

Plunkett Centre

Annual Report 2014



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 realisation 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 Vincent's Health Australia, Sydney.

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

Foreword from the University

As Acting Dean of the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy and thus as Chair of the Management Committee for the Plunkett Centre for Ethics, I would like to introduce the Annual Report of the Plunkett Centre for Ethics for 2014, and to acknowledge the work of its two Academic staff, Dr Bernadette Tobin and Dr Steve Matthews.



The Plunkett Centre is the oldest centre in the Faculty, and indeed in the University itself. Established in 1989, its purpose is to deepen and advance knowledge and understanding of ethical issues in health care – by research, by teaching, by consulting with practitioners and by making a contribution to public discussion of emerging issues.

The Faculty itself, and the wider University, has undergone significant change in that time. In 2012 a plan to establish a national centre for ethics was superseded by the establishment of an institute for advanced research in the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy, with moral philosophy and applied ethics constituting one of the research strands therein. In 2013 the other research centres in the Faculty were amalgamated into a Faculty-wide *Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry*. Its programs comprise Biblical Studies and Early Christianity; Catholic Thought and Practice, including Inter-religious Dialogue; Moral Philosophy and Applied Ethics; Philosophy and Phenomenology of Religion; and Religion and Society.

Given that the Plunkett Centre for Ethics was established under a Memorandum of Understanding between Australian Catholic University and St Vincent's Health Australia (Sydney), it retains its identity and focus under the terms of the Memorandum and is not thus a part of the Institute. An important goal for the Institute and the moral philosophy and applied ethics program within it is, however, actively to promote strong collaborative and mutually supportive relationships with the Plunkett Centre for Ethics and also with the local diocesan-based Catholic ethics centres in Australia. In this context, I commend the work of the Plunkett Centre, and join with Bernadette and Steve in expressing my gratitude to Donna Sofinowski, the Centre's Administrative Assistant, who resigned at the end of the year. I know they are delighted to have welcomed Yvette Zuidema in her place.

Dr Dermot Nestor
Acting Executive Dean
Faculty of Theology and Philosophy, ACU
May 2015

Foreword from the Hospital

This year we celebrated Associate Professor Bernadette Tobin's 25th Anniversary as Director of the Plunkett Centre on the St Vincent's Darlinghurst Campus where she was honoured particularly for expanding the reputation and influence of St Vincent's, ACU and Catholic Healthcare. Acknowledgements from Professor Anne Hunt, Dr Richard Colledge and Archbishop Anthony Fisher were amongst the many tributes to her leadership and expertise.



I also recognise the contribution of Professor Anne Hunt who stood down as the Chair of the Plunkett Centre Management Committee this year. Anne provided wonderful leadership over many years.

The goals of the Plunkett Centre are to deepen and advance knowledge and understanding of the ethical standards relevant to the pursuit of human health and wellbeing. These are found not just in clinical practice and medical research but also in business and management practice as well as the allocation of healthcare resources. These goals continue to be well and truly delivered.

Four sessions were provided in July and August 2014 by the Plunkett Centre for our senior and middle level managers on the *Code of Ethical Standards for Catholic Health and Aged Care Services in Australia*. These sessions were particularly useful for our clinical managers as well as senior management positions in a catholic healthcare environment particularly applying to the aged and end of life care. Sessions are currently being planned for our Senior Management Team on Understanding the Code of Ethics.

The Annual Plunkett Lecture was delivered this year by Professor Wendy Rogers who highlighted the problems associated with over diagnosis which was certainly food for thought for those of us in the business of health.

Robert Cusack
Chief Executive Officer
St Vincent's Private Hospital, Sydney
June 2015

From the Director

Australia is a secular, pluralist, liberal society. The Plunkett Centre participates in public deliberations about the ethics of health care as one among many groups and individuals similarly participating. We participate on the basis of the two key ideas: that the Catholic faith itself encompasses a body of propositions which are accessible to reason unaided by revelation, and that the role of a Catholic healthcare Centre is to identify the moral principles and norms which any public policy must meet if it is to be morally acceptable not only to Catholics but also to anyone of good will. We recognize that some of the propositions which inform our work are controversial. We also recognize that there is room for legitimate debate about the meaning and implications of key ideas in the Catholic Christian tradition. So our aim is to clarify the fundamental principles which ought to inform our care for sick people, and to investigate their implications in particular circumstances, and to contribute our reflections to both the literature on this subject and to decision-making by individuals and institutions.



