

SECURITAS

Honesty. Fairness. Commitment to Serve.

Days in the Dioceses

Dioceses get ready to offer pilgrims
a taste of Australian life

Journey of a lifetime

A group of Adelaide students
gets ready for World Youth Day 2008

A man of faith and love

A tribute to the late Archbishop Frank Little



viewpoint



Hello to all our regular Securitas readers and a warm welcome to anyone reading for the first time.

The 2007/08 financial year has been a difficult one for Catholic Church Insurances, due in part to a period of extreme volatility in worldwide investment markets. As I mentioned in the last issue, while we have had no immediate exposure to the US "sub-prime" market, we have been impacted by the flow-on effect in both local and global equity markets.

As the year draws to a close it is clear that this market volatility has had a substantial effect on the company's results. Returns for the end of March 2008 are significantly lower than those from the same period last year and at the Board's June meeting our Directors will need to seriously consider the availability of funds for the company's normal distributions.

While returns for the period may be below expectations, I feel it is important to reinforce that Catholic Church Insurances remains extremely financially secure, with an approved solvency margin that is two and a half times that required as a minimum by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA).

"I am very much looking forward not only to World Youth Day but also to Days in the Dioceses."

Our investment strategy has always had a long-term focus. We are not immune to the effects of short-term market fluctuations and we recognise that there will be periods when 'normal' returns will not be available. As such, our strategy is designed to ride out the highs and lows, like those we are currently experiencing, rather than to make sudden changes in an attempt to achieve short-term gains.

In an unusual turn of events, the insurance side of the business has recently received an unusually high number of claims from fires in schools and Churches, many more than we would normally anticipate at this time of year. In addition, we have received many claims arising from natural disasters like the Mackay floods and Lismore storms. Such catastrophic events are a normal part of our business and while these claims have had a negative effect on company results, we are well protected by our reinsurance partners.

As World Youth Day 2008 draws near, once again I would like to say what a privilege it has been to be a Partner of this spiritual event.

With all the required covers now in place, we can look back on two years of work that has seen us purchase cover and engage with international insurance and re-insurance markets at a level beyond anything we have done in the past. Securing appropriate cover and establishing a claims process for such a massive event has required a significant level of expertise and I would like to congratulate our technical people for their contribution.

I am very much looking forward not only to World Youth Day but also to Days in the Dioceses. On behalf of the company I would like to express our sincere wish that both are successful evangelical events for the Church, energising the youth of the world.

I encourage all of you to get involved and remind you that there is still time to sign up as home stay hosts and extend some Australian hospitality to young pilgrims from around the world.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to our tribute to the late Archbishop Francis Little. I had the pleasure of meeting His Grace on several occasions and was always struck by his warm and caring nature. I hope you enjoy reading about his most interesting and inspiring life.

Best wishes,

Peter Rush
General Manager

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General Manager

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Archbishop Frank Little

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Cover: BrizStay home hosts Veronica and David Colch of Norman Park, Brisbane.

what's new?

St John's College celebrates 150 years

The oldest Catholic University College built anywhere in the English-speaking world since the Reformation, St John's College celebrates 150 years in 2008 with an exciting program of events.

St John's has had an uninterrupted history of providing a home away from home for thousands of young Catholic students at the University of Sydney since 1858. Since its inception, the College has sought to be a centre for an Australian style of Catholic excellence within the University of Sydney. Celebrations include:

- **27 September 150th Anniversary Ball**
A fabulous evening of glamour and glitz in the glorious atmosphere of the College's Great Hall.
- **2 November Mass of Thanksgiving, Gourmet Food and Wine Fair and**

Opening of the Wardell Exhibition
Prominent Australian architect William Wardell, who was also responsible for the design of St Mary's Cathedral Sydney and St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne, designed St John's. The month-long exhibition of his architectural drawings begins with a market day of fun, fine food and festivities for the family.

Events will assist in the fundraising for the building of a new wing to accommodate a further 70 students, bringing the total number of residents to 250 by the beginning of the 2010 academic year.

For details of these and other planned events visit www.stjohnscollege.edu.au, call Trish O'Brien, Director of Development on 02 9394 5204 or email development@stjohns.usyd.edu.au.



