



Act Justly

Compulsory Income Management: Bishop, Vinnies express concern

On Monday 21 June, the Senate passed legislation establishing a new compulsory income management scheme.

The Social Security and Other Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform and Reinstatement of the Racial Discrimination Act) establishes a new model of income management, to be rolled out first across the Northern Territory, and then, subject to review, to be progressively rolled out in other disadvantaged areas in other parts of Australia.

The legislation was devised partly in response to criticism of the Northern Territory Emergency Response, part of which required that indigenous people in the Northern Territory undergo compulsory income management. In the new legislation, compulsory income management is not limited to indigenous people but will apply to a range of disadvantaged groups in the Northern Territory, and later to other states.

Catholic leaders have continued to express their concern about this new policy.

Bishop Christopher Saunders, Chair of the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council, stated in the lead up to the Senate vote, 'Technically speaking, it may be claimed that the legislation satisfies the RDA. However, since the majority of Territorians



receiving welfare are Indigenous, the policy will continue to impact most heavily on Indigenous people as a group...

'Compulsory income management alone will not address the underlying causes of poverty and disadvantage. A rigid focus on compliance or a policy that implies that "we know what is best" or "it is all for their own good" risks adopting the kind of attitude that gave rise to policies behind the Stolen Generations.

Dr John Falzon, Chief Executive Officer of the St Vincent de Paul Society National Council, described the legislation as 'a cynical manoeuvre to get around the Racial Discrimination Act.'

"As with its imposition on Aboriginal People on the basis of race it will now be imposed on the basis of class. In both forms it constitutes an invasion of private lives, a denial of dignity, and a removal of self-determination."

Contents

FOOTPRINTS FOR PEACE	2
VOLUNTEER IN PALESTINE	2
EDMUND RICE CENTRE APPEAL	2
AROUND THE PARISHES	2
UPCOMING PARISH GATHERING	2
WHAT'S ON	3

The Justice and Peace Office is an agency of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. The Office promotes justice, peace, ecology and development through educational, collaborative and advisory activities based on the social teachings of the Catholic Church.

Unsung Heroes - Closing the Gap by Leading Their Way

NAIDOC Week is a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and an opportunity to recognise the contributions of Indigenous Australians in various fields. From July 4 to 11, activities and celebrations will take place across Sydney and Australia - and even across the world. Earlier this month Matrville author Anita Heiss delivered a NAIDOC lecture at the Australian Consulate in New York.

'In light of recent blatant racist comments within the code of rugby league,' she said, 'it appears that acknowledgment and appreciation needs to be further enhanced, so too educating about tolerance and the destructive forces of prejudice.'

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Women walk for a peaceful and sustainable future

For 73 days, from March to May, women from around Australia took a long walk from Brisbane to Canberra to deliver a message of peace.

The theme of the walk was a 'Nuclear free and sustainable future.'

Catholic schools, members of Pace Bene and other Christian peace advocates joined the walk along the way. Gill Burrows, from Pace Bene described the walk as 'a joyful and life-giving experience'.

On June 25th representatives of the initiative delivered a gift for then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd: 1000 peace cranes threaded together as

A symbol of the many and diverse people around the country who feel strongly about the need for a nuclear free and sustainable future. More than 250 messages from walkers and supporters accompanied the gift.



Edmund Rice Centre Mid Year Appeal

Each year the Edmund Rice Centre conducts two appeals for support for financial support for its work in research, education and advocacy.

The mid-year appeal is currently running. All donations assist ERC in its work in support of refugees and asylum seekers, Indigenous peoples and people in the Pacific facing the reality of climate change.

To find out more go to www.erc.org.au.

Around the Parishes

St Brigid's acts locally, globally.

On Sunday 13 June, St Brigid's held its annual mid-winter party for boarding house residents. Participants enjoyed an afternoon of eating, singing, dancing and yet more eating!

On 27 May, St Brigid's held a forum, *Peace and Justice in Palestine*. Speakers were Professor Peter Manning (author and former ABC 4 Corners producer) and Antony Loewenstein (author). 40 people attended to learn about the evolution of relations between Israelis and Palestinians since 1947, and the situation for Palestinians today in the Gaza Strip and the Occupied West bank. Another forum is planned for July - see page 3 for details.

Finally, the community threw its support

behind local Muslim leader Sheikh Leghaei, who was deported in late June, reportedly on security-related grounds. Because ASIO did not release the reason for deportation, Sheik Leghaei was unable to appeal. The Sheikh was the Chairperson of the Marrickville Multifaith Roundtable and served the local Muslim community for 16 years. St Brigid's was among the many local faith communities that actively advocated for Sheik Leghaei.