In the pages which follow, you will find the results of our efforts in that regard in the year 2014. We are a small Centre: two full time staff, two honorary staff, and an administrative assistant. You will, however, notice the outstanding contribution of my colleague Dr Steve Matthews. He continues to make a name for himself in an arena of research which might be called 'psychiatric ethics'. There, his particular contribution is to reveal how psychopathology can threaten our moral identity and thus our moral agency. This work continues a long tradition of thinking in the Catholic tradition about the ways in which our innate free will may be compromised by our background and our experience.

Late in the year we farewelled Professor Anne Hunt. In her capacity as Dean of the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy, Anne had been the Chair of our Management Committee. Chairing the meetings of the Committee by telephone from Melbourne, and involving key staff from the Faculty Office Melbourne to help us with financial matters and matters of information technology, she was a source of advice and support. We shall miss her.

And we shall also miss Donna Sofinowski, our Administrative Assistant for the last two years. Donna was often the public face of the Plunkett Centre. She handled enquiries over the phone in a most courteous and friendly manner, and took endless pains to ensure the smooth functioning of the Centre. She too will be missed.

Bernadette Tobin
May 2015

Academic Staff

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



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



Honorary Staff

Gerald Gleeson STB (CIS), MA (Cantab), PhD (Leuven)
Associate Professor of Philosophy, Sydney College of Divinity
Research Associate, Part time.



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



Administrative Assistant

Donna Sofinowski



Management Committee

Professor Anne Hunt, Executive Dean, Faculty of Theology and Philosophy, Australian Catholic University

Ms Julie Taylor, Director of Mission, St Vincent's Health Network Sydney

Mr Robert Cusack, Chief Executive Officer, St Vincent's Private Hospital, Sydney

Dr Richard Colledge, Head, School of Philosophy, Faculty of Theology and Philosophy

Dr Bernadette Tobin, Director

Research

The Plunkett Centre conducts research in the following areas:

- **Contemporary normative theory**, in particular virtue theory, and its relation to Kant's ethics and consequentialism.
- **Clinical ethics**, in particular the goals of medicine, the canons of therapeutic responsiveness; competence, consent and decision-making about sick children; end-of-life decision-making; advance care planning; assisted reproductive technologies; organ and tissue donation; professional role ethics, the law and clinical ethics; regenerative medicine; public health ethics.
- **Psychiatric ethics**, in particular the threat of psychopathology to moral identity and moral agency, respect for autonomy, competence and coercion, moral responsibility of impaired persons, law and psychiatry, and the ethical challenges posed by developments in neuroscience.
- **Bioethics**, in particular the Catholic Christian contribution and its debates with and relationships to contemporary secular bioethics; the Metaphysics of the Incarnation; Human Sexuality and Procreation; the history of parental involvement at the end of life; words and ideas employed in end of life discussions; the meaning of suffering in the Intensive Care Unit; the history of organ donation; Issues around dead bodies.
- **Research Ethics**, in particular traditional debates about ethical standards with respect to research involving human participants and research involving animals; contemporary debates about genetic technologies, biotechnologies, stem cells, biobanking, etc.
- **Resource allocation**, in particular debates about the roles of the individual, the family, the market and the state in the provision of health care.
- **Computer ethics (in medical contexts)**, in particular the role online therapies play in treatment, reduction in costs, effectiveness and in threatening the clinician-patient relationship.

Teaching

- PHIL 506 Ethics in Faith-Based Context, Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Catholic Culture: Bernadette Tobin
- PHIL 508 Impact of Regulatory and Legal Frameworks, Graduate Certificate in Applied Ethics (Health Care): Bernadette Tobin
- HUMA 411 Meta-ethics and moral psychology: Steve Matthews
- PHIL 506 Ethics in a faith-based context: Steve Matthews (guest seminar)
- PHIL 102 Theories of human nature: Steve Matthews (co-taught with Dr Steve Buckle)



Professor Terry Campbell
Chair of Bioethics Committee
St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

Clinical Ethics

Children's Hospital at Westmead

- Refractory Dystonia (with Dr Shekeeb Mohammad, Dr Russell Dale, Dr Paddy Grattan-Smith)
- Going home without mandatory overnight carers (with Ms Kelly Grey and Dr Henry Kilham)