Footy Tipping 2008

With the 2008 AFL season well underway the Catholic Church Insurances Footy Tipping competition is in full swing.

With a potential \$1,000 first prize up for grabs, \$50 weekly prizes on offer and free entry for the first time, we have a record number of entrants. It is sure to be an exciting and extremely competitive year!

How are you going with your tips? Here are the latest winners.

- Round 1: Laura Ferguson, My Soul IT, Vic.
Jacqueline Tunks, CDF, Tas
- Round 2: Paul O'Keefe, Hobson Bay Osteopath, Vic. Giuseppe Nigro, Leading Textiles, Vic
- Round 3: Kevin Bhasin, Diocese of Darwin, NT
- Round 4: Libby Hanson, HiFert, Vic
- Round 5: Paul O'Keefe, Hobson Bay Osteopath, Vic
- Round 6: Helen Porra, St Mary's Primary School, Vic
- Round 7: Lesley O'Brien, Catholic Education Department, WA
- Round 8: Lachlan Verrocchi, Vic. Bertlyn Little, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Vic
- Round 9: Michael Morgan, PCYC, Tas
- Round 10: Peter McLoughlin, St Josephs College Lismore, NSW
- Round 11: Elizabeth Nash, Catholic Church Insurances, NSW.
Sarah Tunks, CDF Hobart, Tas. David Cunningham, Catholic Church Dernancourt, SA



Church Administration Handbook released

Released in April 2008, this is the first reference book designed to provide religious, lay, professional and civil bodies with an understanding of the complex institution that is the Catholic Church in the modern world.

Written by Fr Brian Lucas, Fr Peter Slack and Mr William d'Apice, the inspiration for the handbook for all three came from their experience of continually being asked for assistance in matters of administration.

An excellent resource for anyone involved in Church administration at any level, the handbook covers topics such as Church – its meaning, membership and mission, Church law, organisations – associations of Christ's faithful, consecrated life, societies of apostolic life, parish life and administration of temporal goods.

To purchase a copy contact Mary Drum, St Pauls Publications at mdrum@stpauls.com.au or by calling 02 9394 3400.

AO for Brisbane Archbishop

Brisbane Archbishop, John Bathersby was awarded the nation's second highest honour, an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for services to the Catholic Church in Australia and to the wider community through the promotion of ecumenism, in the 2008 Queens Birthday Honours list.

Archbishop Bathersby said he was very humbled to be nominated for the award.

journey of a lifetime

This July, young people from the far corners of the globe will gather in Sydney to celebrate World Youth Day 2008 (WYD08). A great deal of work goes into preparing to attend such a massive event. Regardless of whether groups are travelling from Africa or Alice Springs, all will face similar challenges.

Mercedes College is located 6km from the centre of the city of Adelaide. With 1,250 students from Reception to Grade 12, Mercedes is a co-educational school in the Mercy tradition.

For the past 12 months, Peter Williams, Director of Mission at Mercedes College, and his support team of nine teachers and three other adults, have been working with a group of 44 students to prepare for one of the most significant trips of their lives.

Keeping focused

The group meet every two weeks for an extended session. They spend time on the logistical side of things, but also on what Peter says the college sees as the primary goal of WYD08.

"We are very conscious that WYD08 could turn into an opportunity for people to converge on Sydney so they can see the Pope," says Peter. "An exclusive focus on the Pope is not what the Pope himself or the Church wants. When Bishop Anthony Fisher visited Adelaide he emphasised this point. Instead the focus is on a deepening and a renewal of faith for young people and a renewal of the Church in Australia."

"I hope to gain a better understanding of my faith and what the Church is all about." – Matthew Crocker

As such, in their regular meetings, Mercedes students have been asked to reflect on some basic questions about their own sense of relationship with God, how they see themselves in terms of their faith, the way they perceive the Church community and the way they see their response to how the Church community invites them to be part of it.

Peter and his team are also in regular contact with parents. They met with all parents in September 2007 and continue to keep in regular email contact.

Ensuring safety

The safety of the Mercedes students is Peter and his team's chief concern.

