



## Annual Report 2010/11

### Committee

Bro. Rex Dupe, Ringwood - Secretary & Treasurer

Sis Helen Smallwood, Clayton - Telephone Counselling Co-ordinator and Committee Member.

Sis Donna Walker, Ringwood – Committee Member

Sis Lesley Stevenson, Canterbury – Counsellor and Committee Member

### Resource Officers

Sis Suzanne Russell, Ringwood

Sis Vicki Ladson, Ringwood

Bro Matthew Waite – Website Management

### Mission Statement

The Victorian Christadelphian Care Group (VCCG) will provide a free scripturally based and confidential range of support services to the Victorian Christadelphian Community to enable members to improve their spiritual, physical and emotional well being”.

#### VALUES

##### 1. Excellence

The message of God through His Word the Bible is the guiding principle of all activities and counselling undertaken by the Victorian Care Group.

##### 2. Access

The Care Group offers a range of services to Christadelphian families primarily in Victoria but also Australia and worldwide through the Internet and Phone counselling line. We ensure that all members have adequate and continuing training and support.

##### 3. Confidentiality

All members of the Care group are committed to and bound by a Confidentiality Statement. We uphold the confidentiality of any person who contacts us and respect their right to anonymity.

##### 4. Integrity

The members of the Care Group respect the individual, couple and family and uphold the highest ethical and Scriptural standards. All members are bound by a strict Code of Ethics.

## VISION

The Victorian Christadelphian Care Group will:

- Encourage the view that seeking assistance when experiencing difficulties is scripturally & spiritually sound.
- Supplement the existing supports available to families, couples and individuals by spouses, family, friends and ecclesias.
- Provide a range of counselling services.
- Maintain an independent financial base.
- Provide a resource file and Library service accessible to the Christadelphian community.
- Develop and implement measurement tools and internal reviews to ensure the highest quality of service is provided.

# Secretary and Treasurer's Report

## Activities JULY 2010 - JUNE 2011

The main focus our activities over the past twelve months continues to be on organising seminars based on issues raised by members of our community.

The committee would like to hear any ideas and suggestions that members of our community may want to put forward as to how we can better support our Brethren and Sisters.

We wish to reinforce our past comments that the Care Group is not just for people with problems, but to provide anyone with useful information to help others in their daily living.

In an attempt to raise the profile of the group we will be changing our name from the Victorian Care Group to the **Victorian Support Network**. We believe this name change will better describe our activities & will fall into line with the names of similar groups both here and overseas.

The planned name change will be incorporated into our Website which is currently being upgraded to make it more attractive, user friendly and more informative.

We believe this will encourage more use of the site which contains a lot of useful information and has links to other sites offering an additional wide range of information. We will also incorporate some elements of social networking into the site in order to enable a wider cross section of the techno savvy members of our community to contact us and access information.

As mentioned in our last annual report we concentrated our seminar activities over the past 12 months on marriage issues in order to try and address some of the marriage problems that seem to be on the increase in our community.

As part of this objective we ran a very successful and well attended Marriage Enrichment seminar towards the end of last year, more details of this seminar are shown below under the heading of seminars.

Our Bro David Islip resigned from the committee during this past year and we would like to thank him for all his help and enthusiasm during the time he was on the committee.

We would very much like to have a replacement for David & would like to hear from anyone who has an interest in what we do to contact either myself or any other member of the group.

**Bro Rex Dupé**

## PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE

We continue to use the services of EIG ANSVAR to provide Professional Indemnity Insurance for our qualified counsellors in Victoria, South Australia & Queensland. Although this is our biggest single annual expenditure item it still remains economically viable by sharing the cost between the three groups .

## **FUND RAISING**

The main contribution to our funds over the past 10 years has come from the Lion's Den Opportunity Shop at Forest Hill, unfortunately the Lions Den shop has had to close due to increased property rental charges making it financially unviable.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Sis Mary brown and the Lions Den management for all their help and support over this long period of time for which we are very appreciative.

Due to the loss of this source of income the Care Group will have to look at other ways of raising funds. We continue to receive financial support from a number of Ecclesias and individuals within our community & we will be looking for this support to continue & hopefully at an increased rate in order to offset the lack of funding from the Lions Den..

The support that we do receive from within our community gives us a great deal of encouragement & enables us to continue in the work we undertake.

## **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Seven (7) Committee meetings were held and minuted during the past 12 month period with financial reports submitted at each meeting.

## **NEWSLETTERS**

Newsletters have been circulated throughout the year to all ecclesias. These newsletters are designed to give information on past & future activities of the Care Group.

