

Plunkett Centre for Ethics in Health Care



Annual Report 1997

Plunkett Centre for Ethics in Health Care



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

St Vincent's Health Care Campus,
Sydney

'It is a fact, basic to human life, that we are consoled by knowledge that others suffer as we do and must die as we must. That might seem like consolation achieved for unworthy reasons, but really it does not express an inadequate concern for others. It is an expression of the fact that we are creatures who seek to make sense of our lives. The need to make sense is not driven only by a response to one's own suffering, but also by a more general need to understand what it means to live a human life, and what death shows us about that meaning.'

Raimond Gaita in 'Women and Cancer', *Bioethics Outlook* Vol 8 No 1 1997

From the Management Committee

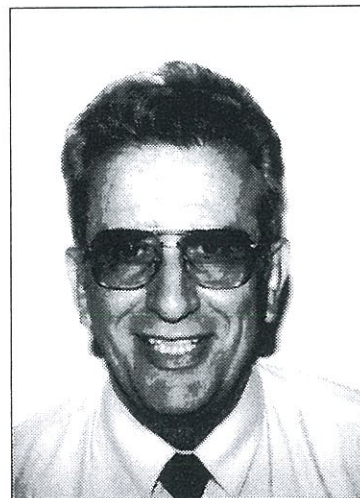
It is not too difficult to think about ethics in general. It is also not very hard to discuss various health care alternatives as long as only the bottom line matters. However combining the two presents a formidable challenge to the best of our minds.

Australian Catholic University took this challenge seriously when some five years ago it entered into an agreement with the Sisters of Charity which formalized the existence of the Plunkett Centre. In cooperation with the Sisters of Charity at St Vincent's Hospital the Plunkett Centre has become a most respected mouthpiece for spelling out the assumptions, implications and consequences of competing ethics models in health care.

At a time when universities in this country are increasingly pressed to produce two dollars worth of tangible output for each dollar of input, the Plunkett Centre is living testimony to the University's firm conviction that ethics matter.

This annual report of the Plunkett Centre is concrete evidence of the research, teaching and consultancy conducted during the past year. I congratulate the Director of the Centre and her staff for their inspiration, commitment and hard work to show the relevance of the Christian imperative in this secular world of ours.

Professor Wolfgang L Grichting
Chair, Management Committee
March, 1998



'The euthanasia debate turns upon fundamental ethical issues which are too important for us to allow this debate to become intractable, too important for us to allow ourselves to settle for the minimalist 'liberal' solution. Contrary to popular perception, the 'burden of proof' in this debate remains on those who would legalise euthanasia. But far from discharging that burden, the advocates of legalised euthanasia have, at best, tried to circumvent it by the simplistic appeal to personal autonomy.'

Gerald Gleeson in 'The euthanasia debate - taking stock',
Bioethics Outlook Vol 8 No 1 1997

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'Fortunately gene mapping and screening can be done in ways which do not compromise respect for human life in its transmission, origins and development, from conception until death. But history gives us plenty of cause for caution here. At a recent conference a leading embryologist responded to a question about where she drew her moral lines with an answer to the effect that she was no ethicist and her limits were whatever her Institutional Ethics Committee would let her get away with!'

Anthony Fisher OP in 'Ethical Issues in Genetic Screening',
Bioethics Outlook Vol 8 No 4 December 1997

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Centre is to examine the ethical aspects of contemporary practices in health care and bioethics and, by research, teaching and community service, to contribute a Catholic perspective to public discussion about what constitutes good conduct and wise decision-making in health care and biomedical science in Australia.

The objectives of the Centre are:

- through research, to analyse and clarify the ethical and theological issues at stake in the provision of health care and in the conduct of biomedical science and thereby to contribute to the development of a sound bioethic;
- through teaching and consultation, to discipline and deepen health care professionals' understanding and appreciation of the contribution of philosophical ethics and theology to the practice of health care and medical research; and
- through community service, to contribute a Catholic perspective to the development of standards and practices in health care and biomedical science in Australia.



Dr Tina Clifton, Dr Bernadette Tobin and Professor Peter Drake at the ceremony in May last year at which the Memorandum of Agreement between Australian Catholic University and St Vincent's Health Care Campus Sydney was renewed for a further three years.