"It is our main focus," Peter says. "We want to guarantee that the WYD08 experience will be a safe one, as well as a faith enriching one." A detailed risk assessment for the trip has been conducted, as is standard with all college excursions, to identify potential issues early and plan for them. One issue to be addressed has been finding a way to ensure adequate supervision of students when they will be surrounded by literally hundreds of thousands of people.

"We want to be able to reassure parents and ourselves that the students will be under constant supervision," says Peter. "But not in a way that the students will find overbearing."

The group's plan includes a higher than normal teacher student ratio of one adult to five students, to allow for more intensive supervision, and an ingenious solution that uses the student's own mobile phones (something no young person is without these days!). The adults will have the mobile numbers of their five students on hand at all times and students will be asked to always carry their phones. That way, if a student is out of sight of the supervisor they will be able to make contact with them immediately.

"We may sound a little overprotective," says Peter. "But I think I would rather be accused of that than the opposite. We are very aware that due to the unusual nature of this event, there is the possibility that people will be around who might want to capitalise on opportunities. We want to be on top of any difficult or dangerous situation."

Accommodation is another safety concern for the group. The Mercedes students will stay in school hall-style accommodation, as by law they are too young to be billeted in private homes. Peter has liaised closely with WYD organisers to ensure that students will be housed in a safe environment and that other young people staying with them have undergone police checks.

Safety of property is also on the group's radar. It has been a requirement for students to take out travel insurance and the group has talked about not only what to bring, but also about being aware that the environment into which they are moving will require a higher degree of alertness than might usually be the case on a school excursion.



From left: Matthew Crocker, Brigid Symes, Nadia Boscaini, Emily Gore and Dominic Davis

Managing costs

Reducing the costs associated with attending WYD08 has been important for the group.

"The cost of attending WYD08 is not insignificant," says Peter. "We wanted to make sure that in the true to the spirit of what Catholic schools should be about, it was accessible to everyone, not just the preserve of those who could afford it."

To date there have been a series of successful fundraising events over the year from film nights to BBQs, all run by the students, their families and staff.

Logistics aside, both organisers and students are clearly excited about attending WYD08 and the potential of the event to bring a new energy and focus to these young people's experience of being Catholic.

"We hope that the trip will have a flow-on effect, enriching both broader school community and the Parish community into which these students will return," says Peter. "That after the event the students will be able to share the spirit, the enthusiasm and the joy that an enriched faith can bring."

**"It's a chance to experience
and reflect on the sense
of being included in
a universal Church." – Emily Gore**

"I'm excited about meeting all the people from different Mercy schools and meeting people who share the same faith as we do, people with similar values to ours. Also, sleeping out at Randwick under the stars. If it rains, it would be cool! Definitely being part of the Mass led by Pope Benedict."

Dominic Davis

"I was astounded by how one event could draw such an enormous crowd of people from around the world. I hope to gain knowledge about myself and my personality, as well as some education about our faith today and how religion can bond people and keep them together."

Nadia Boscaini

"I have been a Catholic all my life and even though I have attended Catholic schools I sometimes feel that I am the only one who believes like I do. When I heard about World Youth Day I decided I wanted to go so that I could expand my faith and share the experience with a large group of people just like me."

Brigid Symes

"I hope to gain a better understanding of my faith and what the Church is all about and also to start new friendships with people from around the world."

Matthew Crocker

"I hope to develop and nurture my own faith while meeting and spending time with other people who are similar to myself. It's a chance to experience and reflect on the sense of being included in a universal Church."

Emily Gore

working together to manage risk

In 2001 Catholic Church Insurances embarked on an ambitious pilot program to provide subsidised access to The CCH Hands on Guide: School Health & Safety online service to a limited number of schools and colleges in Victoria.

The initial intention to trial the program for a year with a small group proved to be short-lived, as word of this invaluable resource spread like wildfire, turning the one-year trial into a seven-year commitment.

Since 2001 the program has grown exponentially to encompass over 1,000 clients across Australia, with all subscriptions fully subsidised by Catholic Church Insurances and administered in most cases by the Risk Management Department.

