



Brotherhood
of St Laurence

Working for an Australia free of poverty

ANNUAL REPORT 2007



OUR VISION

An Australia free of poverty.

The Brotherhood of St Laurence will work with others to create:

- » an inclusive society in which everyone is treated with dignity and respect
- » a compassionate and just society which challenges inequity
- » a society in which all create and share prosperity, and share responsibility for each other
- » a sustainable society for our generation and future generations.

In working for an Australia free of poverty, we recognise the Indigenous custodians of this country. We are committed to understanding the effects of the dispossession of Indigenous Australians and to achieving reconciliation.

OUR MISSION

The Brotherhood will deliver services, develop policy and support social change to help achieve our vision by:

- » empowering ourselves and the people we work with
- » developing and building community capacity as part of the community
- » creating and developing enterprising projects and ventures as catalysts for individual and community transformation.

OUR VALUES

The Brotherhood, inspired by our Christian origins, seeks the common good through compassion, with a generosity of spirit, and reliance on evidence.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- 1** The Brotherhood will work not just to alleviate but to prevent poverty, focusing on those people at greatest risk at the four transition stages considered critical to future well-being:
 - » the early years, both at home and into school
 - » the years from school to work and further education
 - » the periods in and out of work, whether voluntary or involuntary
 - » retirement and ageing.
- 2** The Brotherhood will be a national voice on matters of poverty and disadvantage, grounded in service-delivery activities, which will focus on geographic regions representative of anticipated disadvantage and poverty.
- 3** The Brotherhood's work will reflect an understanding that the remedy to poverty lies in integrating social and economic policy as a basis to strengthening the capacities of individuals and communities.
- 4** The Brotherhood will undertake research, service development and delivery, and advocacy, with the objective of addressing unmet needs and translating the understandings gained into new policies, programs and practices for implementation by governments and others.

THE BROTHERHOOD WILL
BE A NATIONAL VOICE ON
MATTERS OF POVERTY
AND DISADVANTAGE



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REPORT FROM THE CHAIR AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are pleased to introduce the thirty-sixth annual report of the Brotherhood of St Laurence. This is the seventy-seventh year since our foundation as a religious order by Father Gerard Tucker, a man who combined his Christian faith with a fierce determination to end social injustice.

Two years ago we set a new strategy for the Brotherhood. It rested on the understanding that in the decade ahead the task of sustaining and extending prosperity to all Australians would depend upon a greater recognition of the essential interdependence between good social policy and good economic policy. We have been arguing strongly in the media and other public forums that the best way to maintain Australia's current prosperity is to reduce social and economic disadvantage. In particular, we have been arguing for a 'social inclusion' approach to national policy-making through the provision of programs that aim to help those who are disadvantaged participate fully in the mainstream economic and social life of the country. We believe this conjoining of economic and social priorities is the best modern expression of our nation's central value of a 'fair go'.

Our public strategy is working and it is highly pleasing to see our arguments now gaining broad acceptance. In October 2007, the outgoing president of the Business Council of Australia, Michael Chaney, expressed similar sentiments in his call 'to make Australia the best place to live, work, learn and do business' by incorporating the objectives of social prosperity into the reform debate. And in his 2007 Sambell Oration in

honour of the Brotherhood's former Executive Director, Bishop Geoffrey Sambell, the ANZ's Saul Eslake put it this way: 'Perhaps now, with an economic imperative as well as out of a sense of moral and social obligation, we may finally begin to make inroads into entrenched disadvantage and poverty'. This support from leading economists and business people will increase community awareness of the need to act.

The challenge that now faces us all is to identify the new forms of investment and regulation needed to lift fairness and efficiency simultaneously. The Brotherhood is now well-positioned and equipped to make a major contribution to this urgent national task. The Brotherhood's research and program delivery work across our four life transition points is identifying the new types of strategies and cross-sector collaborations that will be required in the new policy environment.

While these initiatives lift the human spirit by improving material well-being and renewing a sense of purpose and place, we recognise that by themselves they do not necessarily satisfy people's yearning for deeper spiritual meaning. To this end we are delighted to see the function of chaplaincy beginning to be embedded in the everyday work of the organisation.

Given the level of disadvantage experienced by so many Indigenous Australians, creating a more just society is inconceivable without the achievement of true reconciliation through the proper recognition of Indigenous Australians as the original inhabitants of our land and the impact of dispossession. We are pleased to report that solid progress has been made on this important aspect of our strategy. The engagement of Ms Denise Kickett as our Indigenous Partnerships Officer was a key step in the journey towards

building strong working relationships with Indigenous community organisations and is resulting in the development of formalised partnership agreements with them. These partnerships focus on improving the Brotherhood's awareness of Indigenous culture and strengthening the capacities of the Indigenous organisations.

We have appointed an Indigenous Field Officer to our registered training organisation to broker training and employment opportunities for young Indigenous people struggling to get a foothold in the world of work. We have also adopted a target for the number of Indigenous employees of the Brotherhood that is consistent with their representation in the broader population.