Director's Report

By now the Centre's distinctive 'virtues-based' approach to the ethics of health care should be well-known. This approach contrasts with the idea that ethics is either (a) a matter of resolving 'dilemmas' which have been generated by application of a few principles ('respect for autonomy', 'beneficence', etc) or (b) a matter of the 'consequentialist' calculation of what will bring about the 'greatest good'.

Our 'virtues-based' approach relies on the idea that, though an important part of the moral life lies in understanding the meaning and significance of moral principles, and though consequences matter, what is central in the life of a wise and good health care professional is an understanding of (and love for) the genuine goals of health care together with an intelligent and willing capacity to work towards those goals in collaboration with patients and others whose health is at stake.

This approach to the ethics of health care, when allied with certain theological assumptions about the nature of human beings and the significance of their lives and health, is one expression of a Catholic theology of health care. However it also stands on its own as a way of doing ethics which has been the subject of a lively revival of interest amongst secular philosophers.

Perhaps the most important occasion in the life of the Plunkett Centre during the last year was the signing, on 15th May, of a new three-year agreement between Australian Catholic University and St Vincent's Hospital Sydney. The then Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Drake, and the Regional Chief Executive Officer of the Sisters of Charity Health Service, Dr Tina Clifton, were signatories to the Agreement which provides for basic funding for the Centre for a further three years from both of its sponsoring institutions together with the direction and support of a Management Committee made up of representatives of the University and the Hospital.

During 1997 the Centre initiated two new research projects. The first project, which involves collaboration with the Australian Catholic Health Care Association, aims to identify the ethical issues associated with the introduction of 'managed care' concepts into the Australian health care scene and ultimately to provide guidance, by way of analysis and guidelines, for health care professionals working in a 'managed care' environment.

The second new project, a collaborative research venture with the Anxiety Disorders Clinic at St Vincent's Hospital, has as its goal an understanding of what constitutes a just allocation of health care resources to people who suffer mental illness. Support for the latter project is provided by the Australian Research Council's Postgraduate Award Scheme: Mr Peter Madden joined the Centre in July in order to undertake this research project.

The Centre's consultative service was once again put to frequent use during the year. Consultations included the writing of invited submissions to government bodies and statutory authorities, personal participation in reflections with health professionals on difficult individual cases or case-scenarios in the hospital, and the provision of information and advice to a wide range of community bodies and health and aged care institutions.

During the year the Centre's staff contributed to a number of educational programmes, both supervision and teaching. Two post-graduate research students, working on philosophical issues in the ethics of health care, were associated with the Centre, and the University's Master of Arts in Applied Ethics (Health Care) was taught in part by members of the Centre. During the year a second group of students completed this course-work degree.

In 1997 the Centre changed the format of its annual *Intensive Bioethics Course* from a weekend course to one which was conducted one evening a week for four consecutive weeks. This provided one of several occasions on which Dr Anthony Fisher OP, the only member of the Centre who lives outside Sydney, was able to take part in person in the Centre's activities: Dr Fisher undertakes a busy programme of teaching, research and community activities from the Ascot Vale campus of Australian Catholic University in Melbourne.

Once again I would like publicly to record my appreciation of the work of the Centre's Administrative Office. Barbara Reen retired from that position during the year in order to return to full-time study, and Sandra Menteith took over the position. Both contributed to the life and achievements of the Centre well beyond anything which might rightly be expected of them: we are greatly in their debt.

Bernadette Tobin
18.2.98

Staffing

Director:

Bernadette Tobin MA MEd (Melb) PhD (Cantab) Senior Lecturer in Philosophy, School of Theology Australian Catholic University	Full-time
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Academic Staff:

Anthony Fisher op, BA LLB (Syd) BTheol (Melb Coll Div) DPhil (Oxon) Lecturer, Theology and Philosophy, School of Theology, Australian Catholic University	Honorary
Gerald Gleeson STB(CIS) MA (Cantab) PhD (Leuven) Senior Lecturer, Catholic Institute of Sydney	Part-time .2
Keith Joseph MA (Macq) Associate Lecturer in Philosophy, School of Theology, Australian Catholic University	Part-time .5
Martin Kelly msc, MB BS (Qld) BA (Macq)	Honorary
Peter Madden BA (UNSW) Doctoral Student	Full-time
John Quilter BA (Syd) MA (Pitt) Lecturer in Philosophy, School of Theology, Australian Catholic University	Honorary

