

forward to seeking new directions and establishing new services as needed.

We will continue to work closely with the WA Aids Council, RPH and other services, to assess what the community needs, and how we can work together to offer practical support.

Perhaps this agency's most important role will be to stay vigilant. The community has, over the years, heard so much about the successful treatments and medical achievements. Yet we have not won the battle by any means."

And what will be the future challenges for HIV/AIDS Pastoral Care?

Chris explained:

"Young people today did not see the international education and advertising focus in the 80's and early 90's, and so complacency

about the real and continuing lethality of the virus may be an issue.

Migrants continue to arrive from all over the world, and there is a rise in the numbers of new infections being reported in the eastern states. So we have to respond and be flexible.

We must continue to educate and research, as we have yet to know what would happen if the existing viruses suddenly formed new and more virulent strains.

With God's blessing this will be our goal; to maintain focus, to seek new directions and to always stay vigilant" he said.

Editor's Note: The HIV/AIDS Pastoral Care agency want to establish a new position of Women's Project Officer. Can you help them make this possible? Please call Chris Konrad on 9470 4931.



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the official newsletter of LifeLink™

The material in this newsletter may be reused for school projects with our compliments

"Searching for Me"



...the story
of a
child
migrant.

*Pictured (left to right)
Sr Flo O'Sullivan (Coordinator), Patrick (Client)
and Delia Brindley (Administration)*

Have you got Will Power? IT LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE!

The Free Will Information Evenings continue to draw strong interest, with between 80 and 100 parishioners accepting invitations to each seminar.

Throughout the Archdiocese, hundreds of people are getting that "Will Power"
Editor's Note: I apologise unreservedly for this dreadful pun!

Established by Archbishop Hickey as a service to the Archdiocese, the one hour seminars are designed to offer information on what is involved in making a Will, why it is important and provide useful tools for preparing a Will, such as our Will Kit.

In addition, and most importantly, we have two experienced solicitors on hand to answer any questions you might have.

People who attended these seminars have said they are really informative and very helpful. They particularly welcomed the opportunity of having group, and then one-on-one, consultation time with the solicitors – and all at no cost!

As you know, this is not a fundraising event - LifeLink simply views this as our way of "giving something back" to the parishes and parishioners that so generously support us throughout the year.

Would you like to attend the next evening for Northern Parishes?

The next seminar is to be held:

Will Seminar

Date: Tuesday 5th August 2003
Venue: Osborne Park Parish
St Kieran's Community Centre
Cnr Tyler & Cape Streets
TUART HILL
Time: Commencing at 7:30pm –
duration approx one hour
*(Tea and coffee will be served at the conclusion
of the presentations.)*

Places for this seminar are limited – so please book your reserved seat/s today, by calling Kim Sweetman at LifeLink on telephone 9223 1315.

Patrick was born in 1937, in a small town in Wales. At just 10 years of age, he was taken and shipped off to Australia, like thousands of other child migrants.

He arrived in WA just two weeks before Christmas 1947 and was sent to the St Joseph's Farm and Trade School at Bindoon, and later, Clontarf Boys Town.

He was a "guest" until 1954, when at the tender age of just 17, he was "set-loose" to make his mark on the world. And he has made a good life. Patrick has three sons and three grandchildren whom he loves very much.

A quiet and thoughtful man, he has achieved much, in spite of having to battle many times. Among his many talents is a love of music - people say that he has a fine voice.

But Patrick longs to know his own mother, father and siblings. He wants to know where he came from, and why he was sent away. In a way, he is searching for himself.

As a client of the Catholic Migrant Centre, Sr Flo O'Sullivan RSM & Coordinator of the Former Child Migrant Service, is helping Patrick

with his quest. From accessing personal records, tracing family members, providing advocacy, support and counselling, and importantly, pastoral care. Sr Flo says her work at the Migrant Centre is "fulfilling Christ's mission of service to the most disadvantaged in the community."

She said: "Regardless of their circumstances, all share that one common goal. To find their families - to reunite, to connect, to feel like they belong somewhere... to once again feel whole."

Sr Flo went on to say "With the recent announcement by the Australian Government to provide travel funds to former child migrants there has been a great deal of interest expressed by clients wanting to travel to the United Kingdom and Malta. This has resulted in increasing numbers of clients now accessing our service.

And we'll do everything we can to help them make this happen" said Sr Flo.

Editor's Note: Sr Flo O'Sullivan may be contacted on 9221 1727, or the Catholic Migrant Centre situated at 25 Victoria Square, Perth.



from
The Front!

Julie Williams (Manager) and Sr Claude McNamara RSM (Field Officer), ready for action outside the Shopfront.

The new Shopfront agency established by Archbishop Hickey as a "frontline" for people seeking practical help, support and companionship has proven to be very popular.

Approximately 16 people during the day and evening come to the Shopfront where Sr Claude, Julie and other volunteers provide a warm welcome

Shopfront provides a place for people to come and receive companionship and assistance.

Some people only come for a short time and then move on once the crisis has been resolved, while others have become regulars. At Shopfront, they find a place where they can share their life, and have fellowship with others.

They chat, play games, listen to music or simply have a good old-fashioned "cuppa". Shopfront offers people a sense of belonging, and helps them overcome loneliness and isolation.

Here is just one of the many stories we hear every day...a day spent on the Frontline!

Adam (not his real name) was abused by

one of his parents before being placed into foster care. He ran away, and began a life living on the streets.

A life of abuse and bullying affected his relationship with others. Drug abuse played a big part in his life. His sister is also addicted, and both have struggled to overcome their long-term addictions.

Sadly, his sister abandoned her children, and Adam now cares for them. He has a genuine love for the children and makes sure he provides for their basic needs...as well as plenty of hugs!

Since coming to Shopfront, Adam interacts with others much more. Despite the daily challenges he faces, he no longer feels despair or the hopelessness of life that he once did. He smiles a lot more these days.

The other day he said: "People out there are not to be trusted. I don't speak to them. I have nothing to do with them, but you people here (at Shopfront), well, you're different".

Editor's Note: Shopfront is wholly funded through your generous support of LifeLink. Together, we can make a difference!

HIV/AIDS Pastoral Care

maintain focus,
seek new directions,
and stay vigilant!



Pictured (l to r): Jennifer George (Administration), Grahame Connor (Volunteer), Chris Konrad (Director) and Phil Carrier (Pastoral Carer)

A big warm welcome from all of us at LifeLink, to the newly appointed Director of the HIV/AIDS Pastoral Care agency...Chris Konrad.

A born and bred West Australian, Chris joins the agency after a long and successful career in the social service community. Chris brings a wealth of experience and specialist skills, he is excited and committed to maintaining the outstanding work of the agency.

He said: "Our Centre has the only drop-in facility available in Perth. Clients love coming here to be at peace, to be comforted, to share in a meal and to receive whatever support they need.

Thanks to the funding assistance of LifeLink and the St John of God Foundation, our agency is uniquely placed as one of the most professional service and support agencies for people with HIV/AIDS, and their families.

Every day, we make such a powerful impact in the lives of people. I am delighted to join this agency, and I look forward to working with everyone, continuing this tradition of care".

Chris believes that the future goals of the agency are:

"In conjunction with our wonderful staff, volunteers and especially our clients, I look

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