



Plunkett Centre for Ethics

Annual Report 2010



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

St Vincents
& Mater Health
Sydney

Mission

The Mission of the Centre is to promote the values of compassion and fellowship, intellectual and professional excellence, and fairness and justice. Its primary focus is on the realization of these values in the provision and allocation of health care. The Centre expresses this commitment through research, teaching and community engagement, as these are informed by the Catholic tradition.

Objectives

- ◆ To deepen and advance knowledge and understanding of the ethical standards relevant to human health and well-being, and in particular to clinical practice, medical research, business and management practices, and the allocation of healthcare resources.
- ◆ To offer courses in philosophical ethics and in the ethics of healthcare provision, medical research and healthcare resource allocation.
- ◆ To engage and where appropriate to collaborate with local, national and international bodies as they seek to respond to their intellectual and ethical needs.
- ◆ To foster collaboration on ethical matters between Australian Catholic University and St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney, St Vincent's Hospital Sydney, St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney and Sacred Heart Hospice.

Functions

- Conducting and promoting research.
- Providing research training and supervision.
- Developing and teaching courses.
- Conducting reviews of professional practice.
- Providing an ethics consultation service.
- Participating in public discussions.



John Hubert Plunkett

Chair's Foreword

One of the major tasks undertaken in the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy in 2010 was a review of philosophy at Australian Catholic University. The review included the Plunkett Centre for Ethics, as the Centre is located in the School of Philosophy in the Faculty.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Greg Craven, in his inaugural lecture in 2008, stated that "one major distinguishing feature of the Australian Catholic University within its diversity niche inevitably will be a profound concentration upon theology and philosophy". The Vice-Chancellor proceeded, without delay, to appoint a working party to consider the establishment of a Faculty of Theology and Philosophy. The new Faculty commenced in 2009. In late 2009, in a meeting with the School of Philosophy and the Executive Dean of the Faculty, the Vice-Chancellor noted that, if Australian



Catholic University is to build its School of Philosophy, it must first assess the current situation of the School, its present composition and output.

A Report on Philosophy at ACU was conducted in response to the Vice-Chancellor's direction. A draft report was prepared in March 2010 and feedback to the draft report sought from Australian Catholic Church leaders, Cardinal George Pell, Archbishop Philip Wilson (Chairman of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference), Archbishops Mark Coleridge, Denis Hart and John Bathersby, Bishops Michael Putney, James Foley, Tim Costelloe SDB, and Anthony Fisher OP. Feedback and input was also sought and received from philosophers Professors Kevin Hart FAHA (University of Virginia, USA), Jeff Bloechl (Boston College, USA), Stephen Mulhall (New College, Oxford, UK), Stanley Hauerwas (Duke University Divinity School, USA), John Haldane (St Andrew's, UK), William M Sweet (Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada), Daniel Sulmasy OFM (University of Chicago, USA), Jean Porter (Notre Dame, Indiana, USA), William Desmond (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium), Jeff Malpas (University of Tasmania), Peter Forrest (University of New England), Graham Oppy (Monash University), and Wayne Hudson (Charles Sturt University).

Following receipt of feedback on the draft report, a Philosophy Roundtable was convened by the Executive Dean in June 2010. The Roundtable included all members of the School of Philosophy, including Director of the Plunkett Centre for Ethics, Associate Professor Bernadette Tobin, together with external academics, Rev Dr Andrew Murray (Department of Philosophy, Catholic Institute of Sydney) and Rev Dr Shane Mackinlay (Department of Philosophy, Catholic Theological College, Melbourne), as well as two members of the School of Theology, Professor Robert Gascoigne, Head, School of Theology, and Professor Anthony Kelly CSsR, Associate Dean (Learning & Teaching) Associate Professor Robyn Horner, Associate Dean (Research) Associate Professor and Reader James McLaren, Ms Anne

Thoeming, Director of Research, Australian Catholic University Research Services, and the Executive Dean of the Faculty. The outcomes of that extended discussion also informed the final Report.

A very important recommendation in the final report, with significant ramifications for the Plunkett Centre for Ethics, concerned the development of areas of specialization in research and research training in philosophy at ACU. The Report recommended that two areas of specialisation be developed: (i) moral philosophy (including applied ethics and philosophical anthropology); and (ii) philosophy of religion (including philosophical theology and engagement with contemporary philosophies).