Administrative Staff:

Barbara Reen MA (Syd) DipEd (UNE)	Full-time (until May 1997)
Sandra Menteith BPharm (Syd)	Full-time (from May 1997)

Management

Management Committee:

From the University:

Professor Wolfgang Grichting, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), Chairman

Professor Elizabeth Cameron-Traub, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences

Associate Professor Robert Gascoigne, Head of the School of Theology

From the Hospital:

Dr Denise Robinson, Executive Director

Professor Reginald Lord, Professor of Surgery, University of New South Wales

Dr Brian Dwyer, Retired Head of the Brian Dwyer Anaesthetics Department, St Vincent's Hospital

From the Centre:

Dr Bernadette Tobin, Director

Research Projects

Fisher, A.

Euthanasia and withdrawal of treatment
Ethics and law of genetics
Health and sickness
Identity of Catholic healthcare facilities
Is GIFT Catholic IVF?
Justice in the allocation of health care resources

Gleeson, G.P.

Brain death: challenges to the brain function criterion
Care and treatment of anencephalic infants
Ectopic pregnancies
The difference between euthanasia and legitimate refusals of treatment

Joseph, K.

The ethics of human genetics
Issues in resource allocation
Teaching applied ethics

Kelly, M.

The role of trust in clinical relationships
Autonomy: the moral agency of patients and doctors
Evaluating emotions: emotions and judgment
The role of empathy in ethical decision-making

Quilter, J.G.

Moral luck
Psychiatry and philosophy
Social policy and the illegal substances

Madden, P.

The philosophical and ethical issues of deinstitutionalisation policy, benchmarking of psychiatric services and community involvement in healthcare allocation, with special reference to treatment of schizophrenia

Tobin, B.M.

Ethical and social issues in tissue donation

Brain death

Euthanasia: intrinsic ethics and social significance

Reproductive technologies

Commissioned Research

"De-registered and unregistered health care practitioners: the problems of regulation",
Paper commissioned by the Health Care Complaints Commission

"Safe injecting rooms: Is there an ethical obligation to provide a service which appears to reduce mortality and morbidity amongst a particular group in the community?" Paper commissioned by the Joint Select Committee into Safe Injecting Rooms, NSW Parliament

Publications

Fisher, A.

"Accountant, Pollster, Samaritan: three models of justice in health care resource allocation" in John Flader (ed) *Health Care in the Balance: Ethical Issues in Medical Funding*, (Hobart: University of Tasmania), pp. 13-27

"Singer, Oderberg and Laing: a review article", *Thomas More Centre Bulletin*, Vol. 9, No. 1, March, 1997, pp. 9-12

"Review of *Human Lives: Critical Essays on Consequentialist Bioethics*, edited by David S. Oderberg and Jacqueline A. Laing", *AD2000*, April, 1997, pp. 14-15

"End-of-life decisions in Australian medical practice", *Medical Journal of Australia*, Vol. 166, No. 9, 5 May 1997, p. 506 (with John I Fleming, Anna Krohn, Nicholas Tonti-Filippini)

"Thomas Walter Joseph Ryan - Celebration of a Life", *Bioethics Outlook*, Vol. 8, No. 2, June, 1997, pp. 1-3

"Should we starve the unconscious?", *Australasian Catholic Record*, Vol. 74, No. 3, July 1997, pp. 315-329

"An ethic of life for the public square", *The Tablet*, Vol. 251, No. 8192, August 1997, pp. 1025-1027

"Ethical issues in genetic screening", *Bioethics Outlook*, Vol. 8, No. 4, December, 1997

"Reviews of *Body, Soul and Bioethics* and *Bioethics: A Primer for Christians*, both by Gilbert C. Meilaender", *Studies in Christian Ethics*, Vol. 10, No. 2, 1997, pp. 102-111

"Is there a distinctive role for the Catholic hospital in a pluralist society?" in Luke Gormally (ed) *Issues for a Catholic Bioethic*, (Edinburgh: T & T Clark) (forthcoming)

Gleeson, G.P.