The Brotherhood was particularly pleased to be able to play an integral role in this year's celebration of the fiftieth NAIDOC Week and the commemoration during Reconciliation Week of the historic 1967 referendum. That said, we recognise that the Brotherhood's contribution to addressing Indigenous disadvantage is an ongoing journey.

The continued improvement in financial performance reported elsewhere marks the achievement of another key objective of our 2005 strategy—being able to budget to meet operating costs from operating revenue. This stronger balance sheet position means that new legacies and bequests to the Brotherhood are allowing us to begin tackling a long overdue property improvement program which will, firstly, raise the physical amenity of our services to match the high-quality human services we deliver and, secondly, plan for anticipated need over the coming decades. A number of important projects to upgrade existing facilities and establish new facilities to support families and children, the unemployed and the aged, are either well advanced in planning or about to commence construction.



INDIGENOUS FIELD OFFICER, MALVINA MOFFATT (LEFT),
AND INDIGENOUS PARTNERSHIPS OFFICER, DENICE KICKETT

Of particular note has been the receipt of a major legacy from the estate of Mrs Prue Myer. Prue was a long-standing supporter of the Brotherhood's work. She passionately shared our commitment to social justice and believed the Brotherhood had an important contribution to make to Australian society. In keeping with the Board's desire to secure the financial strength of the organisation in the long term, the corpus of Prue's legacy has been kept intact as an internal fund, the income from which will be directed to support strategic initiatives that help the disadvantaged.

The first significant distribution from the Prue Myer fund will establish a major new Brotherhood project to examine the impact of climate change on poor and disadvantaged households and devise effective public policy responses. To be known as the Brotherhood's Equity and Climate Change Project, it will establish a three-year program of service innovation, research, policy formulation and advocacy. The project's preliminary work has confirmed that the poorest households in Australia will be the hardest hit by climate change and are at further risk if public policy responses are not sensitive to equity issues. Poorer households will need assistance to reduce their use of carbon-intensive goods through, for example, the provision of better public transport and the retrofitting of homes with energy and water-efficient appliances and insulation. They will also need assistance to obtain the sorts of employment skills that will be in demand in the 'greener' industries that will inevitably evolve. We must not allow communities which are reliant on carbon-intensive industries to be thrown on the scrap heap as has happened previously as a result of economic restructuring. This is another example of the Brotherhood's forward-looking, proactive, capacity-building approach to disadvantage.

Our Directors have been diligent in exercising their responsibilities for setting strategy and policy and ensuring good governance. They have been greatly assisted by the highly collaborative and effective working relationship that has been established with the Brotherhood's Executive Team. During the year John Wilson and Alison McClelland retired from the Board, both having made substantial contributions to our work. We are delighted that Mike James and Professor Jack Keating have been able to join the Board as their worthy replacements.

Once again the Brotherhood has benefited enormously from the extraordinary amount of time and material support provided by a diverse range of people and organisations. We owe a great deal to the many dedicated volunteers and paid staff who live the Brotherhood's mission on a daily basis through their skill, enterprise and enthusiasm. We also greatly appreciate those who provide financial support for our work through donations, bequests and trust funds. This support ensures that we have the capacity to foster innovation and address anticipated and emerging community needs. We have been delighted with the increasing amount of collaboration between the Brotherhood and a number of major corporations. It is encouraging that the idea of corporate social responsibility is leading so many businesses to explore with us how they can share their resources and expertise in a mutually beneficial way. We wish also to acknowledge the support for our work from the three levels of government: this goes way beyond the simple contribution of public money.

Many challenges lie ahead but the year closes with a growing expectation that together we can significantly reduce the problem of social exclusion in Australia.



Bishop Philip Huggins

Chair, Board of Directors
Brotherhood of St Laurence



Tony Nicholson

Executive Director
Brotherhood of St Laurence

Postscript from the Chair

As Chair, may I convey appreciation for the work of our Executive Director. Tony has recently agreed to a further five-year contract. This is good news. It means he can consolidate our strategic plan with a stable and inspirational leadership team. Please keep us all in your prayers.

+Philip Huggins



CHAPLAINCY

The role of the Chaplain is to work with the whole community of the Brotherhood of St Laurence in helping to uphold our vision, mission and objectives as an organisation, and to support the many areas in which we offer care, opportunity and transformation to individuals and communities.

This is achieved through visiting our many sites and projects, listening and reflecting within the organisation, and facilitating the building of relationships. The role has a dual nature. In addition to offering personal support and counselling across the organisation, the Chaplain provides executive support, including involvement in policy development and decision making.

It is the Chaplain's responsibility as Priest to preserve the sacramental life of the organisation. This is expressed through weekly Eucharists, baptisms, marriages and funerals, and pastoral care, and by acting as a liaison between the work of the Brotherhood and the Diocese of Melbourne and beyond. Supporting both staff and the many and diverse people we care for keeps my feet on the ground, offering a connected and balanced ministry that reflects the culture of the organisation and the work we do.