St Vincent's Health Network Sydney

- Using the *Code of Ethical Standards for Catholic Health and Aged Care Services in Australia*: staff of the public hospital.
- Waiving the requirement for consent to participating in research in people who are highly dependent on medical care and who may be unable to give consent (Intensivists, St Vincent's Hospital).
- Ethics and the profession of social work: how to ensure that ethical challenges are resolved in a professional manner (Social Work Department with Biljana Milosevic, Ethics Group, Australian Association of Social Workers NSW).
- Ethics in Palliative Medicine (Medical students of Clinical School, St Vincent's Hospital (February to October).
- The deadly choices at Memorial Hospital, New Orleans (Ethics Journal Club, St. Vincent's Hospital).
- 'Hate speech': JS Mill and the role of the law (Ethics Journal Club, St. Vincent's Hospital).
- Does treatment which a patient finds 'undignified' always breach the moral obligation to respect human dignity? (Ethics Journal Club, St. Vincent's Hospital).
- Can life imprisonment ever be a reasonable punishment for a juvenile? (Ethics Journal Club, St. Vincent's Hospital).
- Cannabis as medical treatment: what ethical requirements should govern its availability? (Ethics Journal Club, St. Vincent's Hospital).
- Ethical issues in palliative care (Sacred Heart Hospice) (One seminar).

Publications

Chapters in books

Matthews, S. “Bio-technological challenges to autonomy,” Jai Gallott, Mianna Lotz (eds). *Super Soldiers: The Ethical, Legal and Social Consequences*. Ashgate, forthcoming 2015.

Matthews, S. “Marketing and neuroscience”, *Springer Handbook of Neuroethics*, Jens Clausen & Neil Levy (eds), 2014.

Tobin, B. I hope I believe in God; some implications for contemporary ethics, *Culture and Christianity in Dialogue*, edited by John Ozolins, Springer, forthcoming 2015.

Tobin, B. Just care at the end of life, *Health Care Ethics: from theory to practice*, edited by John Ozolins and Jo Grainger, Cambridge University Press, forthcoming 2015.



Ms Julie Taylor, Director of Mission
St Vincent's Health Network Sydney
Member, Management Committee

Peer-reviewed articles

Ralph, A., Chapman, J., **Gillis, J.**, Craig, J., Butow, P., Howard, K., Irving, M., Sutanto, B., Tong, A. (2014). "Family Perspectives on Deceased Organ Donation: Thematic Synthesis of Qualitative Studies." *American Journal of Transplantation*, 14(4), 923-935.

Matthews, S. "Dementia and the Power of Music Therapy." *Bioethics*, forthcoming 2015.

Matthews, S. "Music therapy and Dementia: rethinking the debate over Advance Directives", *Res Disputandae*, December 2014.

Matthews, S. "The imprudence of the vulnerable." *Ethical theory and moral practice*, 17, 791-805, 2014.

Matthews, S. "Addiction, Competence and Coercion", *Journal of Philosophical Research*, 39, 199-234, 2014.

Tobin, B. "When doctors and parents disagree: A recent example of a morally appropriate collaboration between parents, doctors and the court." *Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health*, Vol 50, 2014, 586-587.

Other articles

Tobin, B. 'I just need to be able to talk to someone I know the patient trusted!' Why Catholic Health Australia has prepared a new brochure for advance care planning, *Bioethics Outlook*, Vol 25, No 2, June 2014, 1-4.

Tobin, B. Anticipate and Communicate: Presidential Commission's advice on ethical management of incidental and secondary findings in clinical, research and direct-to-consumer contexts: a review, *Bioethics Outlook*, Vol 25, No 3, September 2014, 1-5.

Letters

Tobin, B. Response to a medical impasse: a problem as big as Texas? *Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health*, Vol 50. Issue 8. (2014) 658-659.

Consultancies

A selection of ethical issues addressed:

- Commercial agreements
- Patient information for a peritonectomy service
- HIV status and family requests for information
- Donation after circulatory death: the location of death
- Paediatricians' attitudes to parental decisions
- Who can reasonably be said to be part of the clinical team?
- Counselling for genetic conditions

Summary by source:

Year	St Vincent's Health Australia, Sydney	Other Institutions	Total
2014	18	23	41
2013	14	16	30
2012	17	44	61
2011	15	18	33
2010	34	20	64
2009	26	38	64
2008	15	22	37
2007	14	13	27
2006	9	19	28
2005	12	20	32

Summary by profession:

Year	Administrators	Doctors	Nurses	Allied Practitioners	Others	Total
2014	6	17	4	2	12	41
2013	7	12	2	1	8	30
2012	4	11	6	10	30	61
2011	9	11	3	1	9	33
2010	31	7	3	3	10	54
2009	24	17	4	1	18	64
2008	15	7	7	3	5	37
2007	8	8	5	1	5	27
2006	4	7	2	3	12	28
2005	6	6	1	7	12	32

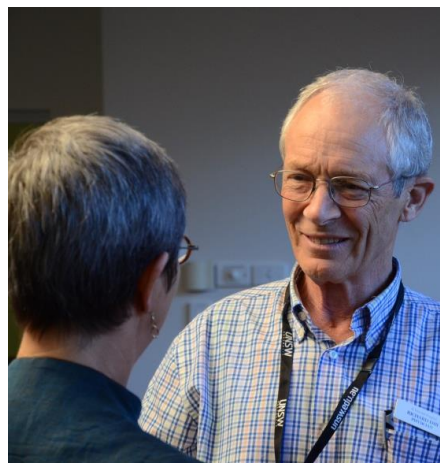
2014 Annual Plunkett Lecture

In 2014, the Annual Plunkett Lecture was given by Professor Wendy Rogers on the subject: *Overdiagnosis: when is too much medicine is bad for your health!*

Professor Rogers is an ARC Future Fellow and Professor of Clinical Ethics at Macquarie University.



Professor Wendy Rogers



Professor Rogers in conversation with Professor Ric Day of St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

Coverage of the lecture is available on YouTube and can be accessed at:

www.plunkettcentre.acu.edu.au

Media

10 March 2014

Royal Commission provides an opportunity to further the Pell response, *Sydney Morning Herald* (BT)

26 July 2014 (repeated 29 July 2014)

A modern death, ABC Radio National (BT)

12 November 2014

Fierce Humanity, Faithful Witness: In Memory of Nicholas Tonti-Filippini (with *Anthony Fisher, Anna Krohn, Tracey Rowland, et al*), ABC Radio National Religions and Ethics Blog:

<http://www.abc.net.au/religion/articles/2014/11/12/> (BT)



Friends of the Plunkett Centre - Professor Anne Hunt, Dr Richard Colledge, Archbishop Anthony Fisher and Mr Robert Cusack - speak at Bernadette Tobin's 25th Anniversary Celebration.

Submissions to Public Inquiries

- Submission to consultation on the end-of-life consensus statement, End-of-Life Care Secretariat, Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (March, Prof Jane Ingham).
- Submission to consultation on Part B of Ethical Guidelines on Assisted Reproductive Technologies, National Health and Medical Research Council (April).
- Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee re Medical Services (Dying with Dignity) Exposure Draft Bill 2014 (July).
- Oral submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee re Medical Services (Dying with Dignity) Exposure Draft Bill 2014 (October).

Presentations

Bernadette Tobin

Introduction to Bioethics, First Year Medical Students, University of Notre Dame Australia.

MacIntyre's Paradox: moral genetic enhancement, Centre for Applied Ethics and Public Philosophy, Workshop, University of Melbourne.

Advance care planning: what could be unethical about that? Advance Care Planning Workshop, Sacred Heart Hospice, Sydney.

Contemporary medical practice: the role of Catholic ethical standards, Logos Program, University of Notre Dame Australia (Sydney).

Improving the way Australians die: why legalizing euthanasia is not the way to do that, Aged and Community Services Association of New South Wales, Rosehill.

Advance care planning: Grand Rounds, St Vincent's Hospital.

Patenting eligibility in the life sciences, methods of medical treatment and genetic subject matter: Panellist, 7th Annual Pharmaceutical Law Conference, Sydney.

Conscientious judgments: individual and institutional: nature, scope, limits. Order of Malta Bioethics Series.

Making good decisions at the end of life: the moral tradition of forgoing extraordinary means of care, Second year medical students, University of Notre Dame Australia (Darlinghurst Campus).

Truth in politics: Does it matter? Is it possible? (with Paul Kelly), St James Ethics Centre, Sydney.

Should the legal age for purchasing alcohol being raised to 21? Grand Rounds, St Vincent's Hospital.

Is preimplantation genetic diagnosis a neo-eugenic project? That's Life Week, Australian Catholic University, Melbourne Campus (with Prof Julian Savulescu).

Advance Care Planning: why a new approach? Annual Conference of Catholic Health Australia, Brisbane (with Dr Gerald Gleeson and Dr Natasha Mitchell).

Donation after circulatory death: ethical conundra. NSW Organ and Tissue Donation Authority Annual Conference, Sydney.