The second recommendation, concerning philosophy of religion, has already been adopted, with the establishment of the Senior Proven Research Team working in the field of philosophy of religion, under the leadership of Eric D'Arcy Professor of Philosophy, Kevin Hart FAHA, who joins the Faculty in 2011. Professor Hart will be joined by three promising young philosophers under his direction, each of whom will join the Faculty in a full-time capacity: Dr Nick Trakakis (from Monash and Deakin, starting in January 2011), Dr Jeffrey Hanson (from Boston College, starting in January 2011) and Mr Chris Hackett (coming from University of Virginia in June 2011). The establishment of this team in the School of Philosophy marks a very significant advance for philosophy at ACU.

The first recommendation, concerning moral philosophy, applied ethics and philosophical anthropology, is also to be addressed. The first stage in that process will be a comprehensive review in 2011, under the direction of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Thomas Martin, of the Plunkett Centre for Ethics, its present composition, service and output. We look forward to the review report and its recommendations. Our ultimate goal is to build a centre of excellence in the field.

Professor John Ozolins completed his term of appointment as Head of School in December 2010. We thank him for his oversight of and attention to the Plunkett Centre for Ethics during his years as Head of School.

We thank St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney and particularly Chief Executive Officer Mr Steven Rubic for their continued support for the Plunkett Centre for Ethics. We look forward to ongoing collaboration.

Finally, on behalf of the Faculty, the University, St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney, and all of the stakeholders and beneficiaries associated with the Plunkett Centre for Ethics, I thank Director, Dr Bernadette Tobin for her diligent and conscientious leadership of the Centre.

**Professor Anne Hunt OAM FACE
Chair, Management Committee, Plunkett Centre
Executive Dean, Faculty of Theology and Philosophy**

Director's Foreword

Our activities, including achievements, are, as usual, listed in the pages which follow. Here let me note just four things about the year 2010.

One of our first acts in 2010 was to farewell Helen McCabe. In late 2009 Helen was appointed Lecturer in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Australian Catholic University. Helen was trusted by colleague clinicians because of her deep clinical experience and admired by our students as a thoughtful teacher. The last piece of research Helen undertook at the Centre was published later on in 2010: 'Life's endings: Mortality, Consequences, and the Principle of Double Effect', which appeared in *Interface: a forum for Theology in the World*, Vol 13, No 2. Towards the end of the year, we advertised for a philosopher with an interest in the philosophical issues at stake in the ethics of health care to fill the gap left by Helen.



In 2010 Dr Stephen Buckle was on leave from the Centre, having been successful in his application for an Australian Research Council Discovery Grant for a project entitled 'Hume's Sceptical Materialism'. Dr Buckle leads our weekly in-service seminar. His main contribution to the Centre lies in his research: the epistemology and ethics of the 18th century Scottish philosopher David Hume forms a key element in the background to modern utilitarian thought to which our Centre, which exists to examine and promote the values of compassion and fellowship, intellectual and professional excellence, and fairness and justice, as they are understood in the Judeo-Christian tradition, often responds.

We were delighted to be invited to the launch, at Parliament House in Sydney, of Tony Earls' new biography of that great Australian, John Hubert Plunkett, after whom our Centre is named. Plunkett was the first Catholic to hold high office in New South Wales. He was both devoutly loyal to his religion and unrelenting in his thirst for justice. In that regard, it is worth remembering that Plunkett earned the enmity of many of his 19th Century contemporaries (including squatters and parts of the press!) by his decisive stand against the violence done by whites to Aborigines.

During 2010, the first students in ACU's Graduate Certificate in Applied Ethics, developed in close collaboration with St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney, graduated.