A definitive resource

The definitive health and safety reference source for schools and colleges, *The CCH Hands On Guide: School Health & Safety* online service is published by CCH Australia, a leading business publisher and information services provider.

The CCH Hands On Guide: School Health & Safety online service covers health and safety issues that schools must manage and explains schools' duty of care under both common law and OHS legislation. It is the most comprehensive single resource on the market and provides a foundation for effective management and compliance with all aspects of OHS in an educational environment.

Pooling the knowledge and expertise of experienced practitioners and presenting the refined details in a convenient online package, the online service provides templates including checklists, policies and procedures, all designed to help schools and colleges manage health, safety and liability risk exposures and tailor policies and procedures to suit their specific environment.

With a range of features designed to assist with the speedy delivery of information when and where it is needed, the package can significantly reduce the amount of time wasted wading through a sea of foreign language. It is of enormous value to both the lay and expert practitioner alike.

"*The CCH Hands on Guide: School Health & Safety* online service provides a theoretical accompaniment to the practical Risk Management guidance and expertise delivered in the field by Catholic Church Insurances' team of Risk Advisors," says National Risk Manager for Catholic Church Insurances Hans Buettner.

"Clients often use *The CCH Hands On Guide: School Health & Safety* online service as a starting point when investigating topics and then contact the Risk Management team to assist with applying the content to their specific circumstances. We may then blend our library material to match the query, or send out one of our experienced Risk Management Advisors to further assist."

KEY FEATURES

- Access to articles on court cases and legal decisions relevant to the education sector, providing a much-needed gauge on the liability issues faced today.
- Assists with the implementation of OHS management systems, policies and procedures.
- Aids in record keeping for incident investigations, risk management records, health records, etc.
- Assists with risk assessments and the implementation of controls.
- Incorporates advice from school principals and experts in OHS law.

Risk areas

The online service covers a variety of key risk areas including:

- Medicinal administration
- Drugs and alcohol
- Animal and biological safety
- Bullying
- Canteens and tuckshops
- Cash handling
- First aid
- Manual handling
- Injury management
- Volunteers
- Playgrounds
- Supervision

Catholic Church Insurances' Risk Management Team look forward to continuing to provide this and other essential Risk Management services to our clients across the country and anticipate expanding our existing School Health and Safety client base to include those clients not currently subscribed to the service.

Like to know more?

For further information clients are welcome to contact Catholic Church Insurances' Risk Management Helpdesk on 1300 660 827.

"CCH has been a great resource for information on matters such as health, occupational health and safety, critical incidences, law, regulations and education."

"I access the guide online from time-to-time to increase my knowledge on educational, legal or regulatory matters and better understand and resolve issues presented to me by management and schools."

"As planning and facilities officer of Catholic Education Office Melbourne it also assists me with developing and preparing policy and procedures."


Harry Allard
*Planning and Facilities Officer
Emergency Management Coordinator
Catholic Education Office Melbourne*

"The information is easy to download and really comprehensive, covering every aspect of safety in a school environment."

"The sample policies and checklists are extremely helpful and are great time savers. The information is simple and easy to understand, but very detailed."

"I use the guide regularly, at least three times per week. The information helps me to focus on areas that may not have been considered a risk and address those risks. If I were investigating an accident or incident in a school, for example an accident on a playground, I would check the CCH site for the latest information to ensure that all elements had been addressed in the school's current risk assessment. This would include any legal issues that may have to be addressed as a consequence of recent court decisions."

Christine McCormack
*Senior Professional Officer
Work Environment Team, Employee Services
Catholic Education Office Wollongong*



"The information is easy to download and really comprehensive, covering every aspect of safety in a school environment."

a taste of australian life

The Diocese of Townsville and Archdiocese of Brisbane are preparing for one of the biggest weeks ever. Up to 5,000 pilgrims will land in Brisbane for Days in the Dioceses, staying anywhere from the CBD to the Gold Coast, while 400 eager pilgrims will touch down in Townsville looking for the original Aussie experience, complete with crocodiles.

Days in the Dioceses is all about people and cultures coming together in prayer and celebration. Overseas visitors will be welcomed into local faith communities and given a taste of local hospitality and the Australian way of life.

