving program.
- Women For Social Justice raised funds for the African Homework program at their inaugural Women for Social Justice lunch.
- Run Melbourne, a major community fitness event in June, saw 14 staff members participate and raise funds for Jesuit Social Services.

To donate to Jesuit Social Services, [click here](#).



### Women for social justice

When Clare Dyer, a former Xavier mum, learned that the money had run out to pay Jesuit Social Services African program worker Berhan Jaber, she was inspired to gather a group of her friends together to see what they could do.

Calling themselves Women for Social Justice Clare, Dianne, Sadie, Jane, Kate, Louise, Margaret, Elizabeth, Mary, and Anne Marie got together and asked 200 women to lunch. They invited Berhan to talk about the African program. Berhan spoke of the need for African workers to be employed to work with African families.

The Women for Social Justice lunch raised nearly \$15,000 - enough to keep Berhan in work until ongoing funding can be secured – and it also raised our hopes.

'We have been very fortunate to have been born in a prosperous country. All of us believe that building a just society means everyone mucking in and helping where we can. This was something we felt able to do right now,' said Clare. 'It always feels good knowing you are truly helping to make the world a better place.'

Women for Social Justice have pledged to raise awareness of the work of Jesuit Social Services and commit their enthusiasm and resources to our fundraising efforts. For this we are very grateful.

## Research, policy and advocacy

Policy and advocacy are the building blocks of our quest for social justice. This year we continued to participate in the social policy debate through a number of activities:

- With Catholic Social Services Australia, we commissioned Professor Tony Vinson to undertake the research report *Dropping off the Edge: the distribution of disadvantage in Australia*. Following its release, we made numerous presentations on its findings to political parties at federal and state levels, church leaders, local community groups and community associations. To view or order a copy of this report, [click here](#).
- Board members Patricia Faulkner and Fr Frank Brennan SJ, and CEO Julie Edwards attended the 2020 Summit held in Canberra.
- We produced a submission to the Federal Government's 'Which way home?' Green Paper on homelessness. We advocated strongly for improvements to the Employment Services System to provide increased assistance to the most disadvantaged people seeking employment support.



# 2007-2008 Highlights

## Our programs

Jesuit Social Services has over 30 years history of engagement with disadvantaged young people, families and communities. Below are some of the highlights of our program work in these areas over the last 12 months. For more information on our programs, [click here](#).

### Brosnan Youth Services

*Supporting young people in the justice system since 1977*

- The Hon Bob Cameron MP, Minister for Police and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrections, launched Link Out in May. The Link Out program provides transitional support to young offenders exiting the adult corrections system, across Victoria. Link Out is a partnership between Jesuit Social Services, Australian Community Support Organisation, Victorian Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders and The Salvation Army.
- In June the Hon Richard Wynne, Member for Richmond and Minister for Housing and Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, launched the Start Over program, which is based in the City of Yarra and also operates in the City of Darebin. This crime prevention program targets 12-18 year olds and uses a combination of casework and community development to foster self-esteem and confidence, and develop participants' social skills and self awareness.



Minister for Housing and Local Government Richard Wynne, who launched the Start Over program in 2007, with children from the Monday night soccer game run by the Yarra Police Youth Resources Officers and our Start Over team.

## Community justice

*Helping young people make amends for offending*

- We have seen a steady increase in referrals to our group conferencing program—a result of legislative changes that allow magistrates to choose this option when considering a supervisory order. Jesuit Social Services and other community support agencies successfully advocated for this change in legislation.

## Gateway

*Pathways to education, training and employment for young people with complex needs*

### Artful Dodgers Studios

- 583 people visited From the Vault, a digital retrospective exhibition at the Abbotsford Convent basement. The exhibit featured video, film, digital photography, sound and interactive media projects from 2003–2008.
- Twenty-two young people participated in the Gateway Kitchen program producing and selling over \$70,000 worth of Abbotsford Biscuits, Easter eggs and cakes. Operating as a social enterprise, the program offers young people supervised skills training, work experience and employment preparation.
- Twenty-six young artists exhibited 116 individual works along cafes and offices in Smith and Gertrude Streets in Collingwood as part of the INTERLINK exhibition from 1st to 15th November.
- Gateway participants launched a new radio program on the youth station SYN FM on Mondays at 1pm, conducting interviews and playing music recorded at the Gateway studio.
- The music studio launched their Underground Loop Hip Hop CD.

# 2007-2008 Highlights

## The Outdoor Experience (TOE)

- This program, which offers a range of outdoor intervention programs for young people aged 15-21 years, celebrated its own 21st birthday!

### TOE-ing the line for 21 years!

On the 13th September 2007 at Jesuit Social Services' Bush Hut, The Outdoor Experience (TOE) celebrated 21 years of service delivery to 'at risk' young people. From its humble beginnings in 1985 at Pleasant View Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Centre, TOE has continued to provide a range of outdoor adventure programs for young people experiencing problems associated with use of alcohol and other drugs.

During its 21 years, TOE has collaborated with more than 80 community based organisations throughout Victoria to design and deliver outdoor adventure programs to 'at risk' young people. In the early days, many of these programs were facilitated with the four Youth Training Centres - Langi Kal Kal, Malmsbury, Turana and Winlaton – plus community youth justice programs. TOE extended its services to many other community based agencies, including various youth and family services and alternative school programs. As the benefits of these outdoor intervention programs became obvious, TOE developed a six week therapeutic model, offering an alternative treatment service to young people with problems associated with use of alcohol and other drugs.

In 1997, TOE gained funding from the Department of Human Services to facilitate these Bush Adventure Therapy programs.

Currently TOE runs four such programs per year, plus various Community Adventure Programs with other agencies across Victoria.

In today's policy and service delivery environment, it is a significant milestone for any program to have been operational for 21 years.

Jesuit Social Services extends their thanks to all who have shown their ongoing support and commitment to this innovative, creative and successful alternative drug treatment program.



TOE Coordinator Fiona Cameron at the Bush Hut in Yarra Bend, Kew. Photo courtesy of Progress Leader.

## Family and Community Connections

*Building resilient families*

### Support After Suicide

- A supporter refurbished his business venue, the Victoria Hotel in Little Collins St Melbourne—right in the heart of the CBD—to provide consulting rooms for suicide bereaved people.

## Family and Community Connections

*Strengthening communities in public housing neighbourhoods*

### Yarra

Jesuit Social Services is managing a cross-cultural communication training program across the City of Yarra high rise estates. Twelve people completed training at the beginning of March 2008 and are now available to work as cross-cultural consultants. Two courses were run in May and June, students participated in a Northern Metropolitan Institute of TAFE accredited short course, and undertook a 20 hour community placement to further develop their skills. The program is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

- **Collingwood**

A soccer program organised with the Victoria Police has grown to such a large extent that three groups now play on a regular basis. Up to 60 children regularly participate in the soccer sessions.

- **Fitzroy**

The Homework Program is thriving and now attracts up to 70 children each week.

- **Community Information Centre**

The Centre remains a very popular service seeing around 500 clients a month and is still the only information centre in Victoria on a public housing estate.

