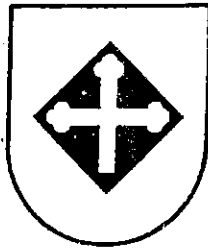


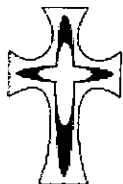
Plunkett Centre



Annual Report 2003



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY



St Vincents
& Mater Health
Sydney

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Plunkett Centre is to promote the values of compassion and fellowship, intellectual and professional excellence, and fairness and justice. Its primary focus is on the realisation of these values in the provision and the allocation of health care. The Centre expresses this commitment through research, teaching and community engagement, and by bringing a Catholic perspective to all its endeavours.

The objectives of the Centre are

- 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 practice, and the allocation of healthcare resources;
- to offer courses in philosophical ethics and in the ethics of health care provision, medical research and health care resource allocation; and
- to engage and where appropriate to collaborate with local, national and international bodies as they seek to respond to their intellectual and ethical needs.

The Centre realises these objectives by

- conducting and promoting research;
- providing research training and supervision;
- developing and teaching courses;
- conducting ethical reviews of professional practice;
- offering an ethics consultation service; and
- participating in public discussion.

Management Committee

From the University:

Professor John Coll, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and International), Chairman
Dr John Ozolins, Head, School of Philosophy

From the Hospital:

Ms. Mary Foley, Chief Executive Officer, St. Vincents & Mater Health
Mr. Mark Hales, Director of Mission, St. Vincents & Mater Health

From the Centre:

Associate Professor Bernadette Tobin, Director

In attendance:

Mrs Linda Purves, Administrative Officer (Minutes Secretary)



Ms. Mary Foley, Chief Executive Officer, St. Vincents & Mater Health,
Member of the Plunkett Centre Management Committee

From the Chair of the Management Committee



The Plunkett Centre for Ethics, a co-operative Centre of Australian Catholic University and St Vincents and Mater Health, provides leadership in the field of bioethics and in other areas of ethical significance to its sponsoring partners. In keeping with its Mission, the Centre has continued to provide training and advice to the medical community on ethical issues as they impact on practice.

In the past year, staff of the Centre have published articles and discussion papers in the areas of Ethics, Theology and Philosophy, especially those of relevance to medical and health care practitioners and managers. They have also continued their postgraduate teaching and research supervision, and once again enjoyed a fruitful collaboration with Professor Warren Reich of Georgetown University, the editor of the *Encyclopaedia of Bioethics*.

Staff of the Centre have provided a consultation service to individuals in both public and private hospitals and have made submissions to government on major bioethical issues including organ and tissue donation and on cloning and related technologies. In 2003 *Bioethics Outlook* again appeared quarterly, an Intensive Bioethics Course was held for teachers of the Board of Studies' Studies in Religion course, and contributions were made to the teaching of the University's Master of Arts in Applied Ethics.

The Director and other members of the Centre are to be congratulated on their contributions to national debates about the provision of health care, and for their contributions to the development of policy by governments and by Catholic health care organisations. The Director's work on the Australian Health Ethics Committee over the last three triennia is worthy of special note.

On behalf of the new streamlined Management Committee, I commend this report to all interested in the continuing activities of the Plunkett Centre.

John C Coll

Staffing

Director

Bernadette Tobin MA Med (Melb), PhD (Cantab)
Associate Professor and Reader in Philosophy, School
of Philosophy, Australian Catholic University

Academic Staff

Gerald Gleeson STB (CIS) MA (Cantab) PhD (Leuven)
Professor of Philosophy, Catholic Institute of Sydney

Stephen Buckle MA Hons (MaqU), PhD (ANU)
Senior Lecturer in Philosophy, School of Philosophy,
Australian Catholic University

Visitor

Warren Reich BA (St. Joseph's College, Alabama), STB
(Catholic University of America), STL (Catholic University of
America), STD (Gregorian University, Rome) Distinguished
Professor of Religion and Ethics, Professor Emeritus of
Bioethics, Georgetown University.

