



Special bond: Archbishop Barry Hickey is proud to be opening Daydawn Centre.

An initiative of great hope

My Dear People

I wish to let you know that the Archdiocese is about to open a most important new service. It is called the "Daydawn Advocacy Centre". The main activity of this service is to offer a helping hand, mainly to Aboriginal people who find it hard to get the basic things they need, like housing, employment, training, rehabilitation, education and the like.

It is unfortunately true that many Aboriginal people feel ill-equipped to find their way through the complex structures of modern society and run up against prejudice or lack of sympathy for their situation. Many people are helping already. I want the Church to step up its activity in this area, because they are our brothers and sisters in difficulty. They need a helping hand – an advocate to strengthen their voice, not someone to do it for them.

The term "advocacy" goes beyond support for the individual. It also includes making submissions to Government on different issues and certainly includes reconciliation, that is the process of bringing people together to form bonds and new friendships.

As a Catholic agency it will also facilitate the Catholic education of children, their reception of baptism and confirmation and their religious instruction. In this, Daydawn will work closely with

the Catholic Aboriginal Ministry and Catholic Education Office.

We have a team already formed under Sr Dolores Coffey RSM. It has started working in premises at 207 Beaufort St, Perth.

I am calling for volunteers in two main areas of service.

1. As personal advocates - people who can write letters of support, use the phone to advance the cause and understand the situation of the person looking for help.

2. As public advocates - people who have some knowledge of Aboriginal issues especially among the local Noongars, and who can write, speak and lobby for what is needed, based on Catholic perspectives. "Daydawn" is not a handout centre. It is an advocacy centre. The name "Daydawn" was chosen because it looks forward to a new day, a new beginning, a new hope, reflecting the joy of Easter dawn.

We place this service in the hands of the Risen Lord.

If you can help please contact Sr Dolores Coffey RSM at "Daydawn Advocacy Centre", 207 Beaufort St, Perth, 6000. Phone 9227 8432. Email: daydawncentre@hotmail.com. This is an initiative of great promise. I believe it can achieve more than we can imagine.

Yours sincerely in Jesus Christ
Most Rev B J Hickey
Archbishop of Perth
20 February 2007