One of the many things I enjoy in my role as Chaplain to the Brotherhood is the opportunity to visit parishes and to listen to people talk about the pressing issues of social justice and need within their communities. Connecting with parishes through Sunday visits, preaching opportunities, pastoral

visits and issue-focused meetings is an important part of my work. For example, a visit to St Margaret's, Eltham, to talk about the work of the Brotherhood, or a day in Geelong to talk about the growing need in that area for a more focused Anglican social-action base, gives me the opportunity to listen to, and understand the needs of, communities first hand. I am privileged to enter into the joy of other people's patterns of worship and, importantly, gain insights into particular demographics, which helps to build a picture of the relationship between one area and its needs, and another.

Viewing the Brotherhood's activities within the framework of life transitions can only make sense if we take the spirit of Gerard Tucker's vision of an Australia free of poverty seriously, and if all dimensions of our work interrelate: if every aspect relies on and informs others, if we live and work in close proximity to one another, if we know the people we care for, and they assist us in doing the work we do for them and others.

As a member of the Executive Team, my role involves reflecting on the work of the organisation, assisting in the development of policy and participating in the decision-making process. Given my involvement across the organisation, this is another way in which I can support the work of our many employees and volunteers.

In addition, the Chaplaincy strategic plan links care of staff and volunteers, support of migrants and refugees, Indigenous development and parish networks. It helps focus my attention on specific areas, while giving me the freedom to connect through our life transitions framework and broader agendas. This allows me to meet with staff about developing

the spiritual dimension of their work and to assist them in deepening the care and relationships they enter into via the Brotherhood. For instance, developing a spiritual care work practice with staff at our aged care facilities enhances their work and their relationships with the people they care for.

The privilege of being part of the Brotherhood's work, and the pastoral responsibility that comes with it, are humbling and wonderful and inspiring. We laugh and cry and, at times, are silenced by the depth of someone's journey and transformed by their story. Gerard Tucker started a great thing and his legacy helps us to make sense of what we do as a care agency and as part of the Anglican Church. In this we are challenged to live the gospel of justice, in which relationship, community and friendship are at the heart of who we are.



Fr. Jeff O'Hare

Chaplain
Brotherhood of St Laurence



**I KNOW THAT MY HUSBAND CAN
STILL GO TO WORK AND THE
CARER'S THERE TO BACK US UP**

MICHELLE

THE EARLY YEARS

By the age of eight, disadvantaged children are already falling behind their peers when it comes to reading, writing, numeracy and socialisation skills. This opportunity gap becomes harder to bridge with each passing year. To counter this, the Brotherhood has a strong focus on helping these children during their early years and supporting their parents to create life opportunities.

The Brotherhood's childhood services have three main aims:

- » to deliver specialist services to the most disadvantaged children
- » to build a bridge to universal services for the most disadvantaged families
- » to ensure that all such services strengthen family and community resilience.

In most cases the people best placed to improve a child's life chances are parents, so the Brotherhood's core philosophy is to work with parents to increase their capacity to cope with life's challenges.

Programs

Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY) trains and supports parents to take an active role in preparing their preschool-aged children for school. The two-year program provides home tutors, books and other educational resources to help parents assist their 3 to 5-year-old children to develop 'school readiness', communication and relationship skills. The program builds the skills and confidence of parents so they can make active, positive contributions to their children's ongoing education. The program also trains unemployed parents as home tutors to Certificate III level in Community Services Work.

The Brotherhood's **Family Day Care Centre** in Craigieburn continues to provide a home-based childcare service of the highest quality. The centre also supports a range of outreach services and playgroups that build social capacity in local communities. In addition, it runs a program to train unemployed parents as childcare workers. New training models trialled during 2006–07 resulted in 13 family day carers trained to Certificate II level, and another 10 to Certificate III level, in Children's Services. These newly trained carers now join 58 other active carers working from home.

The Brotherhood's **Napier Street Child and Family Resource Centre**, across from the Atherton Gardens public housing estate in Fitzroy, provides a number of services for disadvantaged and refugee children, including childcare, respite care, playgroups and a breakfast club. The staff also undertake community development work on the estate. During 2006–07 the program provided 94 refugee families with childcare, 11 families with respite care, 52 families with occasional care and 50 families with family support. The centre also ran a community playgroup used by 65 families.

The Brotherhood's **Breakfast Club** served breakfasts to some 70 primary school children every weekday, and was helped by 70 volunteers throughout the year. Some of the parents involved have become volunteer mentors.

The Brotherhood also promoted early years programs in the cities of Hume, Casey, Frankston and Greater Dandenong, and led a feasibility study for an integrated children and families hub in Atherton Gardens.

