



Plunkett Centre

Annual Report 2011

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

From the chair

A key activity in regard to the Plunkett Centre in 2011 was a formal review of the Centre. In 2010, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Greg Craven, had instituted a review of the Plunkett Centre for Ethics as part of ACU's normal regime of organizational reviews. Because of unexpected delays, the review was delayed until Semester 2, 2011. Coincidentally, the Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Health Australia, Mr Martin Laverty, wrote to Professor Craven in April 2010 and, as one of a number of issues raised for the Vice-Chancellor's consideration, urged Professor Craven to consider the establishment of a national centre for Catholic ethics. Mr Laverty proposed a national centre like that which exists in the United States of America and which would provide a more strategic approach and better coordination in matters of public policy concerning ethical matters than is currently possible for either the locally based bioethics centres or for the National Bioethics Forum which CHA initiated in recent years.



The terms of reference for the review of the Plunkett Centre for Ethics were therefore formulated to include not only an evaluation of the Centre's research productivity, contribution to public enquiries and debate concerning ethical issues, knowledge transfer by way of teaching and research training, and contribution to St Vincents and Mater Health Sydney (which, in a partnership, with Australian Catholic University co-funds the Centre) and the wider Catholic health care sector, but also the investigation of the question of Australian Catholic University establishing a national centre for ethics and making recommendations to the Vice-Chancellor in this regard.

The Committee reviewed the Plunkett Centre's activities, submissions, finances, publications, grant income and Higher Degree Research completions. The Committee acknowledged that, in the twenty years of its existence, Australian Catholic University has grown considerably and that its goals and agenda in regard to its profile in the higher education sector in Australia, and in research in particular, have also evolved considerably. It commended the work of the Plunkett Centre and acknowledged in particular the value of the consultancy service provided by the Centre to the local Catholic health sector. Clinical support has clearly been strong, and is highly valued by St Vincents and Mater Health Sydney and health care providers in the region. The Committee also recognised the importance of the question of a national centre for ethics which had been raised in advance of the review by Catholic Health Australia. The Review report was completed in mid-December 2011 and submitted to the Vice-Chancellor for his consideration before Christmas. We look forward to his decisions in regard to the recommendations in the Report.

As Executive Dean of the Faculty, I wish to thank the Director, Associate Professor and Reader Bernadette Tobin for her input and advice to the Review and for her dedication to and leadership of the Plunkett Centre for Ethics. I join her in welcoming Dr Steve Matthews to the Centre. We look forward to increasing the number of honorary associates of the Centre and furthering its mission.

Professor Anne Hunt OAM
Executive Dean, Faculty of Theology and Philosophy
1 March 2012

Academic Staff

Steve Matthews BA (Hons) (Monash), PhD (Monash)
Senior Research Fellow, Senior Lecturer in Philosophy,
Australian Catholic University, full time



Bernadette Tobin MA MEd (Melb), PhD (Cantab)
Associate Professor and Reader in Philosophy,
Australian Catholic University
Director, full time



Honorary Staff

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



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



Administrative Assistant

Kathleen Bradburn



Management Committee

Professor Anne Hunt, Dean, Faculty of Theology and Philosophy
Mr Steven Rubic, Chief Executive Officer, St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney
Mr Mark Hales, Director of Mission/Corporate Relations, St Vincents & Mater Health
Dr Richard Colledge, Head, School of Philosophy, Faculty of Theology and Philosophy
Dr Bernadette Tobin, Director

From the director

The Plunkett Centre aims to make a contribution to medical ethics, and more widely to the ethical evaluation of the provision of health care, in Australia. In so doing, the Centre draws on both the traditional idea that the practice of medicine itself contains the source of our judgments of good and bad, right and wrong, with respect to medicine, and the contemporary idea that the practice of medicine is subject to *prima facie* obligations found in ordinary or common morality which we all acknowledge. In addition it draws on the great ethical truths found in the Judeo-Christian tradition, in particular the exhortation that we strive to be 'Good Samaritans'.



In 2011 we were joined by Dr Steve Matthews who came to us from the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics at Charles Sturt University and the Department of Philosophy Macquarie University. Steve specializes in applied ethics and also works on philosophical problems concerning personal identity. He is interested in Metaphysics and Epistemology, the Philosophy of Mind, Meta-Ethics, Moral Psychology, and Informal Logic. He is currently working on a project which aims to clarify and evaluate the scientific claims about the moral impacts of addiction on the judgment and practices of drug addicted persons. Apart from greatly augmenting our own philosophical prowess, Steve's research develops our capacity to make a contribution to the understanding of the philosophical issues raised by mental illness.