Bernadette Tobin
20th April 2011

Academic Staff

Stephen Buckle MA Hons (MaqU), PhD (ANU)
Senior Lecturer in Philosophy, Australian Catholic University
Research Associate, Part time



Bernadette Tobin MA MEd (Melb), PhD (Cantab)
Reader in Philosophy, Australian Catholic University
Director, Full time



Honorary Staff

Gerald Gleeson, STB (Catholic Institute of Sydney),
MA (Cantab), PhD (Leuven)
Associate Professor of Philosophy, Catholic Institute of Sydney
Research Associate, Part time



Jonathan Gillis MB BS, PhD, GradDipPallMed,
FRACP, FJFICM, FACHRM
Director, NSW Organ and Tissue Donation Authority
Clinical Associate Professor, University of Sydney
Research Associate, Part time



Warren T. Reich, S.T.D
Distinguished Research Professor of Religion and Ethics,
Georgetown University, Washington DC
Research Associate, Part time



Management Committee

Professor Thomas Martin, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Research, ACU (until April)
Professor Anne Hunt, Dean, Faculty of Theology and Philosophy (from May)
Professor John Ozolins, Head, School of Philosophy, ACU
Mr Steven Rubic, Chief Executive Officer, St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney
Mr Mark Hales, Director of Mission/Corporate Relations, St Vincents & Mater Health
Dr Bernadette Tobin, Director

Research Projects

Hume's sceptical materialism: Stephen Buckle

- This is an ARC Discovery Project for 2010-11. It will result in a book on Hume's philosophy, offering a radical new interpretation of that philosophy as a sceptical form of materialism, a sceptical revision of the philosophy of Thomas Hobbes's materialism. The book will be published by Wiley-Blackwell.

The utilitarianism of Peter Singer: Stephen Buckle

- Peter Singer is the best-known utilitarian philosopher engaged in working out the practical implications of utilitarian philosophy. Two papers on Singer critically assess his basic argument that utilitarianism is the natural ethical viewpoint. The first has been published in *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics* (where it is around the top of the most-downloaded list). The second is forthcoming in the *Journal of Value Inquiry*.

The contributions of reason and faith to ethics: Bernadette Tobin

- What can the Catholic moral tradition learn from, and offer to, contemporary moral philosophy? What difference (if any) does religious belief make to one's conception of happiness? In this research, which is forthcoming as a chapter in a book of related essays, the two kinds of principles ('faith-based' and 'reason-based') which make up the Catholic Christian tradition are recalled. A dominant school of thought in contemporary bioethics is then criticized, and it is argued that, in general, the resources for evaluating it can be found in the 'reason-based' principles at home in the Catholic Christian tradition. It is then suggested that a distinctive insight into concerns that press themselves on anyone who thinks about how best to live (that is to say, anyone who thinks about 'ethics') is to be found in principles which come from the Judeo-Christian tradition.

The significance of the patient's voice in palliative care: Bernadette Tobin *et al*

- Is the patient's voice always clearly heard in family conferences about end of life palliative care? In a study which raised both philosophical issues (about the role of 'respect for patient autonomy') and clinical issues (about what is known about the conduct of family conferences in a dedicated palliative care setting), we (Tobin, Ingham, Lobb, Roper) examined the philosophical and clinical literature and reviewed current practice with a view to identifying guidelines for practice in this complex area; the study was subsequently published in the *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*.

Research Supervision

Bernadette Tobin with Dr Jonathan Gillis:

- Organ and Tissue Donation: ethical issues in allocation of organs and in the care of the bereaved families: Independent Learning Project of Mr Lap-Pui Cheng, Clinical School, St Vincent's Hospital, Faculty of Medicine, University of New South Wales.

Clinical Ethics

St Vincent's Hospital

- When the health fund will not pay for the prosthesis (with Helen Devenish), St Vincent's Private Hospital, Sydney, March.
- Assessing a person's capacity: when the social worker's judgment differs from that of the health care team (Jillian Hathway and Elizabeth Richter), Social Work Department, St Vincent's Public Hospital, Sydney, April.

Children's Hospital at Westmead

- When parents won't decide: Very low birth weight children, Children's Hospital at Westmead (with Dr Philip Beeby), April
- Paediatric 'donation' after cardiac death (with Stephen Jacobe), Children's Hospital at Westmead, September.