Research

In addition to the Brotherhood's service provision, the Research and Policy Centre has continued its early years service development, research and advocacy work, including:

- » developing strategic projects for the federal government's Communities for Children initiative
- » evaluating place-based strategies to combat early childhood disadvantage in Frankston, Dandenong and Boroondara.

Work continued on a local evaluation of the Communities for Children initiative in Frankston, and a national evaluation of HIPPY commenced.

The Brotherhood's research partnerships continued to grow and consolidate, particularly with the Monash University Department of Social Work and the National Research Centre for the Prevention of Child Abuse. A paper was presented at the Fifth Annual HIPPY International Conference held in Vancouver, Canada, in May.

Michelle

With the help of the Brotherhood's Craigieburn and District Family Day Care Centre, Michelle returned to her job as a shop assistant at a discount store when her daughter, Shelby, was nine months old. She says she hasn't looked back.

Michelle liked Darlene, the first carer she interviewed, who cared for Shelby (now five years old and at school) and for Shelby's little brother Jess (now three).

Michelle prefers the home setting of family day care. She says children learn more in a smaller group and bond better with their carer than they would in a traditional childcare centre.

The lower fees are a help, too. 'We're just normal blue-collar workers trying to make ends meet,' she says of herself and husband David, a caravan assembler.

The Brotherhood at Craigieburn has helped in other ways. Michelle was concerned about her son's rate of development last year but wasn't sure what to do. Jacquie, a development officer, arranged therapy and an intervention program. 'That was all due to Jacquie looking out for Jess.'

Jess is now in day care one day a week with new carer Karen. Michelle works part-time evening shifts so she and David juggle most of the care between them. However, Michelle has peace of mind knowing that day care is there when she needs it. In the past 12 months she has undergone two operations and may need a third.

She has not needed to worry about her children. 'I know that my husband can still go to work and the carer's there to back us up.'



**IT GOT MY SKILLS
UP SO I COULD GET
AN APPRENTICESHIP
MORE EASILY**

ANDUSSEN

SCHOOL TO WORK

After home to school, the next great transition in young people's lives is school to work. Making this transition is longer and harder than it was for previous generations—and failure has more serious consequences. The Brotherhood's innovative programs aim to help disadvantaged adolescents cope and meet their individual needs. This is an important economic as well as moral challenge.

With the decline in demand for unskilled manual work, failure to complete secondary school or gain an equivalent post-compulsory qualification can seriously restrict a person's life opportunities. While educational attainment in Australia is generally high, it is also very uneven, which partly explains the paradox of high youth unemployment alongside skill shortages. This situation not only restricts opportunities for individuals but also limits national prosperity. Access Economics has recently found that increasing the percentage of young people completing school or an apprenticeship to 90 per cent would boost annual gross domestic product by \$9.2 billion by 2040.

Programs

The Brotherhood has a long history of designing effective services to help disadvantaged young people through this vulnerable stage. The Brotherhood's *School to work action plan 2006–2009* includes helping students in the middle years

of schooling (Years 5–9), creating alternative learning settings for young people, equipping parents to help their children with career decisions, building relationships with employers, and targeting disadvantaged communities through programs such as the Brotherhood's Fairer Victoria Frankston Partnership.

Through such timely investment, the Brotherhood is giving more young people opportunities to get ahead. In 2007, some 670 young people or their parents were helped directly.

The Brotherhood's **Youth Pathways** program, funded by the Commonwealth Department of Education, Science and Training, supports young people at risk of not completing Year 12 or its equivalent. It focuses on those aged 13 to 19 in the Frankston and Mornington Peninsula region who experience difficulties with study due to problems such as mental illness, unstable homes or low self-esteem. In 2006–07, 219 young people received guidance, advocacy, information and learning support.

The Brotherhood's **Youth Transitions** program helps young people by offering advice and assistance about further education, training and employment options, while helping schools to cope with students at risk of leaving school too early. Project workers (based within schools) helped 325 individuals during 2006–07.

Brotherhood research indicates that teenagers commonly turn to parents for career advice but parents may not know how to assist them. The **Parents as Career Transition Supports** (PACTS) program remedies this by holding workshops for parents, to equip them with the knowledge and confidence to help their adolescent children understand their career options and encourage them to make informed choices. The program won a 2006 national award for innovation in career counselling excellence. The Brotherhood is now helping local community partnerships and schools across Australia run PACTS programs, and trained 122 PACTS facilitators in 2006–07.

Other Brotherhood programs include:

- » **Jobs Placement and Employment Training** (JPET), a non-vocational support program offered to young people who are homeless, at risk of homelessness or experiencing other barriers to education, employment and community participation
- » **Furniture Works Training Centre**, which is based in Frankston and provides a host of pre-vocational and vocational training focused on youth clients as well as other targeted groups
- » **YP4**, a contact and support service that helps young homeless people access government services
- » the **Homework Centre**, which is based at the Fitzroy Library and gives academic and personal support to secondary school students, particularly refugees and others experiencing disadvantage
- » the **Refugee Youth Development Program**, which is run by the Ecumenical Migration Centre and aims to build the capacity of young people of refugee or asylum seeker background.