In 2011, under the stimulating leadership of our colleague, the historian of philosophy Dr Stephen Buckle of Australian Catholic University, we systematically studied the most recent work of Ronald Dworkin entitled *Justice for Hedgehogs*. The book expounds the idea that what truth is, life means, morality and justice demands are different aspect of the same large question. Since Dworkin's ideas both inform and reflect contemporary secular thought about issues with which we engage here at the Centre (issues such as moral scepticism, utilitarianism, free will, personal autonomy, what we owe to other members of the human community, equity of access to social services, et al), it was a most useful (as well as enjoyable) study for current as well as past students of the Centre.

Finally, we now await the results of a review of the Centre. The Centre is supported by a Memorandum of Understanding between Australian Catholic University and St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney. Since the current Memorandum is due to expire at the end of 2012, a review of the Centre has been initiated. The review panel comprises representatives of both sponsoring institutions as well as external members and will deliver its recommendations to both the Vice Chancellor of Australian Catholic University and the Director of St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney.

Bernadette Tobin
18 February 2012

Research Projects

Addiction, moral identity and moral agency: Integrating theoretical and empirical approaches: Steve Matthews

By clarifying and evaluating scientific claims about the moral impacts of addiction on the judgment and practices of drug addicted persons and by investigating the perspectives of users and treatment professionals, this project contributes to the development of ethical and effective public policy, treatment and education programs in the addictions area, thus helping to address the causes and reduce the impact of biological, social and environmental factors which diminish life potential in drug addicted persons. The project will enhance Australia's international reputation in bioethics and moral psychology, extend the reach of experimental philosophy (with Professor Jeanette Kennett (Macquarie University) and Associate Professor Craig Fry (University of Melbourne)).

Competence and disease: a unified philosophical theory: Steve Matthews

When are persons competent to make judgements about their own medical treatment? In treating anorexia nervosa, or substance dependence, doctors' current assessments of incompetence are tied to whether the patient has the potential to harm themselves or others. Yet judgements of incompetence in this area are highly vexed because they amount to the pathologization of intense and apparently irrational desires, for thinness and for addictive drugs. Treatment professionals are divided over what to do in these cases. The aim is to provide a unified theory of competence and disease to resolve this impasse, and to make policy recommendations in relation to criteria of competence (Professor Jeanette Kennett (Macquarie University) and Dr Jillian Craigie (University College London)).

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 human wellbeing? The two kinds of principles ('faith-based' and 'reason-based') which make up the Catholic Christian tradition are distinguished. A dominant school of thought in contemporary bioethics is 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 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.

Internalism and externalism in contemporary bioethics: Bernadette Tobin

Contemporary bioethics is informed by the idea that the source of judgment about good and bad, right and wrong, professional and unprofessional conduct, in the practice of medicine lies outside medicine: the source is to be found in the *prima facie* obligations of common morality itself. Four such obligations are generally enumerated: respect for autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence and justice. This 'externalist' view contrasts with an older, 'internalist', view according to which the practice of medicine itself, in particular its goals or ends or purposes, is the source of these judgments. This debate is revisited with a view to analyzing and clarifying the idea that life-prolonging treatment may be futile and/or overly-burdensome in the context of current debates about advance care planning.

Research Supervision

Organ and Tissue Donation: Ethical issues in allocation of organs and in the care of the bereaved families were studied. The experience overseas, in particular that of Canada and the United States and its implications for arrangements in Australia, was examined. Recommendations for Australian practice were advanced. Independent Learning Project of Mr Lap-Pui Cheng, Clinical School, St Vincent's Hospital, Faculty of Medicine, University of New South Wales (Bernadette Tobin with Dr Jonathan Gillis).

A defence of the so-called 'dead donor rule': It has recently been argued that the 'dead donor rule', the requirement that donors be determined to be dead before vital organs are procured for transplantation, cannot withstand ethical scrutiny. It is said that the rule is inconsistent with existing life-saving practices of organ transplantation, that it lacks a cogent ethical rationale, and that it is not necessary for the maintenance of public trust in organ transplantation. This research focussed on the second of these claims. The claim was shown to be an expression of the contemporary rejection of the moral significance of the traditional distinction between killing and allowing to die. The moral significance of this traditional distinction, and the associated norm that doctors should not kill their patients, was defended, and this critique of it shown to be unsuccessful. Honours Project, Dr Samuel Birch, Clinical School, St Vincent's Hospital, Faculty of Medicine, University of Notre Dame Australia (Bernadette Tobin with Dr Jonathan Gillis).