Teaching

- **Stephen Buckle**

Plunkett Postgraduate Seminar:

MA Gillespie: *The Theological Origins of Modernity*;

Mark Johnston: *Saving God*;

Spinoza: *Ethics*

- **Gerald Gleeson**

Moral Philosophy: Reason and Faith. Catholic Institute of Sydney

- **Bernadette Tobin**

Phil 509 Principles of Bioethics (Graduate Certificate in Applied Ethics)

Phil 605 Philosophy and the Moral Life (Graduate Certificate in Applied Ethics) with Dr John Quilter

Graduate Certificate in Applied Ethics: a celebration



Graduation Celebration hosted by Mr Steven Rubic, Chief Executive Officer, St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney. Left to Right: Deb Messham, Jed Hyde, Robin Ellis, Bernadette Tobin, Leo Tucker, Steven Rubic, Amanda Barnes-Sudol, Pauline Lysle, Warren Reid and Helen Trenberth.

Publications

Peer-reviewed articles

G. Gleeson. "Is it *always* good to be alive", in *Issues At The Borders of Life* (Edited by Bernadette Richards and Vic Pfitzner), *Interface* Vol 13, 1&2, Adelaide: ATF, (2010) 97-111.

IH Kerridge, CFC Jordens, R Benson, R Clifford, R Ancheny, D Keown, **B. Tobin**, S Bhattacharyya, A Sachedina, L Lehmann, B Edgar. Religious Perspectives on embryo donation and research, *Clinical Ethics*, 2010; 5: 35-45.

D Fitzgerald, D Isaacs, **B. Tobin**. Palivizumab: A debate about funding, *Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health*, Advance Access published 10 October 2010; doi: 10.1111/j. 1440-1754.2010.01865x

Other articles

S. Buckle. "Philosophy Betrays First Principles", *Higher Education Supplement, The Australian*, 31 March 2010.

G. Gleeson. "Why children should not study ethics", *Bioethics Outlook* 21/4 (2010): 1-2.

B. Tobin. It may be okay in practice, but will it work in theory? Dignity therapy in palliative care, *Bioethics Outlook*, Vol 21, No 3, September 2010.

B. Tobin. Ethical Challenges in health – for policymakers as well as doctors, *Australian Medicine*, Vol 22, No 10, October 2010, pp 22-23.

Letters

S. Buckle. Inalienable Rights and Voluntary Euthanasia, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 2 November, 2010.

S. Buckle. Keating, Cox and Barangaroo, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 1 October, 2010.

S. Buckle. Marr on Rudd: Ambition, Anger and Pride, *The Australian*, 7 June, 2010.

S. Buckle. Honour Killings: Pollution not Misogyny, *Higher Education Supplement, The Australian*, 26 May, 2010.

S. Buckle. The Niqab and Republican Citizenship, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 6-7 February, 2010.

Reviews

B. Tobin. The good doctor, a review of "Good medical practice: professionalism, ethics and law", by Kerry Breen, Stephen Cordner, Colin Thomson, Vernon Plueckhahn, CUP, 2010, in *Medical Journal of Australia*, 2010: 193,2. 19th July 2010, p 93.

Consultancies

A selection of ethical issues addressed:

- Revisions to the US Ethical and Religious Directives
- The treatment of 'eventually-fatal' conditions
- Instructing new nurses on how to inform and advise patients
- Donation after 'circulatory death'
- Ethically-relevant criteria for allocating organs and tissue
- Care of cognitively-impaired patients
- Admission to intensive care ward
- Research ethics and research governance
- Adoption by same-sex couples
- Prenatal testing
- Ectopic pregnancy
- When pain relief is refused
- Advance care planning in a community setting
- Family who wish to care for sick and frail member at home
- Patient who wants to stop eating 'in order to die'
- Research involving women who are pregnant
- 'Activity funding' for organ donation
- Catholic teaching on organ donation
- Disclosure of infectious disease

Summary by source:

Year	St Vincents & Mater Health	Other Institutions	Total
1997	11	23	34
1998	14	24	38
1999	15	24	39
2000	34	20	54
2001	35	29	64
2002	24	14	38
2003	19	12	31
2004	15	12	27
2005	12	20	32
2006	9	19	28
2007	14	13	27
2008	15	22	37
2009	26	38	64
2010	18	36	54

Summary by profession:

Year	Administration	Doctors	Nurses	Allied Health Practitioners	Others	Total
1997	4	5	7	4	14	34
1998	5	6	8	3	16	38
1999	6	9	9	4	11	39
2000	18	6	6	4	20	54
2001	22	12	6	2	22	64
2002	10	6	4	7	11	38
2003	8	9	8	1	5	31
2004	7	7	1	4	8	27
2005	6	6	1	7	12	32
2006	4	7	2	3	12	28
2007	8	8	5	1	5	27
2008	15	7	7	3	5	37
2009	24	17	4	1	18	64
2010	31	7	3	3	10	54

2010 Annual Plunkett Lecture

In 2010, the Annual Plunkett Lecture was given by Dr John Forge, the winner of Australian Catholic University's Eureka Prize for Research in Ethics for his work on the ethical responsibilities of scientists.