"The euthanasia debate - taking stock", *Bioethics Outlook*, Vol. 8, No. 1, March, 1997

Review of *Moral Wisdom and Good Lives*, John Kekes (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1995) in *Theological Studies* Vol. 58, 1997, pp. 179-181

"The use of methotrexate in the treatment of ectopic pregnancy" in Luke Gormally (ed) *Issues for a Catholic Bioethic*, (Edinburgh: T & T Clark) (forthcoming)

"Seeking Understanding: on the use of philosophy in Catholic theology" in Richard Lennan (ed) *An Introduction to Catholic Theology*, (Paulist Press: New York), (forthcoming)

Joseph, K.

"The re-emergence of eugenics", *Catholic Medical Quarterly*, February, 1997, pp. 12-15, (reprinted from *Bioethics Outlook*)

"Our genetic future", *Bioethics Outlook*, Vol.8, No.1, March, 1997

"Ethical aspects of human genetic engineering", *Bioethics Outlook*, Vol. 8, No. 1, March, 1997

"Military ethics", Letter, *Australian Defence Force Journal*, No. 123, March-April, 1997

"The structure of genetic services in Australia and the attitudes of Australian geneticists to ethical problems", in *Ethics and geneticists: an international survey*, World Health Organisation (with Dr Allison Colley), (forthcoming)

Quilter, J.G.

"Ethical Issues in post-natal genetic testing: testing the basic medical argument and problems with genetic determinism" *Bioethics Outlook*, (forthcoming)

Tobin, B.M.

"The ethical evaluation of genetic modifications to human beings", Review of *Genetic Intervention on Human Subjects* by a Working Party of the Catholic Bishops Joint Committee on Bioethical Issues, London, 1996, in *Bioethics Outlook*, Vol. 8, No. 1, March, 1997

"Deliberately cloning human beings: on the significance of even contemplating it", *Bioethics Outlook*, Vol. 8, No. 1, March, 1997

"United States Supreme Court rules physician-assisted suicide unconstitutional", *Bioethics Outlook*, Vol. 8, No. 2, March, 1997

"Deliberate human cloning is unthinkable", *Australian Medicine*, Vol 9, No 7, 21 April 1997

"Ethics, Life and Death", a review of *Human Lives: Critical Essays on Consequentialist Ethics*, edited by David S. Oderberg and Jacqueline A. Laing, (London: Macmillan, 1997) in *Quadrant*, July/August 1997, Vol. XLI, No. 7-8, pp.108-110

Review of *Codes of Ethics and the Professions*, edited by Margaret Coady and Sidney Blok, (Melbourne: MUP, 1996) in *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry*, Vol. 31, No. 5, October, 1997, pp. 117-118

"The Human Genome Project: some ethical considerations", *Proceedings of the Australian Bioethics Association Conference*, Melbourne, (forthcoming)

"Deliberately cloning human beings: on the significance of even contemplating it", in *A Question of Justice - Challenge: Technological Change*, A Terry and D Giugni, Reprinted from *Bioethics Outlook*, (McGraw-Hill), (forthcoming)

"Can a patient's refusal of life-prolonging treatment be morally upright when it is motivated neither by the belief that the treatment would be clearly futile nor by the belief that the consequences of treatment would be unduly burdensome?", in Luke Gormally (ed) *Issues for a Catholic Bioethic*, (Edinburgh: T & T Clark), (forthcoming)

Publications From the Centre *Bioethics Outlook* Volume 8

Number 1, March, edited by Bernadette Tobin

Women and cancer by Raimond Gaita

Deliberately cloning human beings: on the significance of even contemplating it!
by Bernadette Tobin

The ethical evaluation of genetic modifications to human beings, review of
"Genetic Intervention on Human Subjects: The Report of a Working Party of the
Catholic Bishops' Joint Committee on Bioethical Issues", London, 1996",
by Bernadette Tobin

The euthanasia debate - taking stock by Gerald Gleeson

Number 2, June, edited by Bernadette Tobin

Thomas Walter Joseph Ryan - celebration of a life by Anthony Fisher

United States Supreme Court rules physician-assisted suicide unconstitutional
by Bernadette Tobin

*The abandoned ones: the plight of the former patients of psychiatric hospitals
in New South Wales* by Myree Harris