Menai parishioners support Micah Challenge

Volunteers needed to create a non-violent presence in the Middle East

The Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel is an initiative of the World Council of Churches, which supports Palestinians and Israelis in their non-violent actions and advocacy efforts to bring a just peace to the Holy Land. It

was established in 2002 after the Heads of Churches in Jerusalem called for a protective international presence in the Occupied Territories. Ecumenical Accompaniers come from around the world to spend three months in Israel and Palestine experiencing the impact of occupation on people's lives. They monitor and report human rights abuses, collect data for other agencies and accompany Palestinians and Israelis working for peace. The National Council of Churches in Australia is accepting expressions of interest from potential Australian volunteers. To find out more visit

www.ncca.org.au/eappi

Holy Family heeds the Micah Challenge

Also in June Holy Family Catholic Church Menai hosted John Mckinnon, NSW state coordinator of TEAR, who presented at all masses about his powerful experience and knowledge of child and maternal health issues across the globe. John spoke about the appalling conditions of faced by women and children in countries such as Nepal. Training for birth attendants, such as that offered by TEAR, has reduced infant mortality in some areas from 20 percent to less than 6 percent.

Following the talk more than 300 parishioners signed Micah Challenge "birthday cards" alerting the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the need to increase aid for health. Aquinas College later collected a further 400 cards.

Parish get together on Saturday July 17

The Justice and Peace Office hosts regular gatherings for parish-based social justice groups and representatives in Sydney Archdiocese. The next meeting will take place on July 17, and promises opportunities for support, reflection and networking, as well as the chance to hear from guest speaker Jacqui Redmond, from Catholic Earthcare.

If you are active in social justice at parish level, and want more information about how you can plug into a broader network, contact Chantelle at chantelle.ogilvie@sydneycatholic.org.

What's on around Sydney

3 – 29 July Art Exhibition: Caste-ing Call

An exhibition by Aboriginal artist Adam Hill, which tells the story of injustice, inequality and dislocation experienced by Aboriginal people. **Tuesday to Saturday, Harrison Galleries, 294 Glenmore Rd, Paddington.** Contact: 9380 7100 or go to www.harrisingalleries.com.au.

4 July Immaculée tells her story

Immaculée Ilibagiza is a survivor of the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Today she is regarded as one of world's leading speakers on peace, faith, and forgiveness, and is the author of three books, including *Left to Tell*. **2pm, St Mary's Cathedral Hall, St Mary's Rd, Sydney.** Contact: amy.vierboom@sydneycatholic.org.

5 July Christians in Palestine: A Forum

St Brigid's social justice group welcomes two visiting Palestinian Christians to speak at this forum. They are Constantine Dabagh (The Executive Director of the Middle East Council of Churches) and Rifat Kassis (Palestinian Christian human rights activist). **7:30pm, St Brigid's Catholic Church Annex, 392 Marrickville Rd, Marrickville.** Entry to the annex via Livingston Rd. Contact: ptjennings@netspace.net.au.

5 July Theology on Tap: Immaculée Ilibagiza

Immaculée Ilibagiza is a survivor of the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Today she is regarded as one of world's leading speakers on peace, faith, and forgiveness, and is the author of three books, including *Left to Tell*. An event for young adults, aged 18 to 35. **6pm, PJ Gallagher's Pub, 74 Church St, Parramatta.** Contact: amy.vierboom@sydneycatholic.org.

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5 July Palestine to the Pacific - Women speak out for freedom

Dr Lisa Natividad (lecturer and indigenous activist, Guam) and Dianna Buttu (Lawyer and professor, Palestine) share their experiences of living under military occupation and the struggle for liberation. Chaired by Professor Larissa Berendt. **6pm - 8pm, Trades Hall Auditorium, 377 Sussex St, Sydney.** Entry to the annex via Livingston Rd. Contact: ptjennings@netspace.net.au.