Teaching

Phil 508 Impacts of Legal & Regulatory Frameworks: Graduate Certificate in Applied Ethics (Bernadette Tobin with Dr John Quilter).

Phil 509 Competing Interests, Choice and Conflict: Graduate Certificate in Applied Ethics (Bernadette Tobin).

Phil 506 Ethics in a Faith-Based Context: Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Catholic Culture (Bernadette Tobin).



Steven Rubic and Bernadette Tobin congratulate three of the graduates of ACU's
Graduate Certificate in Applied Ethics
L to R: Joan Washer, Annabel Horne and Ana Pieretti

Clinical Ethics

Social Work Department, St Vincent's Public

Medically but not socially ready for discharge? The role of the Social Worker (with Jillian Hathway).

Conceptions of value: the distinction between intrinsic and extrinsic value as found in the revised *Code of Ethics of the Australian Association of Social Workers* (with Kevin Gooley).

'Cultural competence' in the *Code of Ethics of the Australian Association of Social Workers* (with Marie Heydon).

Obligations imposed by 'respect for persons' (with Kevin Gooley).

Nursing Education, St Vincent's Private

Providing good palliative care in challenging circumstances (with Julia Thompson).

Senior Leadership Team, St Vincents & Mater Health, Sydney

Decision-making in health care; human sexuality, procreation and the beginning of life.

Respect for bodily integrity in health care, older persons and others with special needs.

End of life, withholding and withdrawing treatment: grounds for the decision, the decision making process.

Children's Hospital at Westmead

Bad, mad, sad: the moral brain and development (with Dr Kenneth Nunn, Department of Psychological Medicine).

When parents disagree about immunisation (with Dr Nick Wood, Department of Infectious Diseases).

Publications

Chapters in books

Tobin, B. 'Contemporary Moral Philosophy and Happiness', in *Truth and Faith in Ethics*, edited by Hayden Ramsey, St Andrews Studies in Philosophy and Public Affairs, Imprint Academic, 2011: 71-84.

Peer-reviewed articles

Gillis, J. and **Tobin, B.** How certain are you, doctor? *Pediatr Crit Care Med* 2011, Vol 12, No 1. pp 71-72.

Matthews, S. "Attacking Authority," *Australian Journal of Professional and Applied Ethics*, in press.

Matthews, S and Kennett, J. "Truth, Lies and the Narrative Self," *American Philosophical Quarterly*, in press.

Matthews, S. "Flow and Sailing," Patrick Goad (ed). *Sailing and Philosophy*. Wiley-Blackwell, in press.

Matthews, S. "Internet Ethics," *International Encyclopedia of Ethics*. Hugh LaFollette (ed). Wiley-Blackwell, in press.

Isaacs, D. **Tobin, B.** Hamblin, J. Slaytor, E. Donaghue, K. Munns, C. Kilham, HA.. Managing ethically questionable parental requests: Growth suppression and manipulation of puberty. *J Paed Child Health* 2011; 47: 9, September 2011: 581-4.

Tobin, B. That's right, isn't it? Old and new ethical issues in paediatric care, *J Paed Child Health* 2011; 47: 9, September 2011: 579-580.

Letters

Tobin, B. Ingham, J. Lobb, E. Roper, E. Is the patient's voice under- heard in family conferences in palliative care? *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*, Vol 41, No 2, Feb 2011: e3 – e6.

Gillis, J. and **Tobin, B.** Letter in reply. *Pediatr Crit Care Med* 2011, Vol 12, No 5, p 608.

Other articles

Tobin, B. 'It may be okay in practice but will it work in theory? Dignity therapy in palliative care. *New South Wales Society of Palliative Medicine Autumn Newsletter*, Vol 7, No 1, 2011, 5-11.

Tobin, B. Catholic hospitals: public monies, whose ethics? *Health Matters*, Issue 58, Winter 2011, 31-33.

Tobin, B. Umbilical cord blood banks and the therapeutic potential of stem cells. *Health Matters*, Issue 60, Summer 2011, 16-17.