On deliberately cloning human beings: A first comment by Elaine Wallace, a
second comment by Jean Kitara-Frisch

Number 3, September, edited by Keith Joseph

Our genetic future by Keith Joseph

*Philosophical assumptions Implicit in the science of the Human Genome
Project* by Paul McNeill

Genetic screening: a view from Japan by Jean Kitara-Frisch

Euthanasia: a parasitic question by Andrew Murray

Number 4, December, edited by Keith Joseph

Ethical issues in genetic screening by Anthony Fisher

Ethical aspects of human genetic engineering by Keith Joseph

Monograph

Gormally, Luke, *Why the Select Committee on Medical Ethics of the House of Lords
Unanimously Rejected the Legalization of Euthanasia*, Reprinted 1997

Submissions

To Inquiry by Regulation Review Committee, Parliament of New South Wales: *Inquiry into the Operation of the Animal Research Regulations, 1995: Parliament House, Sydney*

Prepared by Bernadette Tobin

To Committee on Professional Conduct of Clergy, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference: *Codes of Ethics and proposed Code of Conduct for Clergy of the Catholic Church in Australia*

Prepared by Martin Kelly

To the Standing Committee on Social Issues, Parliament of New South Wales, Legislative Council: *Inquiry into the Guardianship (Amendment) Bill 1997, Sydney*

Prepared by Bernadette Tobin

To Joint Standing Committee on Treaties, Parliament of Australia: *Inquiry into the Status of the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child*

Submissions prepared by Anthony Fisher and Bernadette Tobin

To Joint Select Committee of NSW Parliament into Safe Injecting Rooms, Parliament of New South Wales: *Report on the establishment or trial of safe injecting rooms*

Prepared by Bernadette Tobin

To Senate Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee: *Inquiry into the Euthanasia Laws Bill 1996.*

Submissions prepared by Anthony Fisher and Bernadette Tobin

To Tasmanian House of Assembly, Community Development Committee: *Inquiry into the Need for Legislation on Voluntary Euthanasia in Tasmania*

Prepared by Anthony Fisher

To South Australian Legislative Council Select Committee on the Voluntary Euthanasia Bill (SA)

Prepared by Anthony Fisher

To Australian Catholic Bishops Conference *Inquiry into the early induction of handicapped babies*

Prepared by Anthony Fisher

Teaching

Fisher, A.

Co-supervisor, PhD thesis, *The Philosophical and Ethical Issues of Deinstitutionalisation Policy, Benchmarking of Psychiatric Services and Community Involvement in Healthcare Allocation, with special reference to Treatment of Schizophrenia* (with Bernadette Tobin)

External advisor, Graduate Diploma (University of Melbourne), *Veritatis Splendor: A Return to Foundational Ethical Principles*

Gleeson, G.P.

Presenter, "Virtues Theory and the Ethics of Health Care", Intensive Bioethics Course, Plunkett Centre for Ethics

Preparation of teaching module on the limitation of treatment for Neurophysiology Department, University of Sydney

Joseph, K.

Supervisor, "Community Based Education Experience" component of the Bachelor of Arts (undertaken by students at the Plunkett Centre)

Instructor, Issues in military ethics, Chaplain's Introductory Course, Army Logistic Training Centre Bonegilla (Albury), August

Presenter, "Respect for Patient's Autonomy", Intensive Bioethics Course, Plunkett Centre for Ethics

Lecturer, Moral Philosophy, Australian Catholic University

Kelly, M.

Presenter, "End of Life Decisions", Seminar for Clinical Pastoral Experience students, Pastoral Care Dept, St. Vincent's Hospital

Presenter, "Ethical Principles in Palliative Care", Training Course in Principles in Palliative Care course for nurses and other professionals, South Eastern Area Health Service, Sacred Heart Hospice

Presenter, "Ethical Issues in Palliative Care", Sacred Heart Hospice, (with Professor Hisayuki Murata)

Visiting Lecturer, "Topics in Social Philosophy", Macquarie University

Presenter, "Ethical Decision Making in Palliative Care", Postgraduate education session for medical, nursing and pastoral care staff at Calvary Hospital, Canberra

Presenter, "Ethics of Research on Human Subjects", Intensive Bioethics Course, Plunkett Centre for Ethics

