



LIBRARY
BROTHERHOOD OF ST. LAURENCE
67 BRUNSWICK STREET
FITZROY
VICTORIA 3065

BROTHERHOOD Action

The generosity of Brotherhood supporter, Peggy Liebe, and many like her, made Christmas that much happier for many thousands of low income families throughout Melbourne.

Peggy made and donated nearly a dozen beautiful soft toys for the annual Christmas toy appeal. Peggy (pictured right) met Community Services staff member, Anne Cham when she visited the Fitzroy centre.

The beautifully crafted teddies and toy animals were sure to become a treasured special favourite. More than 4,500 toys were distributed in the weeks leading up to Christmas.



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BROTHERHOOD
of St LAURENCE

Dealing with violence

Secondary schools throughout Australia and every primary school in Victoria have been given a copy of a Brotherhood of St Laurence report on alternative behaviours to violence and peer mediation programs aimed at helping students at risk.

The report, *Getting it together*, arose from work with the Ballarat Secondary College on the Brotherhood's Prevention of Youth Homelessness Project run between 1992 and 1997.

Speaking at the launch, Brotherhood Executive Director, Bishop Michael Challen said the project was ambitious and it was hard. Its aim was to pilot activities that would prevent youth homelessness. Bishop Challen said its importance lies in the need to find ways in which we can prevent the damage homelessness does to the immediate and future lives of too many young people.

'A nationally resourced early intervention

strategy in all schools was needed' he said.

Student Rhiannon Coffin, said often what was happening at school for a young person was a reflection of what was happening at home: 'the domestic lives of some students are marred by physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse. Students with poor parental models can "act out" similar behaviour at school, and thus develop difficult relationships.'

Another student summed up the program with these words: 'My mum and I used to fight all the time. After I did the course I kind of started talking to her. We're communicating now — we haven't been fighting since about Term 1.' Another: 'Well I've changed and I've stopped teasing. Doing this project has broadened my view.'

Copies of the report describing the work achieved by teachers, students and project workers are available by contacting Brotherhood Publications on 9483 1383.