Research Students

Helen McCabe RN BHA (UNSW) MA (ACU)

Kristine Morrison RN CM BHSc (UWS) PostDip
Nursing (UTS) PostDip Christian Studies (ACT)

Mary Self MBBS Hons (Qld) MA (ACU) FRACS

Administrative Staff

Linda Purves JP

From the Director



It is a pleasure once again to present an *Annual Report* of the activities of the Plunkett Centre over the last year. They are set out in the following pages.

Of course, an *Annual Report* can do little more than list these activities in traditional academic categories. What it cannot do is convey a sense of the depth and reach of those activities, of (for example) Helen McCabe's research on the ethical implications of the introduction of managed care concepts into the Australian health care system, of Mary Self's investigations into the ethical issues which arise in contemporary surgical practice, and of Kristine Morrison's consideration of the debate between science-based and care-based accounts of the practice of nursing.

Nor does an *Annual Report* even mention such core activities as our Monday Philosophy Seminar, conducted by Dr Stephen Buckle. In 2003, we read Kant's *Metaphysics of Morals* (a work less well known than his *Groundwork*), Nietzsche's *Birth of Tragedy* and *Beyond Good and Evil*, and Christopher Cordner's *Ethical Encounters: the Depth of Moral Meaning*. It is via their participation in this seminar that we keep in touch with some of our graduates (in particular Dr Garry Nieukamp, who is in charge of Emergency Medicine at Gosford Hospital and Dr Megan Best who is a Palliative Medicine physician and member of the National Health and Medical Council's Embryo Licensing Committee).

And, were it not for this mention, no one would get to hear of our regular Tuesday Morning Tea at which we celebrate birthdays, publications and seminars, catch up with each other, meet visiting scholars, review the weekend's sporting contests ... and enjoy Linda's homemade muffins!

Bernadette Tobin



Dr. Stephen Buckle, Senior Lecturer, School of Philosophy,
Australian Catholic University.

Financial Report for 2003

Income

Carried Forward (Res Grant Internal)		22,379
Australian Catholic University		125,000
St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney		125,000
Consultancies		12,844
Membership Subscriptions		5,504
Seminars		1,925
Other		2,000

Total Income		294,652
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Expenditure

Salaries	193,391	193,391
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Rent	25,000	25,000
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Running Costs

Computer Maintenance	4,577	
Computer Software	906	
Other	3,800	
Total		9,283

General Costs

Conference Expenses	NIL	
Stationery & Furniture	2,504	
Memberships	829	
Other	5,024	
Total		8,357

Other

Travel	861	
Strategic Research	22,170	
Internet Access	4,852	
Books	1,357	
Journals	13,243	
Photocopier Lease	2,970	
Printing	3,480	
Total		48,933

Capital Expenditure

Computer	5,096	5,096
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Total Expenditure		290,060
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Carried Forward		4,592
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Clinical Ethics Program

- * Malnourishment in an extremely disabled child (New Children's Hospital Westmead)
- * Palliative care in the home in the midst of difficult family circumstances (Sacred Heart Hospice)
- * 'To sleep, perchance to eat': teenage refusal of food (Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick)
- * Lung transplantation in a 16 year old (Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick)
- * A double tragedy: brain injury and a rare genetic disorder (New Children's Hospital, Westmead)
- * A boy or a girl? Consent for genital surgery in adolescence (Sydney Children's Hospital at Randwick)
- * Withholding and withdrawing treatment in patients with a poor prognosis (Social Work Department, St. Vincent's Hospital)

Publications

Book Chapters

Reich Warren T, "Shaping and Mirroring the Field: The Encyclopaedia of Bioethics," in Jennifer K. Walter and Eran P. Klein, eds., *The Story of Bioethics: From Seminal Work to Contemporary Explorations*, Washington DC, Georgetown University Press, 2003, 165-196.