Presenter, "Brain Death and Organ Donation" and "Pastoral Care Issues", Training Course for Clinical Pastoral Experience students, St Vincent's Hospital

Lecturer, "Ethical issues in HIV medicine", Training Course in HIV and Palliative Care for Health Professionals, Sacred Heart Hospice

Presenter, Ethical Issues ("Medical End of Life Decisions", "The family in terminal care including proxy decision-making and advance directives", "Ethical conflicts and ethical decision-making in Palliative Care"), Rural Doctors' Refresher Days, Armidale

Presenter, "Ethical Issues in Palliative Care" Training Course in Palliative Care for Health Professionals, Sacred Heart Hospice

Presenter, "Building Ethical Relationships", National Health and Aged Care Conference of Little Company of Mary, Adelaide

Presenter, "A Code of Ethics for Pastoral Care", Seminar for Australian Health and Welfare Chaplains, South Australia Chapter, Calvary Hospital

Quilter, J.G.

Lecturer, Graduate Certificate In Applied Ethics (Health Care)

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

Coordinator, Post-graduate programmes in Applied Ethics

Presenter, "The Ends of Medicine", Intensive Bioethics Course, Plunkett Centre for Ethics, Sydney

Tobin, B.M.

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

Supervisor, Master of Philosophy research project and PhD research project

Presenter, Monthly clinical ethics seminars, Social Work Department, St Vincent's Hospital

Facilitator: *'Ethical issues in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation'*, All clinical units, St Vincent's Hospital

Facilitator, Interactive Session in the ethics of medicine', Sixth-year medical students, St Vincent's Hospital

Guest lecturer, *'The ethics of cloning'*, Third-year medical students, University of New South Wales

Lecturer, *'Ethical issues in palliative care'*, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners' Continuing Education Seminar, Sydney

Tutor, *'Towards a genuine bioethic'*, Biennial Conference, Catholic Women's League of Australia, Hobart

Interviews with Public Media

Joseph, K.

Reproductive Technologies, Sunday Telegraph, November

Tobin, B.

Third death under Northern Territory Legislation, SBS News, 22 January

Cloning, Channel 9 News, 24 February

Overturing of "Rights of the Terminally Ill" Act, Reformatorish Dagblad, The Netherlands, April

Dead Man Coming, Channel 7 for *Today Tonight*, 6 June

Surrogacy in Australia, Channel 9 News, 9 September

Membership of Committees

Fisher, A.

Member, Ethics in Clinical Practice Committee, St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne
Member, Ethics Committees of Hartwell Private Hospital; Malvern Private Hospital, Winston Private Hospital, Melbourne
Member, Bioethics Panel, Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference Research Office
Member, Moral Theology Association of Australia and New Zealand
Member, Australian Bioethics Association

Gleeson, G.

Member, Bioethics Consultative Committee, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney
Member, Ethics Committee, Calvary Hospital, Kogarah
Member, Human Ethics Committee, University of Sydney, Sydney
Member, Medico-Moral Committee, St Margaret's Hospital, Sydney
Member, Research Ethics Committee, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney
Member, National Board, Sisters of Charity Health Service
Director, Garvan Institute of Medical Research

Joseph, K.

Member, Research Committee, Sacred Heart Hospice, Sydney
Secretary, Australian Association for Professional and Applied Ethics
Editor, *Australian Ethics Newsletter*

Quilter, J.

Member, Committee of Review of Post-Graduate Courses, Faculty of Health Sciences
University of Western Sydney, Sydney

Tobin, B.M.

Member, Australian Health Ethics Committee (NHMRC)
Member, Working Party on National Data Collecting in Assisted Reproductive Technology (NHMRC)
Chair, Bioethics Consultative Committee, St Vincent's Health Care Campus, Sydney
Member, Steering Committee, Liaison between Australian Catholic University and the Caroline Chisholm Centre
Founder and Trustee, Mary Philippa Brazill Trust
Member of Council, Guild of St Luke
Member, Bioethics Panel, Research Office, Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference

Consultancies

The number and range of consultancies undertaken by staff of the Centre continues to grow. Requests for consultation on ethical issues come not only from people associated with the Darlington Campus of the Sisters of Charity Health Care Service but also from people working in other health care facilities and from the general public. It goes without saying that these consultations are undertaken on a confidential basis. The following information indicates in general terms some of the features of this part of the Centre's work.