"It is a great opportunity for pilgrims to get to know what life is really like for us," says Rachel Grahl, Youth Ministry Coordinator in Townsville.

Fran Byrne, Days in the Dioceses Project Officer in Brisbane agrees. "Everyone has been very focused on Sydney, but Days in the Dioceses is an opportunity for the whole Church to be involved."

In Townsville, the Diocese has planned and will host 75 per cent of the Days in the Dioceses events, which aim to balance the idea of cultural and spiritual exchange. There will be time for tourist attractions like the Great Barrier Reef and a few giant crocs, as well as an Australian evening at a local surf lifesaving club, complete with an all-Aussie juke box, but there will also be pastoral time.

The Parishes are coordinating most of the events in Brisbane, but they will host a major festival in the CBD, where they expect up to 15,000 people.

"It is about simple, heart-felt events that really highlight our community," says Rachel. "Not trying to be something that we are not. What we are is fantastic and we just want to share that."

Home hosting will be the major source of accommodation in both Dioceses.

"Offering pilgrims the chance to stay with a host family, who are going to welcome them with open arms, is a gift for us as a host country," says Rachel. "Home hosts run the gamut. From active, older members of the Parish with spare rooms, to young families who want to share the experience with their children."

Fran agrees. "Most families are taking two pilgrims, which is fantastic," she adds. "But it is great to see people willing to take four and six. It really lifts the average!"



BrizStay hosts Veronica and David Colch.

Snapshot

Veronica Colch is no stranger to home hosting. She and her family, who live in suburban Brisbane, have been hosting international students since 1990.

"We started home hosting after I went on a trip to Japan," says Veronica. "The Japanese people were so wonderful. When I came back I read an article about hosting Japanese students and thought, we can do this."

Over the years the Colchs have opened their home to young people from Japan, Korea, China and Switzerland, building lifelong friendships.

Veronica says becoming a home host for Days in the Dioceses was "a natural progression." As a member of the Deanery committee at Brisbane East Deanery and the BrizStay Coordinator for St Thomas' Parish, she has been encouraging other Parishioners to do the same.

"When you are travelling it is always good to meet the local people," she says. "With so much going on in Sydney, pilgrims may not get to meet the real locals. We can show pilgrims a bit of real Australian life."

Veronica hopes the Days in the Dioceses experience will invigorate the Parish. "It is not just the young people who will benefit," she says. "Everyone can be part of this wonderful experience. It will be something to talk about for years to come."

If you would like to know more about Days in the Dioceses or to become a home host in Townsville or Brisbane visit

www.youth.tsv.catholic.org.au or

www.wydbrisbane.org.au or contact your local Parish.

"offering pilgrims the chance to stay with a host family, who are going to welcome them with open arms, is a gift for us as a host country."

our people



Shali Sivapalan

**Investment Services Manager
CCI Investment Management Limited**

Joining CCI Investment Management Limited earlier this year, Shali oversees the management of the investment operations and assists Chief Investment Officer, Ian Smith with day-to-day portfolio management issues.

Shali is enjoying working for the company, commenting that the staff are very friendly and that the strong focus on work life balance creates a great working environment.

Shali has a clear vision for the future. "I would like to see CCI Investment Management Limited have a stronger footprint in the Catholic community," she says. "And be seen as a quality provider of investment solutions to Catholic entities."

Shali believes that through the strategic management of investment operations she will play a vital role in achieving these goals.

Shali is heavily involved with the Australian Red Cross, so most of her spare time is spent working with disadvantaged youth. When she can she enjoys relaxed weekends with family and friends.

Brendan Curry

**Manager, Client Relationships
CCI Investment Management Limited**

Brendan joined CCI Investment Management Limited in late 2007 after 15 years working with the NAB group. He describes working for the company as a "refreshing change!" after working for such a large organisation.

"The staff are friendly, they work cooperatively and take an interest in the development of themselves, their colleagues and the organisation," says Brendan.

Brendan is responsible for looking after existing customer relationships and gathering new referrals. With the customer base spread throughout Australia, a significant amount of his time is spent out of the office.