Top Row (L to R) Philippa Byers, John Forge, Bernadette Tobin.
Bottom Row (L to R) Stephen Buckle, Samuel Birch, Jonathan Gillis

Media

- **11th February: ABC Local Radio: Deborah Cameron's 'Mornings' Program (Bernadette Tobin with Hugh Macken)**
 - Should the political system better reward or acknowledge people who hold fast to principles rather than merely 'toeing party line'?
 - Is it ever ethical to purchase stolen information which is to be used to stop tax fraud?
 - At the moment, [family] court records are closed, and it is difficult to report any issues that arise in the media. But should these matters be just as open as are matters in a criminal case or in any other tribunal?
- **24th March: ABC Local Radio: Deborah Cameron's 'Mornings' Program (Bernadette Tobin with Bishop Forsyth)**
 - The community expects an immediate response on law enforcement issues: thus the police response to high speed car chases. But when it is known that so many of offenders are involved in serious car accidents, is it better to be risk averse or should the offender be tracked down at any cost?
 - At the weekend, a surf lifesaver died during a surf lifesaving tournament. What is the ethical responsibility of sports organisations where great risks to safety are involved? Where organisations think that the sport should come first, does the community need to have a mechanism for stopping them? Or is it a matter of personal responsibility?
- **6th April: ABC Local Radio: Deborah Cameron's 'Mornings' Program (Bernadette Tobin with Simon Longstaff)**
 - A Melbourne couple bought a suitcase (which had \$100,000 hidden in the lining) for a few dollars in a charity shop. They kept the money, but were subsequently tracked down with the help of an Eftpos receipt. Should there be a charge of theft by finding? Or is it a case of "finders keepers, losers weepers"?
 - The world's population is to reach 9 billion within a generation. Is it ethical for Australia to limit its immigration intake or its natural birth rate?
- **5th May: ABC Local Radio: Deborah Cameron's 'Mornings' Program (Bernadette Tobin with Hugh Macken)**
 - If resources belong to everyone, should the community have more of a share in the profits? Or does the owner of the lease own the minerals and the profits?
 - The disaster of the BP oil spill has been attributed to BP itself. President Obama has said that they alone should pay. But if the resource belongs to everyone, should not everyone pay?
 - Tobacco is legally grown and sold by companies with a license to operate. It is now taxed and regulated. Should the government profit from this extremely harmful trade? Should it subsidise nicotine replacement therapy?

- **20th May: WA State-wide Drive Program with Barry Nichols:**
 - Should priests be required to report admissions of paedophile offences to state authorities?
- **8th September ABC Local Radio: Deborah Cameron's 'Mornings' Program (Bernadette Tobin with Leslie Canold)**
 - Once the composition of the parties in the federal parliament is settled, does the opposition have a moral responsibility to make the parliament work?
 - Is it immoral for governments to collect tax for general revenue from vices (alcohol, gambling, tobacco)?
- **3rd November ABC Local Radio: Deborah Cameron's 'Mornings' Program (Bernadette Tobin with Simon Longstaff)**
 - New research shows that children as young as six months old are eating fat-laden takeaway food. When is it ethical to introduce junk food to your children?
 - A retired Supreme Court Judge has recommended that the government consider compensating women who lose their unborn child as a result of a criminal act. Should an unborn child be included in compensation for victims of crime?
 - Given the current debate about rising electricity prices, and about climate change, is it unethical for manufacturers to continue to make inefficient appliances?