Consultancies

A selection of ethical issues addressed:

- ◆ Prenatal testing: its goals and procedures
- ◆ Is pain relief to be understood as a human right?
- ◆ Donation after circulatory death
- ◆ Ethically relevant considerations in the allocation of organs for transplantation
- ◆ A family who 'wants everything done'
- ◆ Ethical investment screens
- ◆ Care of a young man whose responsiveness is uncertain
- ◆ Institutional cooperation
- ◆ Ethical issues in care of the bereaved
- ◆ Involuntary treatment of people with substance abuse problems
- ◆ Nutrition and hydration
- ◆ Ethical issues associated with blood born infections
- ◆ Reliance of medical faculties on students from overseas
- ◆ Advance care planning

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
2011	15	18	33

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
2011	9	11	3	1	9	33

2011 Annual Plunkett Lecture

In 2011 the Annual Plunkett Lecture was given by Dr Paul Biegler, winner of Australian Catholic University's Eureka Prize for Research in Ethics. Dr Biegler addressed the subject: *The ethical treatment of depression: shortcomings in contemporary practice.*



L to R Dr Paul Biegler, Dr Bernadette Tobin, Mr Steven Rubic

Media

11 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 the 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?

24 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 offenders are involved in serious car accidents, is it better to be risk averse or should the offender be tracked down at any cost?
- ◆ 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?

6 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?

5 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?

20 May: WA State-wide Drive Program with Barry Nichols:

- ◆ Should priests be required to report admissions of paedophile offences to state authorities?

8 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)?

3 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?



Dr Bernadette Tobin, Trustee of the Mary Philippa Brazill Foundation, presents an award from the Mary Philippa Brazill Foundation to Dr Sandra Lynch of the Centre for Faith, Ethics and Society, University of Notre Dame Australia

Submissions to Public Inquiries

- ◆ To Legislation Review Committee reviewing *Prohibition of Human Cloning for Reproduction Act 2002* and *Research Involving Human Embryos Act 2002* (prepared by Bernadette Tobin on behalf of Bioethics Committee, St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney), March
- ◆ To NHMRC re National Statement 4 (prepared by Bernadette Tobin on behalf of Bioethics Committee, St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney), March
- ◆ To NHMRC re National Statement S 3.4 and 36 (prepared by Bernadette Tobin on behalf of Bioethics Committee, St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney), March
- ◆ To Victorian Law Reform Commission re Guardianship Consultation Paper prepared by Bernadette Tobin on behalf of Plunkett Centre), May
- ◆ To NSW Ministry of Health re Advance Care Planning (prepared by Bernadette Tobin on behalf of Bioethics Committee, St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney), September
- ◆ To NSW Legislative Assembly on Inclusion of donor details on register of births (prepared by Bernadette Tobin on behalf of Plunkett Centre), December
- ◆ To Submission to Australian Health Ethics Committee re proposed revisions to National Statement (prepared by Bernadette Tobin on behalf of Bioethics Committee, St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney), December

Contributions to consultations within the Church

- To Catholic Health Australia re Guide for Governance of Catholic health care institutions (prepared by Bernadette Tobin on behalf of Plunkett Centre), April



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

Presentations

Jonathan Gillis

- ◆ 'Community perspectives on where and how we die', Home Hospice Conference, Sydney, March.
- ◆ 'End of life care: where is the best place?', 6th World Conference on Pediatric Critical Care, Sydney, March.
- ◆ 'Organ donation – how do we improve our donation rates?' 6th World Conference on Pediatric Critical Care, Sydney, March.
- ◆ 'Doing clinical ethics', 6th World Conference on Pediatric Critical Care, Sydney, March.
- ◆ 'Journeys – palliative care for children and teenagers', Palliative Care Australia, Parliament House, Canberra, August.
- ◆ 'Expensive care – Is our 'trade' affordable by and useful to the community', 36th Australian and New Zealand Annual Scientific Meeting on Intensive Care, Melbourne, October.

Steve Matthews

- ◆ Truth, Lies and the Narrative Self, Charles Sturt University School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Philosophy group seminar, October.
- ◆ Truth, Lies and the Narrative Self, ACU School of Philosophy, November.

Bernadette Tobin

- ◆ An introduction to bioethics, 1st Year Students, Faculty of Medicine, University of Notre Dame Australia, Darlinghurst Campus, February.
- ◆ Ethical issues towards the end of life. Workshop on *Presence, stories and ethics at the end of life*. Catholic Healthcare Limited, Strathfield, February.
- ◆ Catholic hospitals, public money: whose ethics? Third Annual Seminar on Ethics and Religion, Clinical Unit in Ethics and Health Law, University of Newcastle, March.
- ◆ Ethical issues in palliative care at the end of life, Palliative Care Perspectives: a workshop for health professionals, Sacred Heart Palliative Care & Rehabilitation Services, Sydney, March.
- ◆ Faith and scepticism, Spirituality in the Pub, Paddington (with Bob Carr), March.