### Vietnamese Welfare Resource Centre

- 48 Vietnamese women completed Certificate III training in Aged Care, Child Care, Hairdressing or Hospitality through themalkagroup (TMG), with the support of volunteer English tutors.

- Six schools have been assisted through parenting sessions. This includes an eight week parenting course, and information sessions for teachers about Vietnamese culture and family values. These parenting programs give parents the opportunity to understand such areas as child development, schooling, drug issues and the fostering of good family relationships within the Australian context.

### African Program

- In response to the problems experienced by African taxi drivers, Jesuit Social Services developed the Just a Taxi Driver: Theatre of Transformation project. The project uses live theatre performances and a DVD to illustrate how to control problem situations and prevent them from escalating. The project is aimed at taxi drivers, taxi driver trainers and The Victorian Taxi Directorate. More than 1000 Somali professionals, including doctors, former army officers and pilots, are working as taxi drivers in Melbourne.

- The Victoria Police invited our African youth worker to support 16 local secondary school students on a Kokoda trail walk, aimed at building trust between the local youth and the police.



# Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Jesuit Social Services' 30th anniversary year saw us take stock of what we had learnt and accomplished, and reflect on where we want to go. In determining to take up the role of being Australia's lead agency for social justice on behalf of the Province, we drew on a rich heritage that spans over 450 years and has seen Jesuit Social Services move to new frontiers and respond to emerging needs.

This is the space that Jesuit Social Services seeks to occupy—the places where others don't want to go; the relationships that others don't want to have. This is our heritage, pushing us beyond what is familiar and comfortable. It sees us developing new relationships, new ways of doing business, and entering different worlds.

This past year it has taken us beyond Victoria, to Western Sydney where we work in partnership with the local community at Holy Family, Mt Druitt where the Jesuits have had a long commitment through Loyola Secondary College, to Perth and Sydney through our new program Jesuit Volunteers Australia, and to Alice Springs to work with the local Catholic community as they grapple with how best to respond to the needs of the local Arrernte people.

We have been encouraged to see that *Dropping off the Edge*, the research report we commissioned with Catholic Social Services Australia, has informed governments at federal, state and local levels, helping to make the social inclusion agenda a priority across Australia. This influential research, undertaken by Professor Tony Vinson, builds on our 30 year history of engagement with disadvantaged young people, families and communities.

At Jesuit Social Services our relationships and partnerships are integral to our work, and good communication is the basis for any relationship. With that in mind, we updated our website and employ our vision statement—Building a Just Society—on all Jesuit Social Services materials. These words state our purpose in a simple way, while emphasizing that we work actively towards the goal of ensuring that everyone has a fair go.

I would like to acknowledge our staff, volunteers, donors and other funders, who support our belief that creating a just society starts in our own backyard, and that we can all make a difference. We wouldn't be here without you.

To the many individuals who have trusted us to work with them in their struggles and joys, thank you. Your courage humbles us, grounds us and inspires us.



Julie Edwards  
Chief Executive Officer





# Message from the Chairman

Over the past year we have begun implementing our 2008-2010 Strategic Plan which reflects the broadening of the role of Jesuit Social Services at the request of the outgoing Jesuit Provincial Fr Mark Raper SJ. I would like to thank Mark for all he has done for Jesuit Social Services.

While we say farewell to Mark, we welcome Fr Steve Curtin SJ as the new Australian Jesuit Provincial.

Steve has had numerous leadership roles within the Jesuits and has a strong commitment to our Jesuit mission of 'standing in solidarity with those in need and expressing a faith that promotes justice'. He will no doubt encourage us to seek out new frontiers, as we endeavour to help young people, their families and communities.

As always, the work of Jesuit Social Services means we see both big and small achievements, all of which are significant. Here's a snapshot of how we've achieved some of our strategic plan objectives over the past year:

## 1. Build a social research-policy-advocacy unit of national standing

We built on our long-term work through Professor Tony Vinson on identifying locations that are more often associated with social disadvantage. This work has been used by governments to target social programs more effectively. Jesuit Social Services and Catholic Social Services Australia jointly commissioned Tony to undertake further national analysis in the *Dropping off the Edge* research report. This report was used to inform the discussion on economic inclusion at the federal government's 2020 Summit in Canberra.

Board members Fr Frank Brennan SJ and Patricia Faulkner, and CEO Julie Edwards, participated in the 2020 Summit. Patricia Faulkner has since been appointed as Chair of the new Australian Social Inclusion Board, so we are well placed on this important national issue.

## 2. Social justice leadership

At the request of the Jesuit Provincial, we now have responsibility for engaging and managing the volunteers across Australia who wish to support us in our work to build a just society, and we have appointed a new Jesuit Volunteers Australia coordinator to oversee this work.

## 3. Service delivery on a national basis

Our strategic planning now focuses on the Jesuit social ministry across all areas of the Australian Jesuit province. Our work with the Holy Family Community in Western Sydney is underway. We have appointed Michael Maxwell to the position of Manager of Social Services, Holy Family Community. Michael has worked extensively in Western Sydney in community development and brings great passion, expertise and local knowledge to the position.

## 4. Service gaps and emerging needs

The identification of service gaps has always been important to the priorities of Jesuit Social Services and as such has committed itself to make economic inclusion a focus of its activity. Socially disadvantaged people are usually economically disadvantaged as well, particularly through lack of access to employment. We are exploring how we can promote economic inclusion of those locked out of that level of participation. Through our social enterprise, The Gateway Kitchen, we are learning valuable lessons that we are applying at the level of program development, advocacy and policy development.

## 5. Culture, infrastructure and support base

Jesuit Social Services' culture, underpinned by Ignatian values in seeking to build a more just society, informs all activities of the organisation. The Board and the staff of Jesuit Social Services adopt a range of practices, from reflection to retreats, to constantly develop our culture.

The work of Jesuit Social Services continues to be dependent on the generosity of our supporters. I acknowledge the critical contributions and commitment of those supporters and of all Jesuit Social Services staff, volunteers, partners and my fellow board members.



Peter Johnstone  
Chairman of the Board



# Message from the Jesuit Provincial

This is a time of joy and great hope for me. Joy because my appointment as Provincial brings me into direct involvement with the wonderful work of Jesuit Social Services and hope because I can see how much good can still be done by Jesuit Social Services—not only in Victoria but throughout Australia.

Last year, we had time to reflect on what Jesuit Social Services had accomplished over the 30 years prior. This year, we continued to go where others felt it was too dark, so that those whom we are here to serve could grow and flourish as well.

While we strive to work with people to improve their sense of self, of hope and of achievement, the reality is that they often become our teachers.

Time and time again, it is they who have shown us courage and strength, as they struggle to take a path unfamiliar to them. And as they move forward, they give us the confidence to continue.

Those we work with, from all manner of background and experience, have been constant reminders to me that faith, hope and love can be found even in the bleakest of places, and that those places can indeed become brighter.

As I begin my term as Provincial of the Australian Jesuits I would like to acknowledge the dedicated work of the staff and volunteers of Jesuit Social Services – whether you work face-to-face with those who seek our help, or support those who do so. I will continue to keep you in my thoughts and prayers.