# Telephone contact & Chatline service

Over the past year, the counselling arm of the Care Group has again provided support and assistance to a number of Christadelphian families through the services of the chat line, the 24hr phone contact service, face to face counselling and parenting courses.

Unfortunately over the past year we have experienced technical difficulties with our Website and the Chat Line in particular. We hope that in the next year we will see a new and improved Website and again provide the ability for families and individuals to access the support and resources they require. The websites of all the Australian Care Groups and Support Services are linked, thereby coordinating our work and providing valuable scripturally based information for Australia and even the world.

Again the 24 hour confidential phone service has proven to be a very useful tool in alleviating the stresses of callers. It is a first port of call from where we can refer the caller to more long term help or the appropriate immediate resources. All our contact workers are trained and available to lead the caller to a better understanding of their issue, assist them to find useful strategies in dealing with the problem and refer them to appropriate on going supports if necessary.

The face to face counselling provided by qualified counsellors has been gratefully accepted again over the past year. It is amazing to see the power of God work in the lives of His children as they struggle through a problem to a successful outcome.

We have again facilitated the Growing Families parenting courses. The courses' content is based in scripture and covers all aspects of relationships, especially highlighting the need for the parenting couple to be strong and provide strong leadership and spiritual direction to their children.

Until Christ returns the need for support will be constantly with us and we would encourage brethren and sisters who are interested to pursue counselling/pastoral care courses that will assist in meeting the many and varied needs of our ecclesial families. Unfortunately as some of our members suffer distress their faith wavers and they need support physically, emotionally and spiritually to recover. It is important for us to be able to understand the needs of others and provide non judgemental support. May the mercy, compassion and grace of God work in us all so that we may experience that mercy when Christ returns.

I would like to thank the contact workers and counsellors who give their time voluntarily in love for their brethren and sisters. I would also like to thank the admin officers who do all the behind the scenes work for seminars, organise the library and resources, take the minutes at meetings and keep everything running smoothly.

May the love of God dwell in us all richly as we await the return of Christ.  
Sis Helen Smallwood

# Planned Activities (DV) for 2011-12

## **SEMINARS**

In late February 2011, Bro Andrew Collinge visited from the UK and ran a seminar on Difficult Relationships in the Ecclesia. This dealt with conflict resolution and included sessions on Discipleship, Difference, Being Self Aware, and Relationships. The presentation was based on Romans 12 -14. Approximately 26 people attended and Bro Andrew's sessions were well received. Although we had some time for questions and discussion at the end, we could have continued to discuss this subject at length. It is a subject that could be continued in future seminars and dealt with on a more in- depth level.

During March we held a marriage enrichment seminar given by John and Heather McAlpine of NSW. They were highly recommended by the Support Service in Sydney and we had 14 couples attend. Sessions ran during the afternoon and evening, broken up by a sumptuous 5 star candlelit dinner. Amongst the subjects covered were conflict resolution/forgiveness, love languages and "hot monogamy". Feedback was very positive and we have been encouraged to continue running further sessions in the future, perhaps also specifically for those more recently married. The McAlpines also offer sessions on dealing with teenagers, and this was a subject that many thought would be worth following up in the future.

In the future we are hoping to have Bro Simon Dodson come and run some sessions on "Bullying". He has run these sessions with positive feedback in many states, and whilst we had hoped to hold this toward the end of 2011, it is now expected to more likely be scheduled for February 2012. Firm dates will be advertised shortly.

## **REQUEST FOR HELPERS**

The Care Group committee would like to hear from anyone who is willing to help in the work of the Care Group.

If you are interested in this type of work please contact a committee member.

# Appendix

## **CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT**

The Principles of Confidentiality

Your personal integrity is the integrity of the Caregroup.

All that one hears in the course of one's duties is in confidence, and under no circumstances should the name of the specific details of a telephone call or a face to face meeting be disclosed without the prior consent of the client.

Discussion with a supervisor or a support person should avoid identifying information.

Commitment of Confidentiality

In the sight of God, I ..... solemnly affirm and declare that, within the Principles of Confidentiality expressed above and the Code of Ethics, I will not disclose any communication made to me while engaged in any aspect of the Christadelphian Caregroup (Victoria). I recognise that I am released from this commitment in situations which are life - threatening.

Signed ..... Date .....

When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it.

He has no pleasure in fools; fulfil your vow.

It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfil it.

(Ecclesiastes 5 v 4-5).

**THE VICTORIAN CHRISTADELPHIAN  
CARE GROUP September 2011.**