Tobin B, "Why we should have maintained a prohibition on destructive research on human embryos", in *God Down Under*, Theological Conversations in the Antipodean, edited by Winifred Wing Han Lam and Ian Barnes, ATF Press, 2003, 207-215.

Peer Reviewed Publications

Gleeson G, "Conscience and Conversion", *Australian E Journal of Theology*, (2003) 1

"Why it's wrong to experiment on human embryos", *Social Alternatives* (Summer, 2003) 22 (1) 33-38

Tobin B, "HIV in pregnancy: interests of the mother and the baby", *Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health*, (January/February 2003) 39 (1) 60-66 (with D. Isaacs, R. Garcia, B. Peat, RS Magnusson)

"Reasoning about Embryos, Cloning and Stem Cells: a response to Malcolm Parker, *Monash Bioethics Review*, (January, 2003) 22 (1) 8-21

"Is there a distinctively surgical ethic?" in Ian Kerridge, Christopher Jordens, Emma-Jane Sayers, eds: *Restoring humane values to medicine*, Desert Pea Press, (2003) 18-20

Other Publications

Reich Warren T, "Providing Public Care: The Role of Sympathetic Concern", *Bioethics Outlook*, (September, 2003) 14 (3) 1-12

Gleeson G, "New Ethical Guidelines for Reproductive Technology", *Bioethics Outlook*, (March, 2003) 14 (1) 1-4

"The withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment: ethics and law: principles and practice", *Bioethics Outlook*, (June 2003) 14 (2) 1-7

Tobin B, "The Embryo Stem Cell Debate", *Catholic Medical Quarterly* (with Gerald Gleeson), *Catholic Medical Quarterly*, (2003) LIV (2) 8-11

"Should sex selection using unsubsidized IVF technology be available to fertile couples?" *Australian Doctor*, (11 July, 2003) 26-28

"Advancing the field of clinical ethics: particularly and practicality; *Bioethics Outlook*, (March, 2003) 14 (1) 9-11

Book Reviews

Buckle S, "Philosophical assumptions in the euthanasia debate: A review of *The Right to Die?* by Miriam Cosic, Sydney, New Holland, *Bioethics Outlook*, (June, 2003) 14 (2) 8-12

"Philosophical issues in the new genetics", a review of Gordon Graham, *Genes: A Philosophical Inquiry*, London, Routledge, *Bioethics Outlook*, (December, 2003) 14 (4) 8-11

Gleeson G, "A Call to Fidelity. *On the Moral Theology of Charles Curran*. Edited by James J. Walter, Timothy E. O'Connell & Thomas A. Shannon. Washington DC: Georgetown University Press, (2002) in *Theological Studies*, (December, 2003), 866-868



Mrs. Linda Purves,
Administrative Officer of the Centre.

Consultancies

Number of consultations undertaken by staff of the Centre: 17

From within St. Vincents & Mater Health	9
Other	8

Range of requestees:

Medical practitioners	9
Nursing practitioners	1
Health care administrators	1
Legal practitioners	1
Bioethicists	1
Scientists	1
Other	3

Selection of issues:

- End of life decision-making
- Relationships between pharmaceutical companies and psychiatrists
- Tubal ligation
- Sedation to induce lack of awareness
- Transplantation for a Jehovah's Witness
- Research on stem cells
- Instituting ventilatory support
- Care of youth with muscular dystrophy
- Competence in mentally disturbed patients
- Health care for asylum seekers
- Nuchal translucency screening
- Harm minimization
- Ethics of genetic testing
- Privacy and clinical records

Submissions

To Australian Health Ethics Committee: re Review of Guidelines on Assisted Reproductive Technology.

Presentations

Gerald Gleeson

“Ministry to teachers” *Diocese of Broken Bay*.