And for all of our donors, supporters and partners—it is your generosity that helps make our dreams a reality—I trust you will continue to share our vision of building a just society.

I have no doubt that Jesuit Social Services will continue to pioneer new programs and work in new areas and in this it will be supported by me since I hold the work of Jesuit Social Services close to my heart.

And as we move into new frontiers, Jesuit Social Services may be confronted with new challenges. However, I believe that Jesuit Social Services has built a strong foundation on which to meet these challenges, and I trust that we may all remain inspired to 'live with one foot raised'.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steve Curtin SJ". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small cross at the end.

Steve Curtin SJ  
Jesuit Provincial

## Governance

Jesuit Social Services Ltd is a work of the Australian Jesuit Province, operating under an independent Board of Directors as an incorporated company.

Our legal status is defined as:

- A company limited by Guarantee
- A Registered Charity holding an Endorsement for Charity Tax Concessions and Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) status, allowing tax deductions for donations
- Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) exempt.

There are currently 13 members on the Jesuit Social Services Board of Directors, of which six are Provincial appointments and seven are Ordinary Directors. The Board of directors is legally responsible for the work of Jesuit Social Services.

# Board of Directors

**Peter Johnstone** was the inaugural Chair of the Board of the incorporated company of Jesuit Social Services and has served in this role for over 10 years. Peter is the principal of PJ Governance Pty Ltd. He was until recently, the Chief Executive Officer of the City of Boroondara and has over 30 years experience as a chief executive in State and Local Governments and a senior administrator in Federal Government. Appointed 1996

**Frank Costigan QC** is the Deputy Chair of the Board. Frank has had a distinguished legal career and is well known as the Royal Commissioner into the activities of the Federated Ship Painters and Dockers Union and organised crime 1980-1984. He practises as an arbitrator in Australia and internationally. Appointed 1996

**Peter Tratt** is the Treasurer of the Board of Jesuit Social Services and operates his own financial planning business, Australian Wealth Advisers, and lectures at Melbourne University. Appointed 1999

**Father David Holdcroft SJ** is the Director of the Jesuit Refugee Service and initially undertook academic study in education and the arts. David worked in the homeless persons' field for 12 years before joining the Jesuits. Appointed 2004

**Father Julian Slatterie SJ** has had a distinguished career in Education including Deputy Headmaster of St Ignatius College Sydney, and Xavier College Melbourne. Appointed 1996

**Darren Walls** is a Business Consultant with extensive experience in sales and marketing in both the commercial and not for profit sectors. His current role is Business Strategy Development with the Groset division of Grollo Australia focused in the Tourism Industry. Appointed 2006

**Jennifer McAuley** is the Department of Human Services Representative on the Youth Parole Board. Jennifer is a qualified social worker and has had an extensive career in several states, particularly with the Department of Human Services, Victoria, most recently as Assistant Director Child Protection and Juvenile Justice. Appointed 2007

**Professor Jim Barber** is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, RMIT University, with a Masters of Social Work and Doctor of Philosophy. Jim has worked in the United States and Canada and held many positions in university faculties. Jim has received numerous awards and honours in the field of social and child welfare. Appointed 2007

**Associate Professor Margarita Frederico** is Director of Postgraduate Programs, School of Social Work and Social Policy at LaTrobe University. She has undertaken a number of consultancies for Federal and State Government and international organisations. Appointed 2006

**Brian McCoy SJ** is a Jesuit priest, currently based at Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society (ARCSHS, La Trobe University) as an NHMRC Postdoctoral Fellow in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health. He also holds appointments at The University of Melbourne, James Cook University (Townsville) and the Telethon Child Institute (Perth). Appointed 2007

**Father Frank Brennan SJ** is a Jesuit priest, an adjunct fellow in the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies at the ANU, professor of law in the Institute of Legal Studies at the Australian Catholic University, and professor of human rights and social justice at the University of Notre Dame Australia. Appointed 2007

**Patricia Faulkner AO** is a Partner with KPMG, Australia and has recently been appointed as Chairperson of the Australian Social Inclusion Board. Patricia has held a diverse range of high level positions, including Secretary, Department of Human Services (Victoria) from 2000-07, Director of Consumer Affairs (Victoria) and Director of Occupational Health and Safety. Appointed 2007

**Libby Rogerson IBVM** is the newest member of the Jesuit Social Services Board. Libby is from the Diocese of Parramatta in which Jesuit Social services has taken responsibility for the work of the Holy Family Parish social services at Emerton in the Mt Druitt area. Libby is the Diocesan Social Justice Coordinator and Diocesan Director of Caritas. Appointed 2008

**Judge Elizabeth Curtain** was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria in October 2006 after 13 years as a County Court Judge. Elizabeth has extensive experience handling criminal trials. Elizabeth is also alternate Chairman of the Youth Parole Board and Youth Residential Board. Appointed 2000–Resigned December 2007.



# Funding

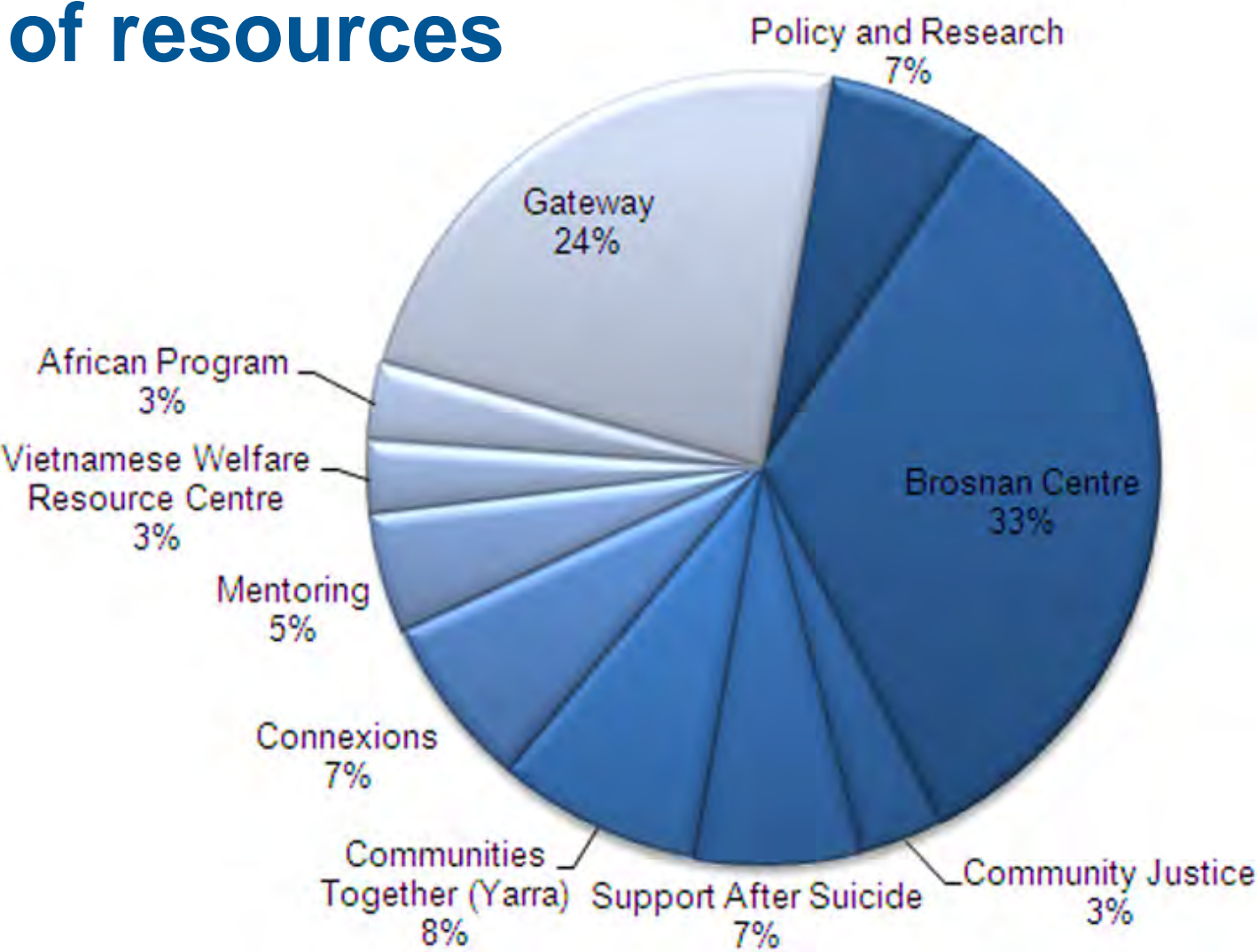
## Our funding – where it comes from and where it goes