Research

During 2006–07, the Brotherhood's research into the school-to-work needs of young Australians included the second Brotherhood Social Barometer, *Challenges facing Australian youth*. The analysis of key social indicators showed that, in spite of Australia's prosperity, a significant percentage of youth still miss out on opportunities to fully develop their capabilities.

The latest report from the Brotherhood's longitudinal Life Chances study was published. It was based on interviews with 15-year-olds and included their attitudes to education and career plans. The findings reiterated the importance of proactive strategies to keep young people in formal schooling.

Andussen

Andussen is 17, has already left school and hasn't lived with either of his parents since he was 13. He is now set on a career in cabinet-making after a training course at the Brotherhood's Furniture Works Training Centre in Frankston.

At 13, things were bad for Andussen at his mother's home in New South Wales. He went to an aunt's home in Melbourne, then at 15 moved in with a friend. He now lives with the family of another friend. 'I've lived all around the place,' he says.

He missed out on the stable home life and loving parents many teenagers take for granted but he says that 'you get used to it'.

Despite disruption to living arrangements Andussen kept up his schooling, at least until Year 11. 'It wasn't working out and I didn't want to go to uni.' Next came casual work collecting supermarket trolleys and in a butcher's shop.

However, his school had put him in touch with Andrew at the Brotherhood's JPET service, which helps young people dealing with homelessness and other barriers to education and work. 'Andrew put me on to Furniture Works.'

Andussen undertook a workforce participation program there, which included a job trial at a Mentone furniture company. That gave him the all-important foot in the door and he is now in the first year of an apprenticeship.

He says that if it wasn't for Furniture Works he would still be in dead-end jobs. 'It got my skills up so I could get an apprenticeship more easily,' he says. 'I could do this forever. I love it.'



**I'M VERY
PROUD OF MY
ACHIEVEMENTS
TO DATE**

MARIAN

MOVING IN AND OUT OF WORK

Despite Australia's prosperity, 11 per cent of the labour force is either unemployed or underemployed. These people are not just disadvantaged, they are a significant unused economic resource for the nation and we need to invest in them.

Current national policies that simply match people to jobs are not working for the most disadvantaged job seekers. To rectify this, the Brotherhood is creating new ways to bring people into the labour market. These aim to prepare people to get a job, keep a job and progress when in the job. The Brotherhood does this by:

- » engaging with long-term unemployed people
- » building their self-esteem
- » providing a combination of training, experience of real work and social support over a long period to help them keep a job in the open labour market.

Our programs focus on individuals and communities most in need, in order to tackle the problem of pockets of concentrated poverty.

Programs

The Brotherhood believes in early intervention to prevent a downward spiral into long-term unemployment. In 2006–07, our Employment Services section delivered a number of programs funded by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations. These included the **Personal Support Programme**, the **Disability Employment Network** and **JPET**, which together provided case management to some 400 people. The successful delivery of our employment programs in the last 12 months involved 13 partner organisations.

To help disadvantaged people become 'job ready', the Brotherhood's **Group and Vocational Training** team provides a combination of job search and life skills and offers vocational training support. In 2006–07, programs in this area, with the assistance of 43 partner organisations, helped 190 people. Examples include:

- » the Neighbourhood Justice Centre in Collingwood, which supports training as an alternative to mainstream custodial sentencing
- » Neighbourhood Renewal Employment and Learning sites in Fitzroy and Hastings
- » the Brotherhood Group Training Company, which delivers vocational training and supported employment to 60 trainees and apprentices.

Intermediate Labour Markets (ILMs) assist long-term unemployed people through work experience, training and personal support. The Brotherhood is creating new ILM programs through the continuing development of our not-for-profit **Community Enterprises**. At any one time during 2006–07, five Brotherhood-operated Community Enterprises provided jobs for 30 trainees on an ILM pathway to the open labour market.

Employees in these businesses gain valuable work experience, enhanced CVs and a recognised qualification.

The companies and government agencies contracting our services receive high-quality work at competitive prices delivered on time and to specifications, while at the same time practising good corporate citizenship.

This joining of social and economic objectives (social procurement) is poised to become a mainstream strategy for tackling unemployment and disadvantage. Our research indicates that, for every dollar invested in helping the hard-to-employ, society benefits by up to \$14, as a result of lower dependence on income support payments as well as better health.

The Brotherhood also provided support for community enterprise development across Victoria through the **Community Enterprise Development Initiative (CEDI)**. During 2006–07, over 400 people were placed into developing businesses in 17 Victorian communities. These businesses provide employment opportunities for local people while delivering much needed goods and services.

Research

The Brotherhood's Research and Policy Centre is currently evaluating the effectiveness of community enterprises and ILMs. This will both inform the Victorian Government's next phase of community enterprise development and raise awareness of the ILM model.

