

Issued Monday 22 August 2011

Cabrini Health makes a difference to marginalised people locally and overseas

Cabrini Health's new *Social Outreach Annual Report 2010-11* released today describes programs which support under-served people in Melbourne and beyond.

Cabrini Health's investment in social outreach increased more than 30 per cent on the previous year (from \$1.2m in 2009-10 to \$1.6m in 2010-11), supporting 37 community projects in Australia and nine projects overseas, as well as in-kind activity and thousands of hours of unpaid volunteer service by our staff.

These social outreach projects are focused on four program areas:

- **Serving marginalised in our community** e.g. support for services to homeless and marginalised people at Sacred Heart Mission, St Kilda including a pilot project to address the social and personal impact of chronic homelessness by getting people back on their feet permanently
- **Community development** e.g. support for Project Respect, which aims to prevent the exploitation and enslavement of women, including women trafficked to Australia
- **Aboriginal health** e.g. support for Stonnington Primary School's Indigenous tutoring program, designed to encourage attendance and participation among Aboriginal children at the school
- **International health** e.g. support for the Afghan Australian Development Organisation, enabling provision of an education program for poor, illiterate, rural women to improve their access to education, healthcare and employment

Cath Garner, Executive Director of Mission Integration, says Cabrini Health has a responsibility to look beyond its current services to identify and fulfil unmet needs.

"Our social outreach program relies on the development of strong partnerships with organisations that have like goals, in order to make a real difference to the people we want to serve," said Ms Garner.

Locally, Cabrini Health's new partnership with Project Respect has been a particular success. Marj Clarence, Manager of Cabrini Linen Service, has been closely involved with the program.

"As well as providing financial support for Project Respect's community development activities, we now offer employment to three of its clients – it's an experience that has opened our eyes and our hearts and I can see it growing and us helping a lot more people in this way," said Ms Clarence.

In 2010-11, less than 3 per cent of funds were expended on administration of the social outreach program, meaning that almost all funds directly benefited the people and organisations identified for support.

Cabrini Health's approach to social outreach was formalised in 1992 with the establishment of Cabrini Centacare (a partnership with Centacare Catholic Family Services, now CatholicCare) involving funding to establish family counselling services in the City of Stonnington. In 2010-11, Cabrini Health's social outreach program was formally reviewed and it was found that 94 per cent of partners interviewed reported that Cabrini Health is providing the right service and that they are completely satisfied with the partnership.

Media enquiries: Jackie Meiers (03) 9508 1915 or Christine Elmer (03) 9508 1216.