Jesuit Social Services receives its funding primarily from the state and federal governments, trusts and foundations. We also rely on the generosity of donations from the public, and receive some funding from local government, our own social enterprises and the Society of Jesus.

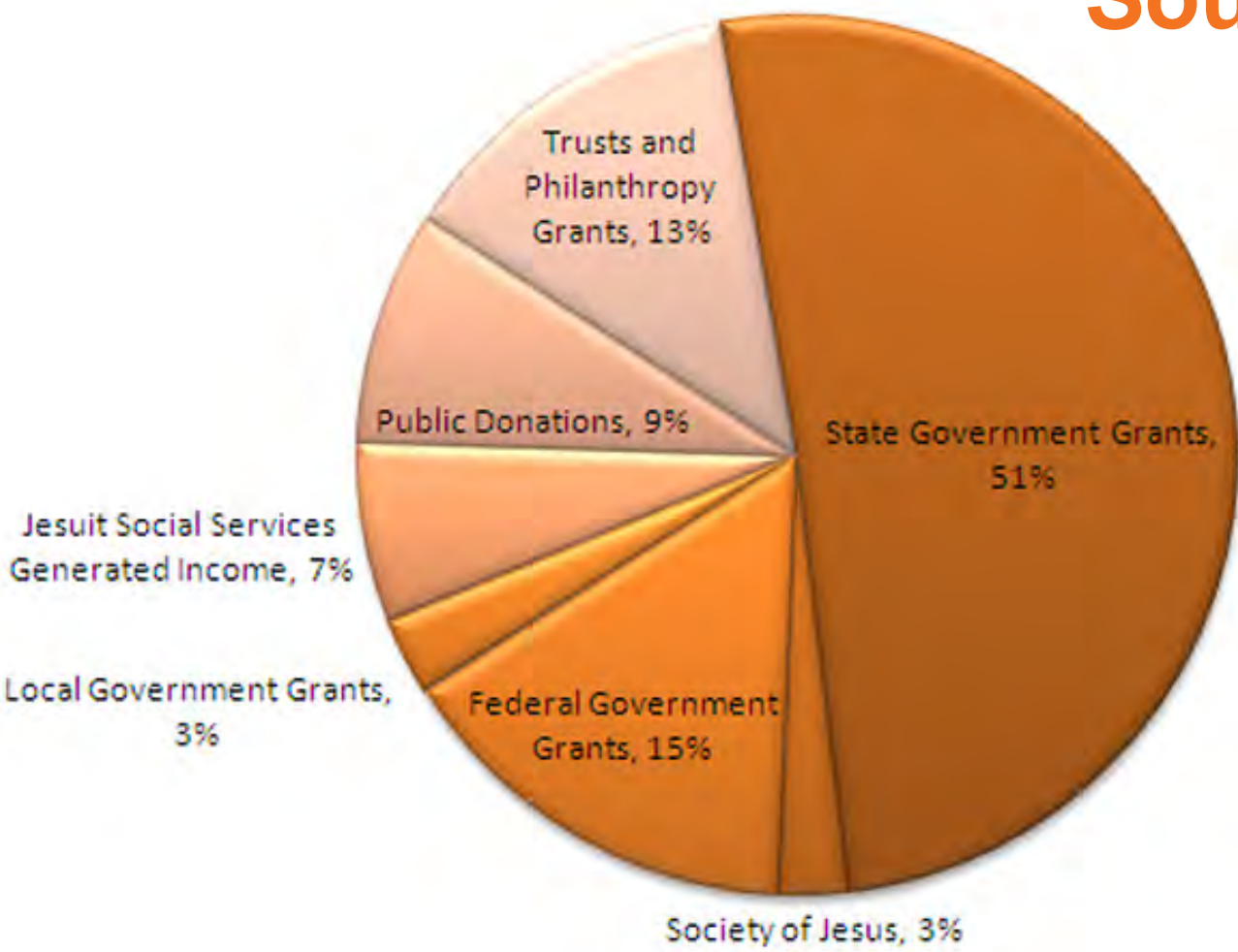
The graph below shows the breakdown of our sources of revenue.

## Our income

# Allocation of resources



# Sources of revenue



# Fundraising and other donor programs

We provide a number of options for individuals or organisations to support our programs and services.

## Monthly Giving

The monthly giving programs—Community Partner and Workplace Giving—enable us to confidently plan ahead and ensure we can continue to support those most in need and at risk.

## Community Partners

Community Partners commit to regular monthly donations that are directly debited from their nominated account. The guaranteed income from our Community Partner program provides Jesuit Social Services with a secure source of revenue which we seek to grow. \$40,592.00 was raised through the Community Partner program in 2007–2008.

### A choice for the future

It is not an easy decision to determine where to direct your contributions to the not-for-profit sector. There are so many very good organisations in Australia and internationally that do incredibly good work on so many fronts. For many of us interested in philanthropy one of the key criteria is fiscal responsibility and ensuring that a high proportion of the contributions are used directly in the work of the organisation.

Over and above the confidence in fiscal responsibility, my decision to become a Community Partner of Jesuit Social Services was driven by what it stands for, the programs that it runs and the community groups that it works with. Without being personally religious, I was attracted by the mission of Jesuit Social Services:

*‘Standing in solidarity with those in need. Expressing a faith that promotes justice.’*

The practical focus of the programs and the aim for long term, life lasting solutions rather than short term fixes, makes me see my contributions as an investment rather than a hand-out. Jesuit Social Services seeks out those sections of the community that are most often ignored or are categorised as “too hard”. I believe the courage, tenacity and vision of undertaking this sort of work deserves support.

