

## **Parish Pastoral Council – Welfare Report 12 February 2020**

### **The Carers Group**

Operating smoothly – nothing of any significance to report.

### **Warmington Lodge Morning Tea Group**

Operating smoothly – nothing of any significance to report.

### **Meals on Wheels**

Operating smoothly – nothing of any significance to report.

### **The St Vincent de Paul Society**

Our Conference was approached by a local farmer seeking assistance under the Government's drought relief scheme. We were unable to assist the person because the Yass district has not been drought declared. The issue was followed up with Federal and State local members. The matter was also pursued with the Mayor who was aware of the situation and has expressed frustration about it.

The Conference President recently attended a meeting at Yass Valley Council to discuss the homelessness situation in the district. Present at the meeting were representatives from Council, Anglicare and real estate agents. Council convened the meeting to prepare plans for future development in the district. As there are currently 177 people identified as homeless (Anglicare figures) in the district the plan needs to include provision for accommodating these people. Currently rents range from \$300/week to \$500/week, well beyond what these people can afford. In addition, current Government housing stock as managed by Argyle Housing tends to be stand alone houses which are considered inappropriate for the needs of these people. The majority of these people are aged between 19 and 35. The waiting time for accommodation in the district is between 2 and 8 years. Council will conduct a stocktake of its land to identify possible sites where appropriate housing might be built. The Conference President is awaiting a copy of the meeting minutes. A follow up meeting is planned.

### **The Yass Gunning Belun**

As reported in the Bulletin recently, Graeme Hocking is in Oecusse supervising the water connection project. The Timor Leste Government has agreed to supply all materials to equip fifteen schools with guttering and water tanks, provided our people do the work.

Michael Van Wanrooy  
Welfare