CCI Investment Management Limited is currently focused on building the Fund's reputation as the Fund Manager of choice for all Church entities. For his part, Brendan will concentrate on maintaining the current high level of customer service and promoting the Fund's message via presentations and marketing activities.

Outside of work Brendan likes to catch up with friends and family. He is interested in a variety of sports including golf, cricket and football and travels whenever he gets the opportunity.

Paul Steward

**Client Relationship and Development
Representative
National Catholic Superannuation
Fund**

Paul joined the National Catholic Superannuation Fund in mid 2007. His primary focus is on creating and maintaining relationships with the Fund's employers, with the aim of making the administration of their superannuation as easy as possible.

"Superannuation is not our employers' main focus," says Paul. "Their business is. It is the Fund's job to ensure that our processes do not create an unnecessary workload for them."

He is impressed by the way the small team pulls together to ensure a job is done well. It is one of the things Paul says sets them apart from other funds, along with the Fund's understanding of the Catholic environment and values.

Paul's plans for the future include maintaining good working relationships with the Fund's employers and helping them better understand superannuation and retirement issues, as well as growing the membership base of the Fund.

Away from work, Paul and his wife Claudia enjoy eating out. If he is not trying out the newest restaurant, Paul can usually be found indulging in one of his other passions – golf. He is trying to get his handicap down under five.



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to let

02 8875 5555

Half of all low-income households in the private rental market are in what is described as housing stress

Every day across Australia the members of St Vincent de Paul are witnesses to the Australian face of homelessness and housing stress. Impelled by the social justice imperatives of the scriptures and by the needs of their marginalised brothers and sisters, they not only give immediate assistance but also call governments to account for the homelessness that can only be described as a national scandal. For more information visit www.vinnies.org.au.

renters in trouble

The pressure on Australian renters to find and keep an affordable home is having a direct impact on Australia's homeless service system. Today, nearly 50 per cent of people coming into homeless services across Australia are private renters in trouble.

According to research recently released by St Vincent de Paul, across Australia there are at least 345,000 households (even after factoring in the effects of Rental Assistance) in the private rental market paying an average of \$74 more a week than they can afford.

This means that half of all low-income households in the private rental market are in what is described as housing stress, or paying more than 30 per cent of their income in rent, and a third of those are in housing crisis, or paying more than 50 per cent of their income in rent.

Paying such large percentages of income in rent means that many families and individuals are making a decision each fortnight about whether to pay the rent, buy food or pay the gas bill.

It should come as no surprise then that over the past five years there has been a 30 per cent increase in the number of families with children being assisted by homeless services. In fact families with children are the fastest growing group of people experiencing homelessness in Australia.

According to St Vincent de Paul many other families are on the edge of homelessness, soldiering on in inappropriate accommodation that is sometimes cold, crowded, far from family, friends, work, transport and schools. Sometimes their housing can be dangerous to their health, safety and hopes for a brighter future.

Research recently released by the Housing Industry Association projects that the number of renters suffering from financial stress is set to jump nearly 50 per cent over the next three years. Their figures suggest that by 2010 the number of households in housing stress could be as high as 750,000!

With homeless services already full to capacity and turning away around half of the people seeking assistance – we are indeed, in a housing affordability crisis. Having 345,000, or 750,000 households in housing stress in three years time is bad both for our national economy and our community.

Renting privately has become the only housing option for the majority of low-income households. Today it is almost impossible for all but the most disadvantaged families to get into public housing. Waiting lists can be as long as seven years or more.

The St Vincent de Paul Society is calling on the Commonwealth Government to stop shying away from the problem and address it in a way that makes good economic and social sense.

"We believe it's time to address the shortage of low-income housing head on – by constructing more of it," says Dr John Falzon, CEO St Vincent de Paul Society National Council.

"We are calling for a serious increase in government direct investment in public and social housing for people on low incomes."

St Vincent de Paul Society are recommending that \$1.33 billion per annum be injected into housing stock.

"It's long been unfashionable to talk about increasing public housing stock," says Dr Falzon. "But policy makers who are serious about addressing housing stress need to include increasing stock in their list of solutions."

"Today we know how to create low-density, low-income housing that really works. But construction has almost stopped. We just need some political will."