Given that a future where organisations like Jesuit Social Services are not required is unrealistic, I look forward to partnering with them in the years to come.

### Catherina Toh

- Community Partner and Risk and Finance Committee Member



## WorkPlace Giving

WorkPlace Giving is a convenient form of giving, where regular salary deductions are made through the donor's payroll before tax with the benefit of an immediate tax deduction without having to keep receipts. \$6,836.40 was raised through the WorkPlace Giving program in 2007–2008.

## National Australia Bank – Corporate Partner

The National Australia Bank (NAB) has made a commitment to Jesuit Social Services to match their employees' WorkPlace Giving contribution dollar for dollar. NAB also support Jesuit Social Services through additional funding to cover costs of specific projects that we could not otherwise afford. Day trips for families in the African program to Sovereign Hill and Healesville Sanctuary were also facilitated by NAB volunteers.

## Newsletter campaigns

We greatly appreciate the contributions of our loyal and generous donors who respond to our quarterly newsletter appeals. We are very dependent on these donations as a major regular source of funding. Over the past year we received \$253,500 from our donors following our newsletter distribution - \$50,000 more than the previous year.

## Bequests

Bequests provide an opportunity for you to leave a lasting legacy and help Jesuit Social Services build a better tomorrow for disadvantaged young people, families and communities. Even a modest donation in your will can help us plan programs and services that will benefit future generations.

‘Jesuit Social Services was delighted this year to receive a bequest of \$1million, which was a strong vote of confidence for the work we do to build a just society. Jesuit Social Services is committed to sticking with people who slip through the cracks - we don't give up. Bequests allow us to see this commitment through, well into the future.’ Julie Edwards, Chief Executive Officer.

[Click here](#) for more information on how you can help.



# Our volunteer programs

Jesuit Social Services has a long and proud tradition of volunteer work. We manage a Melbourne-based volunteer program, and during the year accepted responsibility for the Jesuit national volunteer program.

## Jesuit Social Services Volunteers

Jesuit Social Services provides a range of opportunities for volunteers to apply their professional, trade, administrative, personal and social skills, whatever their background, qualifications and experience.

They include:

- mentoring and tutoring program participants
- administrative roles and committee work
- working on reception
- consultation and assisting us with our fundraising initiatives.

As part of our ongoing commitment to this area we have employed a volunteer coordinator.

## Jesuit Volunteers Australia

Jesuit Volunteers Australia (JVA) is a program which seeks volunteers who are committed to work in direct engagement with people on the margins. In addition, JVA volunteers also commit to a process of reflection on their service with those who remain socially and economically disadvantaged, by attending bi-monthly reflections. Jesuit Volunteers Australia volunteers gather on a regular basis to reflect on their volunteering experiences in the light of the gospel and our Ignatian heritage.

This program is currently active in Melbourne, Perth and Sydney. Each city has a JVA coordinator.

To apply to become a volunteer, [click here](#).



### The heart of homework

It has been with great pleasure that I have started volunteering at the Flemington Public Housing Estate helping tutor the Horn of Africa kids.

It took a bit of convincing to get my two sons, Elliot and Patch, both Xavier boys, to come along as they thought that going to the flats in Flemington and helping the young Muslim community was almost taking their life in their own hands - they now know this could not be further from the truth!

I had just finished one of the most amazing achievements of my life, along with Patch my 13 year old son, in doing the Kokoda Trail on Anzac day and I wanted to do something with both my boys together. They do a lot with my husband, Chris, so I was looking to do something that would not only be great for them but for us together as mother and sons.

So I met with Jesuit Social Services CEO Julie Edwards - and the rest is history. I could not have chosen a better thing to do with the boys, as not only have their fears of the unknown “Muslim” been taken away but they have built wonderful friendships with the secondary students. They enjoy, too, helping the primary school aged boys and girls with homework and reading. I have found helping the little ones just an absolute delight.

As we arrive every Wednesday night the little faces light up when they see us and they are just so eager to learn. It gives me great pleasure and reward to sit and read, help with their work and meet and talk with their parents - who are so keen for their children to have the best that they can give them, just as we all want as parents.

So the most fantastic gift I have received is the biggest hugs when I arrive and leave each week. This has been great for my boys to see - that there are NO barriers and I hope this makes a change in their lives as well as the lives of those wonderful children we help teach.

Here's to a better world for all our children as they are our future.

### Kathy Garnaut

— Jesuit Social Services volunteer and member of the Xavier Social Justice Network (parents from Xavier College, Melbourne, who support Jesuit Social Services in very practical ways).



# Focus on research, policy and advocacy

Our program work informs our policy and advocacy work. Through our engagement with disadvantaged people, families and communities, we identify areas of unmet need, research them and use our findings to advocate for change.

Our activities include:

- Practice based research
- Significant social inquiry projects
- Submissions to government
- Policy discussion papers and forums
- Media comment, and
- Membership on advisory committees, and agency partnerships.

Our national studies on locational disadvantage—most recently the research report *Dropping off the edge: the distribution of disadvantage in Australia*, prepared by Professor Tony Vinson—have had a significant impact on social policy debate, with politicians drawing on our research to frame responses to disadvantage.

For a full list of our publications, conference papers and reports, [click here](#).



Jesuit Social Services congratulates Professor Tony Vinson on being awarded a Member of the Order of Australia. The Citation - for service to social welfare through academic, government and community roles, as a contributor to state and federal policy formulation, and as a champion of social justice – truly marks his extraordinary contribution to the Australian way of life.

Among all his significant honours and credentials, for Jesuit Social Services, it is his groundbreaking work researching locational disadvantage that has been a monumental achievement. His professional and personal commitment, enthusiasm and support for the work and voice of marginalised people is unsurpassed and deeply appreciated.

Tony is a true champion of social justice.

# Educational and professional services

The Education and Professional Services Unit aims to improve outcomes for disadvantaged young people, families and communities by articulating and disseminating our unique body of program and practice knowledge. An example of this is our Strong Bonds website at [www.strongbonds.jss.org.au](http://www.strongbonds.jss.org.au).

The Strong Bonds Project aims to:

- provide workers in the youth field with training and resources to assist them to implement 'family-aware' youth work practice in their work with young people with complex needs; and
- develop easy-to-use resources which will support families of young people with complex needs.

In the past year, there have been over 74,000 visits to this website.

We also continued teaching two subjects at the University of Melbourne during 2007–2008:

- Bachelor of Social Work, 'Young People with Complex Needs'
- Graduate Diploma in Adolescent Health and Welfare, 'Young people at Risk'.

# What do we do - our programs

Brosnan Youth Services is named after Fr John Brosnan, who was the Pentridge Prison Chaplain for 30 years.