Overall number of consultations undertaken by staff of the Centre in 1997: 33

from within the Darlington Campus	11
from outside the Darlington Campus	23

Range of people seeking a consultation:

Health care administrators	4
Doctors	5
Nurses	7
Relatives of patients	4
Religious	4
Parliamentarians	2
Teachers	1
Students	2
Other bioethics centres	3

Types of issues on which consultation is sought:

- ◇ conditions under which it is proper to withdraw life sustaining treatment
- ◇ distinction between forgoing futile treatment and aiding someone to commit suicide
- ◇ management of a 'hateful' patient who is terminally ill (2 cases)
- ◇ the mechanical restraint of difficult patients (3 cases)
- ◇ relationships between medical staff of a teaching hospital and pharmaceutical companies
- ◇ uses of therapies which have a contraceptive side-effect
- ◇ the withdrawal of nutrition from a patient who is dying (2 cases)

- ◇ management of a client who intends to commit a crime
- ◇ job opportunities in bioethics (3 cases)
- ◇ role of advance directives (2 cases)
- ◇ euthanasia (2 cases)
- ◇ surrogacy
- ◇ reversal of vasectomy
- ◇ evaluating the results of cardiac surgery
- ◇ management of Catholic hospital now administered by government
- ◇ resource allocation
- ◇ policy formation on genetic interventions
- ◇ care and treatment of severely-ill new born children
- ◇ IVF and GIFT
- ◇ discarding of foetal remains
- ◇ the problem of 'cooperation in wrongdoing'
- ◇ cloning
- ◇ confidentiality

Presentations

Fisher, A.

A critique of liberal approaches to healthcare allocation, University of Melbourne
Philosophy Department

Christian Ethics, Victoria University, Melbourne

A critique of liberal approaches to healthcare allocation, La Trobe University
Philosophy Department

Euthanasia: the issues, University of Melbourne Pro-Life Club, Melbourne

Natural Law, Workshop for Thomas More Summer School, Melbourne

GIFT: A Catholic IVF or just IVF by another name?, Annual Conference of Billings
Family Life Centres of Australia, Melbourne

*Justice in the allocation of healthcare and Justice in geriatric and mental health
resourcing*, Intensive Bioethics Course, Plunkett Centre for Ethics, Sydney

Dolly the Sheep and all that: The Ethics of Genetics, State and National Conference,
Right to Life Association of Victoria, Melbourne

Euthanasia: the issues, Genazzano College, Melbourne

Life-affirming in Australia: past achievements, future challenges, Memorial Lecture,
Australian Federation of Pregnancy Support Services, Geelong

Is there a distinctive role for the Catholic hospital in a pluralist society?, Linacre
Centre for Health Care Ethics Conference, Cambridge

Bioethics: new challenges for women of courage, National Biennial Conference,
Catholic Women's League of Australia, Hobart

*Accountant, Pollster, Samaritan: three models of justice in health care resource
allocation*, at "Health Care in the Balance: Ethical Issues in Medical Funding", School
of Health Science and Catholic Chaplaincy, University of Tasmania, Hobart

Challenges to Catholic Healthcare in Australia Today, Catholic Doctors' Conference,
"The Future of Catholic Health Care in Victoria", Melbourne

Suicide in the Scriptures, Australian Catholic University, School of Theology,
Melbourne

Rights and wrongs of the Abortion Report, Right to Life Association of New South
Wales State and National Conference, Sydney

Nursing ethics and the client's rights, St Vincent's Hospital Refresher Course, Melbourne

Ethical dilemmas in nursing, St Vincent's Hospital Refresher Course for Returning Nurses, Melbourne

Is being open to new life central to the vocation of marriage? Can NFP be used 'contraceptively'?, Billings Natural Family Planning Educators' Workshop, Melbourne

Ethical and legal issues in geriatric care, Nazareth House, Melbourne

Gleeson, G.P.

