



Christadelphian Care Group Victoria

Annual Report 2009/10

Committee

Bro. Rex Dupe, Ringwood - Secretary & Treasurer
Sis Helen Smallwood, Clayton - Telephone Counselling Co-ordinator
Sis Donna Walker, Ringwood – Committee Member
Sis Lesley Stevenson, Canterbury – Committee Member
Bro David Islip, Canterbury – Committee Member

Resource Officers

Sis Suzanne Russell, Ringwood
Sis Vicki Ladson, Ringwood
Sis Yvonne McCallum, Blackburn – Catering
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 wellbeing”.

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 2009 - JUNE 2010

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

The committee is endeavouring to raise the profile of the Care Group in order to make our community more aware of our activities and look at ways in which we can better address the needs of those who may require specialized support or advice.

We have approached all Melbourne Ecclesias requesting ideas and suggestions as to how we can address these aims and we look forward to some constructive comments from them.

Part of this effort is to try make people aware 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.

We are in the process of updating our Website to make it more attractive, user friendly and more informative to encourage more use of the site that contains a lot of useful information and has links to other sites offering an additional wide range of information.

Over the next 12 months we will be concentrating our seminar activity on marriage issues in order to try And address some of the marriage problems that seem to be on the increase in our community.

The national Care Group conference was held in April during the main Christadelphian Conference in Brisbane. The idea of setting up an umbrella group as mentioned in last years annual report has been replaced with the the member groups at the conference agreeing that all groups will continue to work together wherever possible in sharing resources and expertise.

There was discussion about how we can encourage and assist those who are willing to undertake the necessary training to assist with the more specialised work required within the various groups.

The plans to have two professional well qualified counsellors from the Seventh Day Adventist Church in NSW to run a full day seminar on Marriage Enrichment earlier this year has been postponed until early next year, this is due to the non availability of one of the counsellors through ill health. Again we would like to make it known that the NSW Support Group has used these counsellors on at least two occasions and highly recommend them to us. Whilst the cost of this seminar will be significant we feel the additional expense is well worth while in order to make available to our community the most effective & useful information possible regarding marriage issues.

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 remains economically viable by sharing the cost between the three groups .

FUND RAISING

The main contribution to our funds comes from the Lion's Den Opportunity Shop at Forest Hill, we are very appreciative of the ongoing support we receive from the Management of the shop and from those who donate their time to work in the shop.

We continue to receive financial support from a number of Ecclesias and individuals within our community. This support gives us a great deal of encouragement & enables us to continue in the work we undertake.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Five (5) Committee meetings were held and minuted during the past 12 month period with financial reports submitted at each meeting.

NEWSLETTERS

Several 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.

Our sincere appreciation and thanks go to our webmaster for his work on the website. The website offers a wide range of information, resources and links to users. The websites of all the Australian Care Groups and Support Services can be accessed through our site thereby coordinating our work and providing valuable scripturally based information for Australia and even the world. The chat line is part of this site and provides a resource through which people can discuss a problem anonymously and know that they will get the appropriate assistance from trained contact workers.

Again the 24 hr 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 ongoing 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 from preparation for parenting through to the pre-teen years. 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 judgmental 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

ADDITIONAL TRAINING FOR TELEPHONE COUNSELLORS

We endeavour to keep the skill levels of our existing telephone counsellors up to date to ensure the level of service we offer is to an acceptable standard via the Careline. Two of our counsellors attended a seminar for Counsellors in Adelaide to enable them to learn from shared information.

SEMINARS

Throughout the past year we have continued our pro-active approach by running seminars on issues or topics that members of our community have identified.

Brother Gary Steel from NSW ran a seminar in July 2009 on the topic of 'Effective Discipleship in today's Time Poor Society'. Bro Jon Mansfield ran a well attended seminar on 'Coping with Depression'.

The committee has also run a series of seminars with a particular focus on our families. The 'Growing Kids God's Way' series remains an ongoing commitment helping a number of Christadelphian families. Supplementing this included two seminars from well known author Steve Biddulph on 'Raising Boys' and 'Secrets of Happy Children' in May which was well attended by members from country Victoria.

The Care Group will focus on re-running the 'No Apologies' series for teenagers and also a marriage enrichment seminar in March 2011.

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.

NATIONAL CARE GROUP CONFERENCE

Refer Secretary's comments above.

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; fulfill your vow.

It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it.
(Ecclesiastes 5 v 4-5).