## Brosnan Youth Services

Supporting young people in the justice system

In 1977 'Four Flats' – as Brosnan Youth Services was then known – opened for young men just released from prison. Brosnan Youth Services now provides a statewide advocacy, case management and transitional support service for 17-25 year olds in the justice system. Brosnan Youth Services programs include:

### Post Release Support

- Link Out (previously Bridging the Gap) - for young people exiting prisons
- Transitional Assistance Integrated Link Services (TAILS) – for young people exiting prisons or completing Community Correction Services orders
- Post release accommodation
- Youth Justice transitional support – for young people exiting Youth Justice Centres
- Youth Justice Housing Pathways – housing for young people in Melbourne's Southern Metropolitan Region
- Women's Integrated Support Program (WISP)
- Perry House – intensive residential program for young people with intellectual disability

### Start Over

This crime prevention program operating in the cities of Yarra and Darebin is for 12 – 18 year olds who are at risk of entering the youth justice system.

Individuals assisted:	427
Visits to prisons/custodial facilities:	368
Visits to youth justice centres:	214
Placed in supported accommodation:	75

### Community Justice Group Conferencing

Young people making amends for offending

This program aims to divert young people coming before the Children's Court away from the youth justice system.

It does this by bringing the young person who has offended, together with the family, community members and the victim, to discuss ways for the young person to make amends for the harm done by the current offending behavior.

Operating across the Melbourne and Metropolitan Children's Courts the program is for young people who have been found guilty of committing an offence(s) – excluding homicide, sex offences and serious violence - and have warranted a supervisory order.

Percentage of referrals progressing to conference stage:	93%
Number of conferences:	55
Conferences with victim participation:	91%
Percentage of outcome plans actioned:	83% (commenced prior to return to court)

My name is Sarah and I'm 25 yrs of age with one son and another on the way. I was imprisoned early 2007 and was released on parole mid 2007 after serving 5 months of my 6 month parole period. Whilst in prison I linked into a program called "WISP" which is ran through the Brosnan Centre who are based in Burnswick. My workers name is Michelle who began working with me about one month before I was due to be released from the D.P.F.C. I remember my first meeting with Michelle and I remember leaving feeling relaxed and keen to get started. Together Michelle and I sat down and wrote out my goals from the most important to the less important so that way we would have a starting point and Michelle would be able to monitor my achievements over the next 12 months that she would be working with me. I found writing out my goals worked well for me as we all have different needs and my main need was housing. Michelle started putting in housing applications whilst I was still in custody and came out and seen me at least once every week to give me feed back on my recent housing applications. Upon my release Michelle offered to drive me home and drop off a change of clothes if I needed them. As I was released on parole I had a lot of appointments with Michelle offered her time to take me to and from them if I needed. The WISP program is a lot different to other services I have been involed with as I felt that Michelle made me feel like a person, that I was on her (same) level and she gave me motivation to complete my parole and stay out of prison and I felt like this was due to Michelle telling me when I was making a mistake and driving me in the right direction. So far I feel I have done well on the program and he advice a lot, I've stayed out of prison for the 7 months that Michelle has been working with me and have already meet my goals that I made at the begining of my release. Michelle helped support me in getting my housing and I am now on the Seg 1 waiting list for long term housing, she helped me in advising my P Plate's by paying for lessons and the driving test along with a 3yr Licence. Michelle and the WISP program a long with the Brosnan Centre have helped me emotionally and finacally and feel I owe a lot to the program and Michelle for helping me get to where I am now. I do feel that maybe the program should offer more finacally Support like food clothing and fuel voucher's to each of there clients if needed. Over all I have know problems with the wisp program and I am happy to have been apart of it and the chance to write this so that I can express my thank's.

The Women's Integrated Support Program (WISP) provides pre and post release support of women up to 25 years. This support includes finding indepenent and supported accommodation, outreach, drug and alcohol counselling, employment/training advice, family and relationship counselling, court advice and advocacy, and institutional visiting.

Sarah was released from Dame Phyllis Frost Centre (DPFC)



# What do we do - our programs

## XLR8 Mentoring Program

Connecting marginalised young people with mentors

The XLR8 Program has two components:

- Youth Justice: connects young people who are from 12-20 years old and on custodial sentences or involved with juvenile justice with adult role models. The aim is to enhance pathways to education, training and employment opportunities. This program operates in Melbourne's Southern and Eastern metropolitan regions.
- Leaving Care: connects young people leaving the statutory care and protective system with adult role models to support, guide and assist them to make a smooth transition into community life following their experience in protective care. This program operates in Melbourne's southern metropolitan region.

Number of new referrals:	24
Total number of young people on the program:	63
Young people matched to mentors:	50
Young people accessing education/employment:	47

## Gateway program

Pathways to education, training and employment for young people with multiple and complex needs

Gateway participants are unemployed young people aged 15 to 28 years who have multiple and complex needs. Most participants are early school leavers experiencing one or more of the following:

- mental health problems
- alcohol and substance abuse
- lack of stable accommodation
- a history of offending behaviour
- lack of stable family and social support.

For young people who will always need to manage physical and mental health issues, mainstream education and employment cannot respond to their needs.

To get these young people involved in the community, Gateway has been developing new flexible learning and employment opportunities, and in 2006 was recognised as a Registered Training Organisation (RTO).

Gateway programs include:

- The Artful Dodgers Studios – art and music expression plus skills training
- An IT, computer recycling and multimedia program
- The Outdoor Experience (TOE) – adventure activities to promote health and wellbeing and skills development
- The Gateway Kitchen – hospitality training in a real work environment such as 'Abbotsford Biscuits' production and catering.

Number of referrals:	167
Unemployed at referral:	95%
Average education:	Year 10
History of substance use:	95%
Mental health issues:	73%
Offending history:	60%
Participants who completed accredited training through Gateway:	47
Participants who completed accredited training externally:	17
Participants who engaged in employment in the Gateway kitchen:	22
Participants who engaged in employment externally:	20

## Luke's story – change takes time

I was on the streets for a long time and I getting into trouble because of my environment and the people I was a hanging out with. I got into cocaine and speed and lots of uppers, and then I got to a point where I realised I was going down the wrong path. Drugs weren't fun any more; they where a necessity – an addiction – I was dependant on them and that didn't feel good.

I found out about Gateway and saw what was on offer, and they were things that I was interested in – the art, the music and the social aspect, which was good.

I remember coming in and being a bit nervous at first – I didn't know people and I didn't know how things worked. It took me about two years to feel completely comfortable. I was in a better situation by then, I had housing and was seeing a counsellor at ConneXions.

I've learnt that no matter how much is on offer, it doesn't matter unless you are committed. I used to always blame other things, but by coming to Gateway and having a good environment I've realised that it's up to me and to not just blame society or the government.

With my new job at NGV (as part of the Youth Ambassador Program at the National Gallery of Victoria) I initially felt that maybe I wasn't good enough and that it was too daunting. Then I got to know the people I was working with and realised that we all had different strengths. I am learning to accept that I am not perfect but I have to give it a chance.