Look-backs and managing infected healthcare workers: ethical considerations, Annual Workshop, NSW Ministry of Health Communicable Diseases Branch.



The weekly Monday reading group at the Plunkett Centre: Philippa Byers, Stephen Buckle, Steve Matthews, Bernadette Tobin and Gary Nieuwkamp (Jonathan Gillis not present).

Appointments

Gerald Gleeson

Discipline Coordinator, Humanities, Sydney College of Divinity
Deputy Chair and Acting Chair, Academic Board, Sydney College of Divinity
Member of Council, St John's College (University of Sydney)
Reviewer for Journal *Sophia*.
Director of Mission, CatholicCare Sydney
Associate Professor Sydney College of Divinity teaching at Catholic Institute of Sydney.

Jonathan Gillis

National Medical Director Organ and Tissue Authority, Australian Government (2011-2014)
Senior Staff Specialist NSW, Organ and Tissue Donation Service
Honorary Fellow, Australian Catholic University
Clinical Associate Professor, University of Sydney
Conjoint Associate Professor, University of Western Sydney
Deputy Convenor and Consultant to NSW Child Death Review Team
Member, Certification Assessor Review Panel of ethical review processes for
National Health and Medical Research Council

Steve Matthews

Member, NSW Institute of Psychiatry Ethics Committee
Member, ACU School of Philosophy Committee
Member, Organising Committee, Reasons and Virtues conference
Reader, Australian Research Council
Fellow, Centre for Moral Philosophy and Applied Ethics
Member, Institute of Religion and Critical Inquiry
Referee: *Neuroethics*, *Bioethics*, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, Springer Handbook series
Appointee, ACU Human Research Ethics Committee

Bernadette Tobin

Bioethics Committee, St Vincent's Health Australia, Sydney
Mission, Advocacy and Ethics Sub-Committee, St Vincent's Health Australia
Reader, Australian Research Council
Advisory Board, Anatomy Bequest Program, University of Technology Sydney
Clinical Ethics Advisory Panel, New South Wales Ministry of Health
Blood Borne Virus Advisory Panel, New South Wales Ministry of Health
Clinical Advisory Committee, NSW Organ and Tissue Donation Authority
Editorial Board of *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics*
Director, Garvan Institute of Medical Research
Director, Scalabrinian Villages
Member of Council, St John's College Sydney
Founder, Mary Philippa Brazill Foundation
Member, Enhanced Multi-Disciplinary Peritonectomy Unit, St George's Hospital

Bioethics Outlook Volume 25, 2014

No 1

Integration and Death by the Brain Criterion. Nicholas Tonti-Filippini

No 2

"I just need to be able to talk to someone I know the patient trusted!" Why Catholic Health Australia has prepared a new brochure for advance care planning. Bernadette Tobin

Bring on the Angels – H.L. Mencken, Death and Palliative Care. Frank Brennan

No 3

Anticipate and Communicate. Presidential Commission's advice on the ethical management of incidental and secondary findings in clinical, research, and direct-to-consumer contexts. *Virtues of the report.* Bernadette Tobin.

The Contradictions of Baby Gammy: Disability, Discrimination and the True Cost of Surrogacy. Nicholas Tonti-Filippini

No 4

Vale Nicholas Tonti-Filippini. Bernadette Tobin

How did patients become 'consumers'? Bernadette Tobin

Do we have a right to assisted suicide? Frank Brennan, SJ

In Memory of Nicholas Tonti-Filippini. Raymond Campbell

Give the ill help to die well – not lethal doses. Anthony Fisher, op

Financial Report 2013/2014

		2013	2014
Carried Forward		171,687	140,732
Income			
	St Vincent's Health Australia, Sydney	167,513	175,888
	Australian Catholic University	167,513	175,888
	Consultancies	45,000	45,000
	Teaching	2,585	2,150
	Other Income	4,119	2,413
Total Income		558,417	542,071
Expenditure			
	Salaries	357,073	342,435
	Non-Salary Items		
	Equipment purchase	-	-
	Equipment maintenance	7,579	10,245
	Leasing	4,872	3,518
	Library	2,462	3,591
	Internet	1,018	981
	Other	3,186	3,531
	Rent	31,733	29,699
	Stationery	1,124	1,007
	Travel	8,638	2,971
Total Expenditure		417,685	397,978
Carried Forward		140,732	144,092

Plunkett Centre for Ethics
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