Talking Ethics

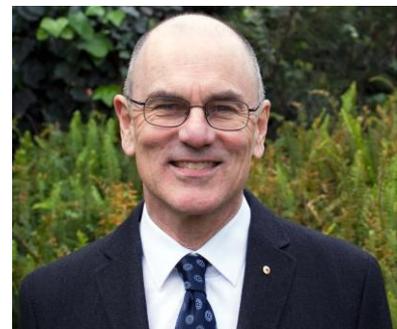
Left to right Anne Fallon, Manager Education Development and Training St Vincent's Private Hospital; A/Prof Julia Thompson, Practice Development Facilitator St Vincent's Private Hospital; Dr Bernadette Tobin, Director Plunkett Centre for Ethics, Adjunct Prof Jose Aguilera, Director of Nursing and Clinical Services St Vincent's Private Hospital.

Submissions to Public Inquiries

- To Clinical, Technical and Ethical Committee of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council: re A National Framework for Advance Care Directives Consultation Draft 2010 (on behalf of the Bioethics Committee of St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney (with Professor Jane Ingham)
- To Clinical, Technical and Ethical Committee of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council: re A National Framework for Advance Care Directives Consultation Draft 2010 (on behalf of the Plunkett Centre for Ethics)
- To National Health and Medical Research Council: re Proposed Changes to the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research 2007 (Chapter 3.6 (Human stem cells) and Chapter 4.1 (Women who are pregnant and the human foetus) (on behalf of the Bioethics Committee of St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney)
- To Standing Committee on Law and Justice, NSW Parliament: re *Adoption by Same Sex Couples* (on behalf of Plunkett Centre for Ethics)

Contributions to consultations within the Church

- To Bishops' Commission for Pastoral Life: re Draft *Guidance on Prenatal Testing*: main author: Gerald Gleeson.
- To Bishops' Commission for Pastoral Life: re Draft *Guidance on Prenatal Testing*: B.Tobin.



Professor Terry Campbell
Chair of Bioethics Committee
St Vincents & Mater Health, Sydney

Presentations

Gerald Gleeson

- Religion and Ethics, Graduate Certificate in Applied Ethics, Australian Catholic University, March.
- Catholic Teaching on Family Planning, , Natural Family Planning Teachers, Baulkham Hill, March.
- Human Research Ethics, Australian Catholic University, North Sydney, June.
- Health Care Ethics, University of Notre Dame Australia, Sydney, December.

Jonathan Gillis

- Fear, love and uncertainty: paediatric intensive care at the end of life, Inaugural International Advance Care Planning Conference, Melbourne, April
- Life and death decisions in paediatric intensive care, Medical Law Conference, Australian Lawyers Alliance, Sydney, July.

Bernadette Tobin

- Doing natural law after *Dignitatis Personae*, Annual Colloquium of Australian Catholic Bioethicists, Melbourne, January.
- Ethics, in particular in a 'faith-based' organization, Senior Management, Calvary Silver Circle, Moorabbin, February.
- Ethical issues in debates about organ procurement, the determination of death and the allocation of organs: Professional Development Program for Organ and Tissue Donation, NSW Health, Sydney, February.
- Ethical challenges in palliative care, Palliative Care Workshop, Sacred Heart Hospice, March.
- The Judeo-Christian Tradition and Advance Care Planning, Sacred Heart Hospice, April.
- It works in practice, but does it work in theory? Dignity therapy in palliative care, 19th Annual Symposium, Sydney Institute of Palliative Medicine, Sydney, June.
- Recent challenges in the delivery of health care in the United States: implications for Australia. Board of Directors, Little Company of Mary Health Care, Sydney, August.
- Panelist: Clinical ethics services: their role, operation and challenges, Clinical Ethics Services in NSW: Where to from here? NSW Health Forum, Sydney, August.
- Presenter: Ethics workshop for Genetic Counsellors, Children's Hospital at Westmead, August.

- Is the patient's voice truly under-heard? The role of family conferences in palliative care at the end of life, Sacred Heart Hospice, September.
- Ethical clarity about restraining patients and the provision of services in Catholic hospitals, Annual Meeting of Directors of Mission, Little Company of Mary Health Care Limited, Sydney, September.
- Advance Care Planning: the ethical challenges, Advance Care Planning Workshop for Healthcare Professionals, Sacred Heart Hospice, Sydney, September.

New biography of John Hubert Plunkett



Tony Earls signs a copy of his new biography of John Hubert Plunkett (*Plunkett's Legacy*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne, 2009) for Ms Denise Woodcock, Secretary of the Mission and Values Committee, St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney.