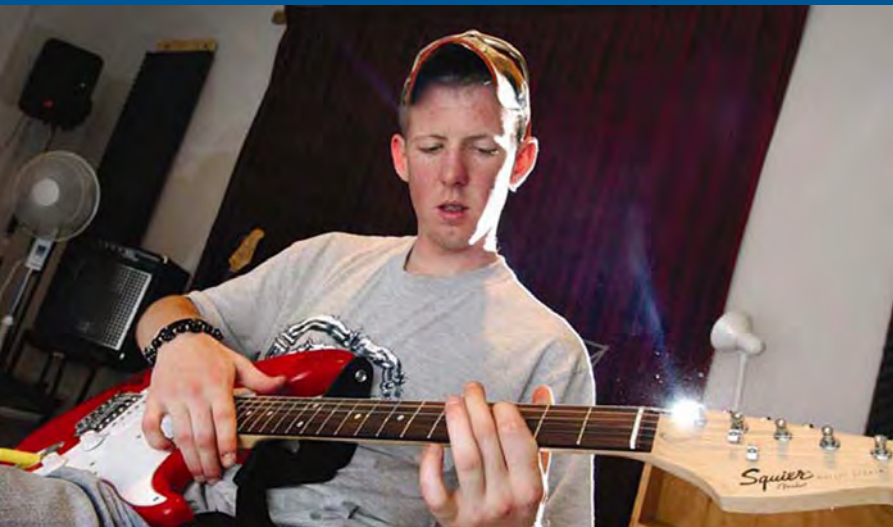
To actually live a fulfilling life and do the things I want to do, I can't use illicit substances. It's been a wakeup call - now that I have responsibilities and commitments. Before, I actually thought I was okay – but I wasn't.

I used to base my thoughts on the rich people – that they had more. I thought things were out of my reach. Before I got the job at NGV I was complacent; I was happy just to sit around and complain about my circumstances.

My overall view on myself and society has changed since I have started trying new things and changing my perspective and therefore getting new opportunities

Gateway has helped me to develop this different view.

## Luke, program participant





# What do we do - our programs

## Connexions

Supporting young people with mental health and substance use problems

In 1995 Connexions was established as the first dual diagnosis service for young people in Victoria. Connexions works with young people from 16 – 25 years who have multiple and complex problems associated with their mental health, substance use and homelessness. Services provided include:

### Intensive Individual support

Intensive youth support helps young people to develop a more stable and healthy lifestyle, rebuilding their contact with family and the community. This support program addresses:

- Mental health needs
- Drug and alcohol problems
- Accessing suitable housing
- Legal issues
- Supported referral to health services
- Daily living skills
- Education, training and employment
- Social and recreational options, and
- Other personal needs.

### Individual and group counselling

Connexions offers a confidential counselling service that helps young people gain insight into, and better understand, the link between their drug use and mental health. Our approach is flexible and responsive to the young person’s needs within a supportive, non-clinical and non-judgemental environment.

Program participants:	106 – outreach 35; counselling 71
Average age:	20-24yrs
Primary drug use:	cannabis 49%
	heroin 17%
	amphetamines 15%
	alcohol 10%
Major mental health issues:	depression and mood disorders 67%
	anxiety-based issues 63%
	psychotic illnesses 17%
	personality disorder/traits 80%

Painting - Bronwyn Johnson  
It's called, "The up's and down's of life."  
I originally started not knowing what to paint. ~~But I sat down~~ I start painting a flower and added things on as I went.  
In the end, when I finished the painting, it looked and reminded me of life. Some good, some bad. And I thought "Yes! This is exactly showing how life throws things at you and sometimes you fall but in the end, you stay standing strong." (Which is exactly what I saw with the tornado and flower that had broken off - and the flower that was still standing strong.)



**The ups and downs of life**  
Bronwyn is a participant in the ConneXions program for young people with a dual diagnosis of mental illness and substance abuse.



# What do we do - our programs

## Support After Suicide

*Supporting adults and children bereaved by suicide*

Support After Suicide provides support to individuals and families, particularly those with young children, who are bereaved by suicide. The program also provides secondary consultation and training to education, health and welfare professionals, building their capacity to provide an effective service to people who are bereaved by suicide.

Counselling program participants:	219
Education/information sessions:	24
Participants in education/information sessions:	422
Number of support groups held:	4
Total number of participants in groups:	27

## Family Connections

*Building resilient families*

Family Connections, formerly Parenting Australia, provides a range of education, training and consultancy services with the goal of increasing resilience and connectedness in families, particularly those who are isolated, vulnerable or have diverse needs. Through these services, we aim to:

- raise awareness of parenting issues in the community
- help parents develop skills that enhance the social, emotional and physical wellbeing of their children, and
- promote hope and confidence in families.

The current project being undertaken is REACH - Conversation Starters, funded by FaCSIA under the Responding Early Assisting Children initiative. Focusing on high-need regional areas of Victoria, the project helps schools and local communities engage more effectively with families, to address key issues often experienced as barriers to successful life transitions for children.

Number of schools and early childhood services receiving direct assistance:	22
Number of workshops held:	4
Number of teachers/early childhood professionals attending workshops:	51
Number of parent participants:	12

## Communities Together

*Strengthening communities in public housing neighbourhoods*

Communities Together is a community development program working with other agencies and public housing tenants in the City of Yarra to build the strength and independence of their communities.

*Richmond Housing Estate*  
Community development projects on the Richmond Housing Estate include the Computer Access Program, a computer room set up within the estate for classes and individual use and staffed by volunteers. This project creates both a safe space for children and families, and training opportunities in information technology, providing skills which are essential for full participation in education and employment.

- Other programs include:
- the Richmond Men's Group, aimed at creating community cohesion and togetherness
  - support to the Richmond Estate Action Group
  - support to the North Richmond Tenants Association
  - management of the High-rise Recycling Project
  - support of numerous activities such as the Moon Lantern Festival.

*Fitzroy Housing Estate*  
The Atherton Gardens Housing Estate is home to several innovative community development programs. These include:

- management of the Fitzroy Recreational Program for Young People
- management of the Healthy Active Australia program for African residents
- support of the Homework Program.



# What do we do - our programs

## Collingwood Housing Estate

A range of initiatives including:

- co-managing the Collingwood Soccer Program with Victoria Police
- establishing and supporting a number of resident groups engaged in cultural, arts-based and sporting activities
- managing the Community Information Centre.

The Community Information Centre provides a welcoming space and a high quality information and referral service staffed by a paid coordinator and a team of trained volunteers from the neighbourhood. The accredited training courses have proven to be a great success, with estate residents finding satisfaction and opportunity in the skills development process.

No. of people assisted with information needs (housing, legal, income, emergency aid, etc):	10817
Assistance provided to people who are -	
Culturally and Linguistically Diverse:	2807
Indigenous:	271
Under 18 years:	516
New clients:	456

## Vietnamese Welfare Resource Centre

*Responding to the needs of the Vietnamese Community for over 18 years*

The Vietnamese Welfare Resource Centre (VWRC) is based in the high-rise housing estate at Flemington and has been responding to the needs of the Vietnamese community in North and West Melbourne for over 18 years. Services offered by the Centre include:

- information provision and referral
- counselling
- crisis accommodation
- community groups for young people, families and the aged, and
- the fostering of community and cultural activities such as forums, classes, information sessions, training programs and festivals.

The Vietnamese Welfare Resource Centre works with both local residents and staff from other organisations—including council staff, health workers, police, teachers and Centrelink personnel—to promote cross cultural awareness and understanding. The VWRC also has an outreach service in St Albans.