Issues in Palliative Care, Palliative Care Seminar for General Practitioners, Dubbo

Contemporary ethical issues, Our Lady Queen of Peace, Greystanes

The use of methotrexate in the treatment of ectopic pregnancy, "Issues for a Catholic Bioethic" Conference, Cambridge

The use of methotrexate in the treatment of ectopic pregnancy Annual Conference of the Catholic Moral Theology Association of Australia and New Zealand, Sydney

Theology of suffering, Clinical Pastoral Education Seminar, Royal North Shore Hospital

Joseph, K.

The false assumption of eugenics, Annual Conference of the Australian Bioethics Association, Melbourne

Ethics in the dark, first National Night Nurses' Conference, Sydney

The concept of disease, Annual Conference of Australian Association for Professional and Applied Ethics, Melbourne

Ethics of genetic screening, VicHealth Workshop on Genetic Screening and Health Promotion, Melbourne

Kelly, M.

Should euthanasia be legalised?, Opinion in the Pub, Newport Arms Hotel

Do we need a code of ethics for chaplains?, Australian Health and Welfare Chaplains' Association (NSW Chapter), Liverpool Hospital

An ethicist in an emergency, Annual Medical Meeting, Calvary Hospital, Adelaide

Quilter, J.G.

The relevance of philosophy of science issues concerning psychiatry in debates concerning resource allocation in psychiatric medicine, "Mind and Matter" Conference of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, Sydney

An argument against legalising euthanasia, "Mind and Matter" Conference of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, Sydney

Resource allocation in psychiatric medicine, Wentworth Area Health Board, In-Service for Psychiatrists, Liverpool Hospital

Prescribing anabolic steroids, Australian Association of Professional and Applied Ethics, University of Melbourne

Arguments for and against prescribing anabolic steroids on demand, Australian Pharmacological Society, Canberra, (with Michael Kennedy and Judith Kennedy)

Tobin, B.M.

The ethics of genetic interventions, Centre for Continuing Education, University of Sydney

Ethical aspects of two cases studies, Hospice Medical Seminar, Sacred Heart Hospice

The ethics of palliative medicine, Training course in palliative care for general practitioners, Mt Olivet Hospital, Brisbane

Research on people with dementia who cannot give consent: Should we? How can we ethically?, Forum on the ethics of research on people with dementia, Alzheimer's Association, Sydney

Self censorship, Seminar on Censorship, Sancta Sophia College, University of Sydney, Sydney

The epistemological role of clinical guidelines, Forum on Clinical Practice Guidelines, NHMRC Breast Cancer Centre, Sydney

A virtues-based approach to a sound bioethic, Intensive Bioethics Course, Plunkett Centre for Ethics, Sydney

Intellectual values: ethical issues, Conference of the Association of Sacred Heart Schools, Sydney

The use of very expensive drugs: ethical aspects of resource allocation decisions, Westmead Hospital, Sydney

The ethics of withdrawing or withholding life-sustaining treatment from very ill neonates, Sydney Children's Hospital, Sydney

To treat or not to treat, Forum for Nurses, St Vincent's Private Hospital, Sydney

The care of people with Aids Dementia Complex: some ethical issues, Sacred Heart Hospice, Sydney

The Australian debate about legalisation of euthanasia: implications for a re-examination of the goals of medicine, *The Goals of Medicine: Priorities for the Future*, Conference organised by the Hastings Center and the Istituto Italiano per gli studi filosofici, Naples

Can a patient's refusal of life-prolonging treatment be morally upright when it is motivated neither by the belief that the treatment would be clearly futile nor by the belief that the consequences of treatment would be unduly burdensome?, "Issues for a Catholic Bioethic", Linacre Centre Conference, Cambridge

Financial Report 1997

Income

Australian Catholic University	100,009	
Sisters of Charity Health Service	100,000	
St Vincent's Little Shop Fund	5,000	
Catholic Health Care Association (NSW)	2,500	
Membership Fees	6,857	
Course Fees	7,681	
Centre Publications	3,573	
Commissioned Research	3,000	
Other	2,926	
Total		231,546

Expenditure

Salaries	156,724	
Hospital Expenses	20,001	
Studentship	5,000	
Library Acquisitions	13,519	
Courses	938	
Publications	4,267	
Travel	8,319	
Running Expenses	8,135	
General Expenses	5,786	
Capital Expenditure	8,857	
Total		231,546

This financial report does not take into consideration the contribution the Plunkett Centre makes to the University through the staff's teaching activities.