Appointments

Stephen Buckle

Referee for *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*

Referee for *History of Political Thought*

Referee for *Politics Philosophy & Economics*

Jonathan Gillis:

Member of World Federation of Paediatric Intensive & Critical Care Societies Task Force on Ethics

Director of NSW Organ and Tissue Donation Authority

Clinical Associate Professor, Centre for Values, Ethics and Law in Medicine, University of Sydney

Part time member of Certification Assessor Review Panel of ethical review processes for the National Health and Medical Research Council 2010-2011

Gerald Gleeson

Member of *Australian Health Ethics Committee*, a Principal Committee of the National Health and Medical Research Council

Chair of Working Party on End of Life Issues, *Australian Health Ethics Committee*

Member of Working Party on Xenotransplantation, *National Health and Medical Research Council*

Member of Bioethics Consultative Committee, St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney.

Bernadette Tobin

Referee for *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry*

Member of Advisory Board, Anatomy Bequest Program, UTS

Member of Advisory Board, DNA Data Bank, Children's Hospital at Westmead

Member of Bioethics Committee, St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney

Founder & Trustee of Mary Philippa Brazill Trust

Member of Council of Guild St. Luke

Member of Mission and Values Committee, St Vincent's Health Care Campus, Sydney

Member of Board of Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation

Chair of Nominations and Remuneration Committee (AERF)

Member of Audit Committee (AERF)

Member of Clinical Ethics Advisory Panel, New South Wales Department of Health

Member of Editorial Board of *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics*

Member of Board of Garvan Institute of Medical Research

Member of Royal Australasian College of Physicians' Conflict of Interest Working Group

Bioethics Outlook: Volume 20, 2010

No 1

International Association of Catholic Bioethics: Regenerative Medicine and stem cell research. This ‘consensus statement’ is addressed to Catholics and those working in Catholic health care and educational institutions as an aid to their reflections and decisions.

Bernadette Tobin: How are we best to care for, to respect and to protect the cognitively-impaired? Bernadette Tobin recommends a recent set of essays on incapacity and health care.

No 2

Anthony Fisher, op: Rethinking Principlism: Is bioethics an American plot? Anthony Fisher, Bishop of Parramatta, considers the ‘four principles’ school of bioethical thought which emanates from Georgetown University and offers his own account of these four ‘aspects’ of a richer and more useful bioethics.

No 3

Bernadette Tobin: It may be okay in practice, but will it work in theory? Dr Tobin uses the famous reply of the French diplomat to a proposed UN solution to the crisis in Algeria to show why she thinks the term ‘dignity therapy’, though ambiguous, is a good label for Harvey Chochinov’s strategies in palliative care.

Bioethics Committee: Considerations for guidelines regarding the performance of bariatric surgery. The Bioethics Committee of St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney, under the then chairmanship of Professor Don Chisholm, considered this relatively new method for addressing harmful obesity.

No 4

Gerald Gleeson: Why children should not study ethics. Dr Gleeson invites the NSW Government, when it evaluates its ‘ethics in school’ initiative, to consider Aristotle’s claim that ethics should not be studied by children.

Mette Lebeck: On the problem of human dignity. Professor Lebeck of the Department of Philosophy at the National University of Ireland at Maynooth explains how the concept of human dignity can plausibly be said to explain the fundamental value of a human being.

Bernadette Tobin: A view of medical priorities. Dr Tobin argues that a recognition of the ways in which we ‘need’ health care provide a good starting point for debates about resource allocation.

Financial Report for 2010

Carried forward		80,602
Income		
	St Vincents & Mater Health	144,704
	Australian Catholic Univ	144,704
	Laurdel Foundation	25,000
	Teaching	21,126
	Other Income	12,500
Total Income		448,720
Expenditure		
	<i>Salaries</i>	185,859
	<i>Non-Salary Items</i>	
	Rent	27,908
	Library	1,664
	Printing & photocopying	5,812
	Equipment	15,870
	Travel	3,784
	Other	7,156
Total Expenditure		248,014
<i>Carried Forward</i>		200,706

Plunkett Centre for Ethics
A joint centre of
Australian Catholic University and St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney
St Vincent's Hospital, Victoria Street,
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