Casework services:	531
Group and cultural activities sessions:	87
Participants at group and cultural activities:	1723

## African program

*Partnerships with communities from Africa*

Jesuit Social Services has forged partnerships with communities from the Horn of Africa. These partnerships allow us to engage successfully with young people and families to provide a range of education, social and recreational opportunities for newly arrived refugee communities.

The Africa program provides peer support and mentoring to children and young people in public housing in Flemington and nearby suburbs.

Staffed by local Horn of Africa community members the program:

- offers a weekly program of education and recreation activities, including a secondary and primary drop-in homework program
- a variety of sporting programs and competitions
- helps in the organisation of community celebrations and festivals and
- provides support, advocacy and coordination for resettlement assistance, community connection and crime prevention.

Casework services:	40
Group and cultural activities sessions:	126
Participants at group and cultural activities:	4131



# Our funders and supporters

We would like to thank the following funders and supporters. Without their support, our programs and services wouldn't exist.

## **Government**

### *Federal*

Attorney-General's Department  
Australia Council for the Arts  
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare  
Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs  
Department of Health and Ageing  
Department of Immigration and Citizenship

### *State*

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development  
Department of Innovation, Industry & Regional Development  
Department of Justice  
Department of Human Services  
Office of the Child Safety Commissioner  
Victoria Police  
Victorian Multicultural Commission

### *Local*

City of Melbourne  
City of Yarra  
Broadmeadows Magistrates Court  
Melbourne Magistrates Court  
Moonee Valley City Council  
Werribee Magistrates Court  
Sunshine Magistrates Court

## **Philanthropic Trusts & Foundations**

Collier Charitable Fund  
Colonial Foundation Ltd  
Helen Macpherson Smith Trust  
The Ian Potter Foundation  
Melbourne Community Foundation  
Melbourne Community Foundation - Ballandry Fund  
The Newsboys Foundation  
The Reichstein Foundation  
The Westpac Foundation  
The William Buckland Foundation

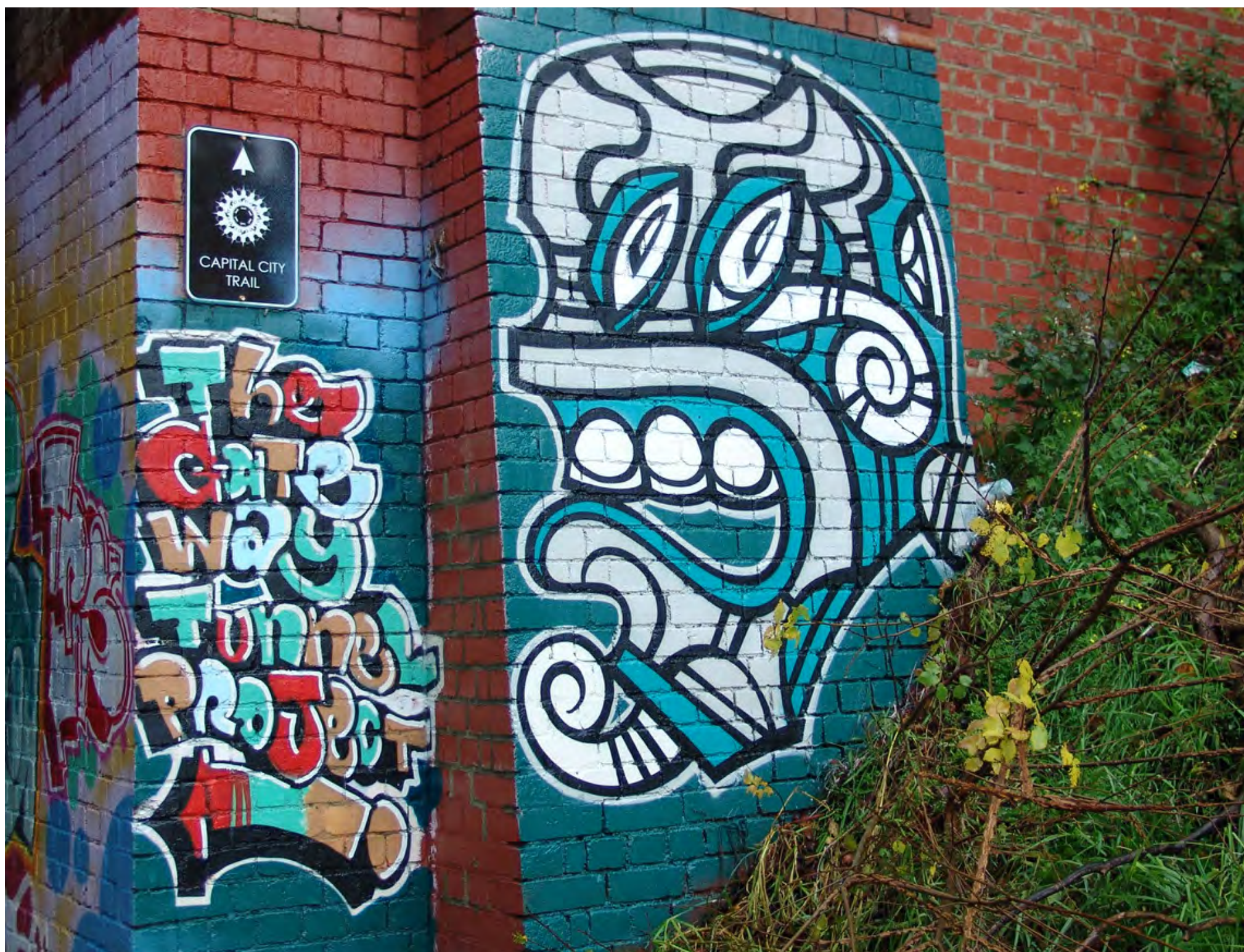
## **Other Organisations**

Hepatitis C Victoria  
Odyssey House Victoria  
Schwartz Family Company Pty Ltd  
Society of Jesus  
St Vincent De Paul Society  
VicHealth  
Australian Community Support Organisation (ACSO)

## **Annual Dinner (sponsors)**

National Australia Bank Corporate Centre  
Catholic Church Insurances  
The City Of Melbourne  
Sevenhill Cellars





### Tunnel vision

Instead of painting the walls grey and installing security cameras to catch young people doing graffiti, and thereby propelling them into the justice system, Melbourne City Council and the Artful Dodgers Studios took a different course of action.

The goal was to prevent crime and to give young people an opportunity to practise their art, increase their skills, and put them on a pathway to further education and training.

The result – the walls of the underpass under Royal Parade near Park Street in North Carlton have been painted with an amazing Street Art and Graffiti Mural. The underpass is 45 metres long and the mural is 3 metres high - so it has been a huge undertaking and the result is quite spectacular.

A social enterprise model was used where participants were paid for one day and volunteered for another. The project was completed and launched on the 27th July.

Three of the participants worked on the INTERLINK exhibition, which was the Artful Dodgers Studios major exhibition for 2007. Two young people been invited to do street art work on the exterior of shops in the inner city and are preparing their own work for a group exhibition in a shop in Brunswick Street.

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