6 July The Garden at the End of the World

A free screening of a confronting documentary on hunger, homelessness and lawlessness in Afghanistan. Follow Afghan – Australian aid worker Mahboba Rawi and permaculturalist Rosemary Morrow to Afghanistan as they work to bring peace and stability to the lives of widows and orphans there. Followed by conversation with Rawi, Morrow and film-maker Gary Caganoff. **6pm, University of Sydney.** Contact: jake.lynch@usyd.edu.au or go to www.iprasydne2010.org

7 July Self-Determination: 50 years on

Professor Johan Galtung will trace the history of the right to self-determination, as enshrined by Resolution 1514 of the UN General Assembly, and workshop ideas on the nature of contemporary struggles for self-determination, asking "Who can call themselves a 'people' and how can they assert and enjoy their rights?" **7:30pm, Customs House, Circular Quay.** Contact: jake.lynch@usyd.edu.au or go to www.iprasydne2010.org

8 July Reporting Conflict: New Directions in Peace Journalism

The launch of a new book by Johan Galtung and Jake Lynch, which challenges journalists to tell the whole truth about conflict. **6pm, University of Sydney.** Contact: jake.lynch@usyd.edu.au or go to www.iprasydne2010.org

8 July Aboriginal Movie Day

An event to celebrate NAIDOC Week, featuring films including Bran Nue Day and Radiance. **Yarra Bay House, Elaroo Avenue, Phillip Bay.** Contact: 9661 1229.

What's on around Sydney (cont.)

11 July NAIDOC Celebrations

A fun day of free events including demonstrations of traditional Aboriginal craft, art and hunting techniques. Free Aboriginal games and food tasting will also be available. Cost: Free (National Park Entry fee applies). **10pm – 3pm, Jenkins Hall Precinct, Lane Cove National Park.** Contact: 9742 8956.

21 July The True Costs of Problem Gambling

A talk about the social and economic costs of problem gambling, by John Brett, Manager of the Mission Australia Financial and Gambling Counselling Service. Cost: \$5 including afternoon tea. **1pm – 2:15pm, Theatre, NSW Parliament House, 6 Macquarie St, Sydney.** Contact: 9230 3341.

23 July Edmund Rice Camps Trivia Fundraiser

Join volunteers, family and friends of this Christian Brothers work to support disadvantaged kids. There will be prizes, raffles, auctions, games, trivia and much more. Sausage sizzles, tea, coffee and soft drinks available for purchase; BYO drinks and sacks. Cost: \$15 per person. **7pm - 10:30pm, Monte Sant' Angelo Hall, 128 Miller St, North Sydney.** Contact: campsnsw@edmundrice.org.

27 July How much packaging is enough?

Afternoon Tea for the Future invites you bring an example of packaging to this discussion about the impacts of our actions in reducing or accelerating the pace of climate change. Cost: \$2 - \$5 donation. **2pm – 4pm, Edmund Rice Centre, 15 Henley Rd, Homebush West.** Contact: leoniec@erc.org.au.

3 August What is the world worth? Putting nature on the balance sheet

Pavan Sukhdev, head of the UN Green Economy initiative talks about the next generation of economics and environmentalism. Cost: \$25. **6:30pm – 8pm, Playhouse Theater, Sydney Opera House, Bennelong Point, Circular Quay.** Contact: 9250 7777.

7 August Putting a Break on Climate Change

Join members of the Pacific Calling Partnership to share stories about successful initiatives to raise awareness of what we can do about the effect of climate change on Pacific Islands. Bring something to share for a light lunch. Cost: donation only. **11am – 4pm, Edmund Rice Centre, 15 Henley Rd, Homebush West.** Contact: jillf@erc.org.au.

6 – 8 August Caritas Australia Be More Weekend

Parishes, families and communities are invited to discover that they can make a difference by registering for this fun and meaningful weekend of action. This year's theme is water. By taking three simple actions over three days together we can work towards conserving water in Australia and raising awareness on the global issue of access to clean water. For more information go to <http://www.bemore.org.au/weekend>.

10 August The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the United Nations and Diversity in Employment

The Edmund Rice Centre hosts this breakfast with Professor Ron McCallum AO, foundation Blake Dawson Waldron Professor in Industrial Law in the Faculty of Law of the University of Sydney. Ron is the first totally blind person to be appointed to the Deanship of a Law School in Australia or New Zealand. Cost: \$40; \$25 for members and students. donation only. **7:30am – 9am, Gilbert and Tobin, 2 Park St, Sydney.** Contact: 8762 4200 or busethics@erc.org.au.

13 - 15 August Flaring Forth – Eco-spirituality retreat

Through storytelling, solitude, contemplative practice, nature walks, creative expression and ritual celebrations, encounter an expanding spiritual reality and rediscover your relationship to all created beings. A retreat facilitated by Michael Dyer. Cost: \$250. **Stanwell Park.** Contact: 0409 654065 or dyerlog@tpg.com.au.

The initiatives above are organized by a range of Church and non-Church groups throughout Sydney. The Justice and Peace Office does not necessarily endorse the views and perspectives that will be expressed at these events.