In partnership with the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, the Brotherhood has gained an Australian Research Council Linkage Grant to investigate job retention and advancement among disadvantaged job seekers. This will provide insights for employment assistance policies.

Marian

When Marian suffered a back injury at work, she wasn't prepared for the four years of unemployment that followed. It took two years for her back to improve so that she could work again, but during this time her confidence fell and it only got worse when she applied for jobs.

'I went to job interviews and as soon as I mentioned the fact I had a back injury, you could see people sit back. They weren't interested,' 54-year-old Marian says.

Marian was ready to give up—until she heard the Brotherhood was helping people find work.

Marian started a traineeship with the Brotherhood and was employed in the first Community Enterprise—the Community Contact Service at the Collingwood and Atherton Gardens public housing estates. The service trains and employs long-term unemployed people to offer support, security and information to tenants living on the estates.

'The job helped tremendously with my confidence because I had to talk to people from all walks of life on a day-to-day basis and I felt responsible.'

In 2006, Marian left the Brotherhood to set up her own successful domestic cleaning business. Her business, Welcome Home Mum, offers a cleaning service to new mothers. Marian couldn't be happier.

'I'm happy to be self-employed, and in particular doing what I'm doing. I'm very proud of my achievements to date, and will be eternally grateful to the people at the Brotherhood who gave me the opportunity to rebuild my life.'



**I HAVE FOUND THE
GROUP TO BE A SAFE
AND SUPPORTIVE SPACE**

RHONDA

RETIREMENT AND AGEING

Over the next decade a significant number of older people will retire without sufficient savings or owning their home. To meet the challenges facing an ageing Australia, the Brotherhood is committed to tackling disadvantage in housing, aged care services, health care and transport.

In 2006–07, the Brotherhood reviewed its focus in the area of ageing and retirement. Addressing the current needs of disadvantaged older Australians and working to prevent future generations of older people from living in poverty will shape our work in this area.

Providing retirement and ageing services is a major Brotherhood responsibility, representing 37 per cent of the organisation's operating budget. In 2006–07, 240 staff in five sites provided:

- » residential care for 165 older people
- » housing for 188 older people
- » community care for 1100 older people and people with disabilities
- » day and respite care for 300 older people and their families.

The community care system works best for people who have assistance from family members or a case manager. Recognising this, the Brotherhood is creating new services based on positive living and social support.

Programs

Residential and independent living facilities

The Brotherhood operates one high-care residential facility—**Broughton** in Frankston. **Cox/Collins Court** and **Sambell Lodge** are low-needs facilities, and **Sumner House** now caters for people with high and low-care needs. The **Independent Living Service** also provides housing in Carrum Downs, Seaford, Fitzroy and East Brunswick for low-income older people, some of whom have disabilities. The manager of Sambell Lodge, Paul Brophy, received the 2007 federal Minister's Award for Excellence in Aged Care in the 'Residential Care Lifestyle' category.

Day services and social activities programs

The **Coolibah Day Centre** in Fitzroy provides meals, welfare support and social engagement activities for older people. In 2006–07, developments included a therapeutic garden and a fresh fruit and vegetables program. The Centre now works with the City of Yarra to provide local aged care assessment services.

The Brotherhood's **Banksia Services** in Frankston and Carrum Downs support people who are aged, disabled or socially excluded—mostly because of dementia. The physical, mental and socialisation activities include community kitchen groups, active-mind games, a community garden and the 'Tool and Timber Group', which enables older men to meet and make wooden toys in a 'blokey' environment. A vital service is respite for dementia carers, offered six days and four nights per week. The programs were supported by 24 volunteers.

The **Brotherhood Community Nexus** provided day programs and respite services for 96 people with disabilities and their 70

carers in the southern metropolitan region in 2006–07. Staff collect people from their homes and take them to community activities of their choice. Flexible hours ensure that the service fits into people's lives, rather than the reverse.

Care packages

To help people continue to live at home, the Brotherhood provides case management and community care services from offices in Preston, Carrum Downs and the Mornington Peninsula. Services include personal care, housekeeping, friendship networks and respite care. In 2006–07, funding was granted for an additional 30 care packages for people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds and a further 10 packages for people with dementia. A DVD, *Blurring the boundaries*, was produced to help clients and their carers develop assertiveness.

Socialisation program

The Brotherhood's research and service experience show that lack of social interaction can lead to poor physical and mental health. To counter this, the Brotherhood's **Socialisation Program** operates in partnership with local community health providers to help older people with disabilities rebuild relationships through social and leisure activities. The program manager, Michael Hillier, was awarded a 2007 federal Minister's Award for Excellence in Aged Care in the 'Community Care Lifestyle' category.

Research

A joint research project with La Trobe University, *Outcomes for older people with chronic and complex needs*, found that isolated older people and carers with high care burden are less likely to access community care services. This underlines the need for the community care system to better engage the most vulnerable older people and carers.

