

AGED CARE TASK FORCE ANNUAL REPORT 2005

Members:

Br Bill Beninati fms
Mrs Janet Boyle
Sr Berenice Cornish rsj **Secretary**
Sr Irene Crockett rsc
Sr Angela Grant rsj **Chair**
Ms Beverley Hackett
Br Damian Keane oh
Br Vincent Keating fsc
Sr Noni Mitchell ibvm
Mrs Joan Rafferty
Mrs Marion Rudge
Fr Hugh Walsh ofm
Br Ray Mulvogue fms Emeritus Member
Sr Sharon Price rsm Executive Director

MEMBERSHIP

The Task Force was sorry to farewell Br John Gaven cm at the end of 2004. John had been a valuable member of the group for many years, contributing to the establishment of the Carer's Support Group and many other areas of the work of the Task Force.

2005 has brought us one new member: Mrs Janet Boyle, the Family Coordinator for the Little Company of Mary Sisters. Janet joins our lay colleagues, Bev Hackett, Joan Rafferty and Marion Rudge, who bring additional expertise and a different outlook to our group.

The commitment of long-standing members to the activities of the Task Force has been phenomenal and well-appreciated. As well as working hard to provide services to congregational members and carers, the Aged Care Task Force is a strong support network for carers and for each other. We always have room for new members who bring a wealth of new ideas and different experiences to the group. If you have any suggestions for membership, please contact a member of the group.

MEETINGS

The Task Force met on five occasions in 2005: February 11, April 8, June 10, July 15 and the final meeting on 25 November was an opportunity to review the year's work, plan for 2006 and enjoy dinner together. Three were regular meetings of the group and two were seminar planning meetings. At our meetings we share information and ideas, we discuss topics of interest and concern to Task Force members, we address issues referred to us by leaders or the Executive Committee and we plan topics for our seminars. The seminar planning meetings actually get down to details about the organisation and operation of the seminars.

SEMINARS

We have held two very successful seminars this year:

May 6: *The Spiritual Journey of Older Persons*

October 14: *Finding Life through Life's Transitions*

The seminars covered a wealth of material of interest to those engaged in working with older religious and we are fortunate that our Task Force members are willing and able to take a role as presenters and panellists as well as facilitators for the seminars. The evaluation forms we collect after each seminar continue to provide us with ideas for future seminars. Bev Hackett has instituted a well-received service for members in the **showbags** –collections of material for easy reference from a huge variety of sources about issues connected with the seminar topic.

The Task Force views itself as a support group for those working with older religious and is obviously well-appreciated with excellent attendance at our seminars. In 2006 the Task Force plans the usual two seminar days and another *Conscious Living*, *Conscious Dying* workshop. Always on the lookout for opportunities to increase services to members, the Task Force is investigating the Victorian initiative ROTA (Religious of the Third Age).

In July, members of the Aged Care Task Force organized a two-hour meeting for all Religious Institutes leaders and members of leadership teams, with special emphasis on the needs of smaller (less than 50 members) congregations who do not have arrangements in place, entitled *Meeting The Practical Care Needs Of Ageing Religious*. A panel of experts currently employed by religious congregations to access care provided input and answered questions about how a congregational leader/leadership team can access available services for the care of ageing religious and what alternatives exist when supposedly available services are unavailable. This meeting was well-attended and seemed to meet the needs of leaders.

The Task Force exists to provide support to leaders and to congregational personnel working in aged care, as well as to those who work with aged religious. Leaders are encouraged to contact the Task Force, either through a member or the Executive Director, if ever there is need.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Task Force has been operating for a number of years now and this year compiled a set of Terms of Reference which state the objectives and functions of the group as well as outlining membership requirements and meeting structure. These Terms of Reference basically state the current operating structures of the group and confirm these structures for the future. The Terms of Reference allow for the appointment of a chair and a secretary, to facilitate planning and development of the group. To date the Task Force has been blessed by constant membership but it is prudent to provide for change into the future.

The Terms of Reference document was ratified by the Executive Committee at its meeting in October, 2004.

PASTORAL CARE SUPPORT GROUP

Br Patrick White cfc continues to facilitate meetings of this valuable group which gives personal support to the pastoral carers who attend.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank the Executive and members of CLRI(NSW) for the support given to our Task Force during 2005. The occasional expression of appreciation, whether written or verbal, has been a significant boost to our endeavours. We have also been encouraged by the attendance this year of some members of congregations who have not previously attended our seminars, indicating a growing awareness of the relevance of the topics we have examined in the seminars. The facilities at Rosebery have provided a convenient and secure venue for our meetings and we thank CLRI(NSW) for providing this resource.

We would like to thank especially Sr Sharon Price, the Executive Director, who has become a de facto working member of the Task Force. Sharon has provided a friendly, efficient and thoughtful service to our Task Force. With the help of her assistants, Sharon has facilitated our operation in every way, carrying the lion's share of the responsibility in the organisation of the seminars.

Sr Angela Grant rsj
Chair
Aged Care Task Force
December 1, 2005