Reducing housing stress for renters is not cheap say St Vincent de Paul, but it is a smart investment in our future. Housing stress does more than just reduce a household's spending power. It has a significant effect on people's ability to get a job, it adds to stress in relationships, makes it difficult for children to be educated; and, as discussed, in extreme cases can lead to homelessness.

The former Minister for Community Services – Senator Scullion said last year, in *Parity* magazine that "by the time families hit

the Supported Accommodation Assistance program they are at rock bottom. "

Investing in public housing stock will prevent families from hitting rock bottom.

"We regret that over the past ten years we have witnessed a 30 per cent decline in real terms in the level of Commonwealth funding of Public, Community and Indigenous housing," says Dr Falzon.

"We welcome the fact that we now have a designated Minister for Housing and a commitment to a National Housing Strategy. The St Vincent de Paul Society is going to do all it can to get focus on this issue and we won't be letting the pressure off until we see some action."

"The National Housing Strategy is a first step toward acknowledging the crisis and ensuring that all Australians have access to appropriate and adequate housing."

"We are delighted that so many civil society organisations share the same vision of an Australia where housing is guaranteed as a right rather than being left to the vagaries of the market."

Source: "Don't Dream, It's Over" St Vincent de Paul Society Report on housing stress in Australia's private rental market, July 2007. Full copies of the report are available at www.vinnies.org.au or by calling (02) 6202 1200.

a man of faith & love

There were 2,500 mourners, including 200 priests, 28 bishops and hundreds of devoted Catholics at St Patrick's Cathedral to farewell former Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne Thomas Francis (Frank) Little in April this year. Those gathered paid tribute to a humble man who, by his own admission, never sought or expected to be Archbishop.



"His sincere pastoral style and concern for his people was admired by all who met him"

Melbourne's Catholic Archbishop Denis Hart said that the death of Archbishop Little would be felt deeply by many people in Melbourne.

"Archbishop Little will be fondly remembered as a dedicated, caring leader of the Church for 22 years," he said. "His sincere pastoral style and concern for his people were admired by all who met him."

Born in Moonee Ponds in 1925, Archbishop Little entered Corpus Christi College, then at Werribee, in 1943 to begin studies for the priesthood. In 1947, he continued his studies at Propaganda Fide College, Rome and was ordained to the priesthood in 1950, by Cardinal Fumasoni Biondi.

For the next three years he pursued his doctoral studies through the Urban University in Rome and was awarded his doctorate in 1953.

Upon his return to Melbourne that same year, he was appointed Assistant Priest to Carlton. He was made assistant at St Patrick's Cathedral in 1955 before his appointment as Secretary to the Apostolic Delegate, Archbishop Romolo Carboni in 1956, which took him to Sydney. Archbishop Little returned to Melbourne as Assistant Priest to St Patrick's Cathedral in 1959, Dean of the Cathedral in 1965 and Parish Priest of St Ambrose's, Brunswick in 1971.

Archbishop Little was appointed the sixth Archbishop of Melbourne by Pope Paul VI, succeeding Cardinal Knox on 1 July 1974. The first Victorian-born leader of Melbourne's Catholics, he was Archbishop of Melbourne until 1996 when he resigned for health reasons.

In his funeral homily, Archbishop Hart described Archbishop Little's years as Archbishop as "difficult and challenging. A normal reflection of the ferment in society and culture of those years."

During his time as Archbishop of Melbourne, Archbishop Little's support of the education and renewal of the Catholic community expressed itself in such initiatives as the publishing of updated guidelines for religious education, establishment of Deaneries and the development of the "Tomorrow's Church" process.

A commitment to the continuing formation of lay people and Priests was a characteristic of Archbishop Little's ministry. And from the early 1970s he developed a strong interest in ecumenism, bonding with other churches and developing a firm friendship with his Anglican counterpart, Frank Woods.

A passionate supporter of the Essendon Football Club, Archbishop Little was knighted in 1977 and awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Theology by the Melbourne College of Divinity.

Archbishop Little died peacefully in his sleep at his home in Camberwell at the age of 82 years.

He will be remembered as "A man of faith and love, who cared for others and was always there for them," said Archbishop Hart.