- ◆ Reasoning about abortion: competing conceptions of the ethical issues, Life Week, University of New South Wales, May.
- ◆ The case against legalizing euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide, Annual Conference, Country Women's Association of New South Wales, May.
- ◆ Ethical issues in organ donation and transplantation, Organ and Tissue Transplant Recipient Co-Ordinators Advanced Course, Adelaide, May.
- ◆ Ethical issues in the treatment and care of patients with advanced symptoms, Sacred Heart Palliative Care and Rehabilitation Services, Sydney, May.
- ◆ Should opioids be given to Tahir? Grand Rounds Ethics Forum, 8th Annual Paediatric Palliative Care Symposium, The Children's Hospital at Westmead (with Robert Truog and Sharon Ryan), May.
- ◆ Palliative Sedation: re clinical realities and public debates in Australia, Palliative Sedation: Moral Distinctions and Practical Considerations, International Association of Catholic Bioethicists, Philadelphia, USA, July.
- ◆ 'We put animals out of their misery. Why not human beings?' A Sense for Humanity: the ethical thought of Raimond Gaita, Flinders University, Adelaide, August.
- ◆ Ethical challenges in advance care planning, Sacred Heart Hospice, Sydney, September.
- ◆ Early Diagnosis – a good move? National Dementia Week Forum, Sydney, September.
- ◆ Euthanasia: the ethical issues, ACU Public Seminar, Parliament House, Sydney, October.
- ◆ Ethical issues in palliative care, Sacred Heart Hospice, Sydney, October.
- ◆ Everyday ethical challenges, St Vincent's Private Hospital, Sydney (with Julia Thompson), October.
- ◆ End of life issues, Aged Care Association of Australia Annual Conference, Brisbane, November.
- ◆ Religious perspectives on living a good life: some Greek and Christian contributions. Ethics in a multi-faith society: Muslims and Christians in Dialogue, Australian Catholic University, Melbourne, November.

Appointments

Jonathan Gillis

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

Director, Commonwealth Organ and Tissue Donation Authority

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

Member, Certification Assessor Review Panel of ethical review processes for the National Health and Medical Research Council 2010-2011

Member and Deputy Convenor, NSW Child Death Review Team

Steve Matthews

Member, Ethics Committee, Institute of Psychiatry

Referee, *Acta Analytica*

Referee, *Ethics and Information Technology*

Referee, *Australian Journal of Professional and Applied Philosophy*

Reader, Australian Research Council

Assessor, ERA

PhD Examiner, University of Melbourne

Bernadette Tobin

Referee for *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry*, *Medical Journal of Australia*

Reader, Australian Research Council

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 Committee, St Vincent's Health Care Campus, Sydney

Director, Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education

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

Member of Editorial Board of *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics*

Director, Garvan Institute of Medical Research

Member, Sydney Archdiocesan Catholic Schools Board

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

Director, Scalabrinian Villages

Member, Blood Borne Virus Advisory Panel, New South Wales Ministry of Health

Member, Mission, Advocacy and Ethics Sub-Committee, St Vincents Health Australia

Judge, Eureka Prize for Research in Ethics

PhD Examiner, John Paul 11 Institute

Bioethics Outlook: Volume 22, 2011

No 1

Jonathan Gillis and Bernadette Tobin. How Certain are you, doctor?

Simon Longstaff. “Why Children should not study ethics”. Dr Longstaff replies to Gerald Gleeson.

No 2

International Association of Catholic Bioethicists. A Statement on caring for, and giving hope to, persons with progressive cognitive impairment.

Gerald Gleeson. “Why Children should not study ethics”: a further response.

No 3

Alex Miller: The Last Sister of Charity.

Simon Longstaff: “Why Children should not study ethics” A further response.

Eric D’Arcy: Health Care is not an industry.

No 4

Paul Biegler: Autonomy and Ethical Treatment in Depression.



Belinda Clarke, Director of Mission, Calvary Health Care, Tasmania, receives an award from the Mary Philippa Brazill Foundation.

Financial Report for 2011

Carried Forward			200,702
Income			
	St Vincents & Mater Health	151,939	
	Australian Catholic Univ	151,939	
	Teaching	24,506	
	Other Income	34,441	
Total Income			563,527
Expenditure			
	Salaries	249,721	
	Non-Salary Items		
	Rent	30,654	
	Library	1,809	
	Printing and photocopying	2,448	
	Equipment	17,324	
	Travel	8,881	
	Other	12,820	
Total Expenditure			323,657
Carried Forward			239,870

Plunkett Centre for Ethics
A joint centre of
Australian Catholic University and St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney

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