Rhonda and Rod

Rod was a miner for most of his working life, which left him with chronic back pain. In 1997, he collapsed when his condition worsened. The same year Rhonda, now his wife, suffered a stroke that left her severely paralysed down one side of her body. They met during rehabilitation.

It was tough for the couple early on as they learnt to cope with their chronic illness and disability. Rhonda was given an electric wheelchair which was a mixed blessing—it gave her greater independence but made her less active.

'I found myself sitting in a chair all day and I felt my body getting weaker and weaker,' Rhonda says.

When Rhonda heard about the physical activities provided by the Brotherhood's Socialisation Program, they captured her interest. The program links isolated older people and people with disabilities to activities and new friends. Both Rod and Rhonda signed up to a weekly activity—Adam's fitness group.

'I was really interested ... feel good and motivated—that's why I like the water aerobics as it takes away the fear of falling,' Rhonda says.

Apart from improving their physical fitness, the couple believe that the friendships they have made through the fitness group have been a great benefit.

'I have found the group to be a safe and supportive space where I have made some friends. I find myself giving encouragement to my friends to keep going with their exercise,' Rhonda says.

THEY GAVE US SUPPORT AND ADVICE TO ORGANISE PROJECTS IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

TENENET



Tenenet

Tenenet is the Chairperson of the Ethiopian Women's Group in Victoria, a volunteer-based organisation which provides information and support services for new arrivals and asylum seekers.

In 2006–07, the Brotherhood's EMC worked with Tenenet and the Ethiopian Women's Group, along with five other African and Middle Eastern refugee communities, as part of the Victorian Government's Refugee Brokerage Program.

This program recognises that those best placed to socially connect with newcomers from Ethiopia are those in the Ethiopian community who have had similar experiences and moved beyond them.

'[Program managers] Linda and Esmeralda were very supportive. They gave us advice and support to organise projects in our local community,' says Tenenet.

'Linda would visit people in our community, isolated people, and invite them to our meetings so they could hear about the experiences of other women ... and share ideas. She participated and helped in our program, which is "home visit", which is intended to reach isolated women and victims of domestic violence.

'We also set up a community newspaper in our language ... it lists activities going on and has stories about women in our community, what they do now for work in Australia.'

Tenenet says the program played a big role in improving her community's settlement experience, but she believes more research and collaboration between refugee community groups and mainstream service providers are needed.

'[This will] deliver appropriate service for the needy and isolated women who are the mothers looking after the well-being of the next generation.'

REFUGEES AND INCLUSION

As the backgrounds of Australia's refugee arrivals have changed in recent years, their settlement needs have become more complex. Recent arrivals, largely from Africa, are typically poorer, have experienced greater trauma, face huge financial burdens including legal bills and remittances to families, and have limited education compared with previous refugees. People who seek asylum onshore face especially daunting obstacles and uncertainty.

Not only must refugees overcome complex settlement challenges, but they also face the same key transitions and risks as other disadvantaged Australians. Many Brotherhood programs in 2006–07 responded to their needs by including a focus on disadvantaged migrants and refugees:

- » **Early years programs**—90 per cent of Breakfast Club attendees were refugees, and HIPPY programs in Fitzroy, North Melbourne and Kensington targeted refugee families from Somalia, Sudan and Vietnam.
- » **School to work programs**—20 per cent of JPET clients were young refugees and the Brotherhood trained 70 family day carers from CALD backgrounds at Craigieburn.

- » **Moving in and out of work programs**—66 per cent of Disability Employment Network (DEN) clients were refugees.
- » **Retirement and ageing programs**—48 per cent of community care packages were provided to people from a CALD background.

In addition, the Brotherhood provided 4500 refugees with a package of household items to set up their first home in Victoria. The Brotherhood's **Ecumenical Migration Centre** (EMC) also runs specialist services and demonstration programs that build the capacity of new communities and their leadership to achieve successful settlement.

Programs

Under the **Refugee Brokerage Program** the EMC worked with six communities and local government agencies in 2006–07, to develop action plans to engage local services, improve access to existing resources and create new opportunities for recently arrived refugees. The EMC's approach of community development and capacity building has become the Victorian Multicultural Commission's template for refugee brokerage programs.

The **Given the Chance Program** creates employment pathways for refugees by providing supported work experience, paid work, traineeships, opportunities to learn job search skills, and trained mentors. In 2006–07, 91 refugees took part in the program, supported by 183 volunteers and mentors.

The **A New Life: African Women's Program** engages African refugee women in the City of Yarra. Through group and individual work, women's health and safety and the prevention of family and sexual violence are promoted. Women are also informed about education and employment.

The **Refugee Youth Development Program** undertakes creative community development initiatives to improve young people's participation in the broader Australian community. In 2006–07, a pilot Refugee Youth Media project involved 15 young people from refugee, Indigenous and mainstream communities in producing audio content drawn from their diverse experiences. Uploaded to a web hub, the audio content forms the nucleus of a creative community of young people.