“What does God ask of us? From ethics to spirituality”, *Halifax-Portal Lecture*, Sydney.

“The withdrawal of life sustaining treatment”, *Catholic Moral Theology Association of Australia and New Zealand*, Sydney.

Kristine Morrison

“An ethic of virtue in nursing”, *Australasian Bioethics Association Conference*, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Bernadette Tobin

“Regulatory frameworks for clinical practice and research in Assisted Reproductive Technology”, *Ethics in Human Research Conference*, NHMRC, Canberra.

“The significance of individuality: a Catholic Christian perspective”, *Halifax-Portall Lecture*, Sydney.

“Engineering human life”, *Spirituality in the Pub*, Sydney.

“Ethical issues in clinical research”, *Postgraduate Student Conference*, Paediatrics and Child Health, University of Sydney.

“Bioethics for the third millenium”, Keynote Address: *Australian and New Zealand Children’s Cancer Study Group Annual Scientific Meeting*, Sydney.

“Ethical principles to guide good decision-making at the end of life”, *Palliative Care Ethics*, Sacred Heart Hospice Palliative Care Service.

“Palliative care in General Practice”, *Continuing Medical Education*, Sydney.

“Catholic perspectives on individuality: *Catholic and Anglican Bishops of New South Wales’ Annual Meeting*, Sydney.

Teaching

Stephen Buckle

Supervisor, PhD. Thesis, Surgical practice in a changing health system: resolving the ethical questions (with Bernadette Tobin)

Lecturer, Graduate Certificate in Applied Ethics (Health Care), Master of Arts in Applied Ethics (Health Care)

Lecturer in Philosophy, Bachelor of Arts, Australian Catholic University

Presenter, Philosophy Seminar for postgraduate students, Plunkett Centre for Ethics, St. Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

Gerald Gleeson

Presenter, *Intensive Bioethics Course*, Sydney

Bernadette Tobin

Lecturer, Master of Arts in Applied Ethics (Health Care)

Presenter, Clinical ethics for medical students (fourth and sixth years) St. Vincent's Hospital

Presenter, Clinical ethics for health care practitioners (Social Work, Palliative Care, Mental Health) St. Vincent's Hospital

Presenter, *Intensive Bioethics Course*, Sydney

Supervisor, PhD. Thesis, *Managed Care in Australia: A philosophical inquiry into the ethical issues* (with John Quilter)

Supervisor, PhD. Thesis, *Surgical practice in a changing health system: resolving the ethical questions* (with Stephen Buckle)

Supervisor, MPhil. Thesis, *Professionalism v Caring: toward a coherent ethic of nursing for Australia* (with Peter Coghlan)

Co-Supervisor, PhD. Thesis, *On the distinction between killing and letting die from a medical perspective*, University of Melbourne

Other Appointments

Stephen Buckle

Editorial Board, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*
Member, Australasian Association of Philosophy
Member, British Society for the History of Philosophy

Gerald Gleeson

Bioethics Consultative Committee, St. Vincents Hospital, Sydney
National Board, Sisters of Charity Health Service
Garvan Institute of Medical Research (Director)

Bernadette Tobin

Committee to Revise Ethical Guidelines on Assisted Reproductive Technology
(NHMRC) (Co-Chair)
Bioethics Consultative Committee, St. Vincents Health Care Campus, Sydney
Mary Philippa Brazill Trust (Founder & Trustee)
Guild of St. Luke (Member of Council)
Regional Mission and Values Committee, St. Vincents Health Care Campus, Sydney
Australians Donate (Member of Council)
Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation (Director)
Ministerial Advisory Council on Biotechnology (NSW)
Bioethics Panel of Ministerial Advisory Council on Biotechnology
NHMRC Working Party on Persistent Vegetative States
NHMRC Working Party on Xenotransplantation
Editorial Board, *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics*



Dr. Gary Nieukamp

Plunkett Centre Seminar Attendee