

# PLENARY SESSION 4 CLRI(NSW) SOCIAL WELFARE SEMINAR 15 AUGUST 2006

## CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION

### Table A

1. Set up a coalition of Catholic Welfare agencies under the auspices of NSW Catholic Social Services – in ADVOCACY ISSUES fuelled by good research.
2. CLRI(NSW) database to be researched regarding services, their nature and who administers them.
3. Out of this information – possibilities of collaboration could be explored, hearing in mind “What are the dangers if you don’t?” Explore the advantages.
4. Identify strong, well founded groups which could take on the role of lead services agencies.
5. CLRI(NSW) – communication / information channel initially and ongoing.
6. Role of Catholic Church in terms of governance can be a threat as well as an advantage. Congregational services need to retain their own identities.

### Table B

1. Different orders combining for management of sponsored works e.g. Mackillop model.
  - Sharing of personnel in key areas – HR / Financial Services /OH&S / Research / Marketing.
  - Co-location of premises
  - Joint tendering (similar ministries)
  - Fundraising over a number of agencies
  - Bulk purchasing
  - Cross use of personnel for recruitment / investigations / appraisals / reviews / strategic planning
  - Sharing Board members
  - Networking for Senior Management
  - Formation, induction of staff
2. Audit of social services already operating
  - Spirit of good will
  - Just do it!
  - Keep it simple – trial an issue (small), localized, evaluate it.
3. Audit of CLRI(NSW) or CSSA
  - Likeminded ministries to carry it forward

### **Table C**

1. Can you collaborate without being a member of CSSA?
2. How are membership fees currently calculated?
3. Do all collaborators need to be part of / members of a peak body (for Government funding)?
4. Need to be a gathering of services to explore the possibilities with a facilitator to move this forward.
5. Informal relationships may become more established & the ministry is shared.
6. From the people on the ground & doing hands on work with clients would recognize other congregations who do similar works, does this then get passed up the system?
7. If a tender becomes available then services may look to other similar services/congregations.

### **Table D**

#### **1. Possibilities**

- Support network
- Shared infrastructure e.g. OH&S
- Shared expenditure – contracts
- Staff exchange
- Partnerships
- Mergers
- Federation
- Joint ventures for a project
- Lead Agencies
- Restructure – specialization unit or geographical works
- Total amalgamation of all Congregational Social Services

#### **2. Initiate a Process with elements of:**

- Structured sessions – Leaders, Managers, Boards
- Good input
- Creating the theology
- What worked and has not in collaborative efforts (of CHA)
- Come & See (each other's works)

#### **3. CLRI(NSW)**

- Before looking to the Diocesan structure (if we do)

### **Table E**

#### **1. Possibilities for collaboration in Catholic Social Services Sector in New South Wales.**

- CLRI(NSW) and other gatherings – continue the conversation
- Sharing information – research can lead to the possibility of new initiatives, e.g. CLRI(NSW) Database

- Showcase collaboration in New South Wales
    - e.g. - Macarthur
    - Presentation Sisters
    - Mercy Sisters
    - Franciscans
    - St Vincent de Paul
    - Clubs
  - Promote collaborative approach – Sharing of local Community Services
- 2. Regional – likeminded comparable ethos. Gather as small groups.**
- Conversations/reflections in small groups leading towards a theology of service, refer Caritas Deus Est No. 22
  - NSW Government Document “Working Together in NSW”. Perhaps intentional reflection in groups such as CLRI(NSW), Congregations and Networks – Draw out implications for collaboration and formal partnerships.
- 3. Responsibility**
- Grass roots – Mindset of partnership and collaboration – Formation of staff
  - Congregation/Heads of Agency - Commitment to explore possibilities
  - Catholic Social Services to support the possibility of new initiatives in order to attract Government support into the future.

**Table F**

1. Collaboration within congregations
2. Representatives go to CLRI(NSW) Task Force meetings
3. Catholic Social Services NSW
  - Tues August 15<sup>th</sup>
  - 133 Liverpool Street (Level 10)
  - Sydney
4. Research & Policy Network
5. What needs to happen?
  - Follow-up to two days gathering
  - What are the barriers? How to overcome them?
  - Hit upon a collaborative activity that gives an immediate practical outcome or some ready success (e.g. C.C.I. forum on O.H.S. issues)
  - Communicate with each other what we do e.g.
    - 1) Jude’s mapping exercise
    - 2) A show & tell day