The annual **Refugee Week Business Breakfast** raised awareness of refugee needs. Two hundred business people joined us to learn more about including refugees in Australian workplaces. Partnerships with Coles, ANZ and other companies are leading the way in reducing employment barriers.

In its first year, the **Family Relationships Services Program for Humanitarian Entrants** counselled 88 refugee families and held 29 group sessions for African men and women in Melbourne's north and west. A further 488 community members attended information sessions about the impact of settlement in a new country on family relationships.

Research

The EMC undertook research for the Scanlon Foundation's Social Cohesion Research Program. This program seeks to identify the conditions that underpin social cohesion by benchmarking community views on social and cultural barriers to inclusion and providing useful data for policy and advocacy. The EMC's 2006 project, *Revitalising Multiculturalism as a Contributor to Social Inclusion*, explored the bridges and barriers to mainstream Australia embracing multiculturalism.



IF WE WORK
HARD, WE CAN
ACHIEVE
ONE DAY

DEPOJAY

ACROSS THE TRANSITIONS

SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

The Brotherhood is leading the way in establishing commercially sustainable social enterprises that provide valuable income to support our work. In addition to generating revenue, these enterprises offer important community benefits and foster connections between the Brotherhood and the public.

The Brotherhood's social enterprises have two objectives: firstly, to raise revenue for our services by running commercially successful businesses and, secondly, to create employment and training opportunities for disadvantaged Australians. They represent a marriage of commercial sense and ethical concerns. Every dollar made is reinvested in the Brotherhood.

Our current social businesses comprise:

- » an optical frames importing and wholesaling enterprise
- » innovative retail outlets for vintage clothing and No Sweat Shop-accredited new fashion garments
- » a network of community stores where families and individuals can purchase low-cost clothing and household items
- » an enterprise to transform unwanted refrigerators into energy-efficient affordable appliances.

Activities

Mod-Style

Operated by the Brotherhood since 2000, Mod-Style is a successful commercial and social enterprise which supplies optical frames to independent optometrists, making a significant financial contribution to the organisation. Its ethical focus has included funding research into access to eyecare services, advocating service enhancements such as outreach and supplying eyewear to low-income Victorians through the Victorian Eyecare Scheme.

Hunter Gatherer stores

Two Hunter Gatherer stores, in St Kilda and Fitzroy, cater for fashion-conscious youth. In addition to selling recycled vintage clothing, the stores carry new garments and accessories made under No Sweat Shop conditions. To advance ethical clothing production, the Brotherhood is represented on the Homeworkers Code of Practice Committee, the RMIT School of Fashion Industry Advisory Committee and Fairwear's Administration Committee and International Committee.

Brotherhood Community stores

Located across Melbourne and surrounds, the Brotherhood's 29 community stores are much more than opportunity shops. Selling donated goods, new items and furniture (including products from the Brotherhood's Furniture Works enterprise) at affordable prices, they are a valuable community resource, especially for low-income families. The stores raise vital funds for the Brotherhood and also offer services including microfinance in conjunction with the ANZ, affordable computers from Green PC and retrofitted Phoenix Fridges.

Phoenix Fridges

This program, significantly expanded in 2006–07, repairs, recycles and retrofits unwanted refrigerators to make them more energy-efficient. The fridges are then offered to low-income families, helping to slash energy costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Phoenix Fridges project also creates skilled employment by training disadvantaged job seekers to retrofit the fridges. By collecting 5000 fridges we will save up to 2.5 million kilowatt hours in energy. This is the equivalent of removing nearly 1200 cars from our roads.

Phoenix Fridges is a joint project of the Brotherhood of St Laurence and the Moreland Energy Foundation, and is supported by TRUenergy, the Adult Multicultural Education Service (AMES) and the Victorian Government's Sustainability Fund.

Refugee household support packages

As a partner in the Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy consortium, which is led by AMES and delivers services for all newly arrived refugees in Victoria, the Brotherhood applies its knowledge and skills in organising, purchasing, supplying and installing packages of basic household goods in each new refugee home.

Research

In 2006–07, research was undertaken to explore the understanding and practice of corporate social responsibility in the Australian garment industry. The Brotherhood's experience of monitoring the labour conditions of Mod-Style's overseas suppliers was also documented as a case study of responsible supply chain management. Presentations were made at local and international conferences, including OECD forums, and created opportunities for dialogue with the Australian corporate sector.

Depojay

Depojay is a 34-year-old man from the Karen tribe, an ethnic minority that has been oppressed by Burma's brutal military government for over 50 years.

When the government waged an aggressive attack on the Karen people in 1997, Depojay was in fear for his life and fled to a refugee camp on the Thai–Burmese border. This became his home for nine years.

Depojay was accepted as a refugee under Australia's humanitarian program and arrived in Melbourne in December 2006.

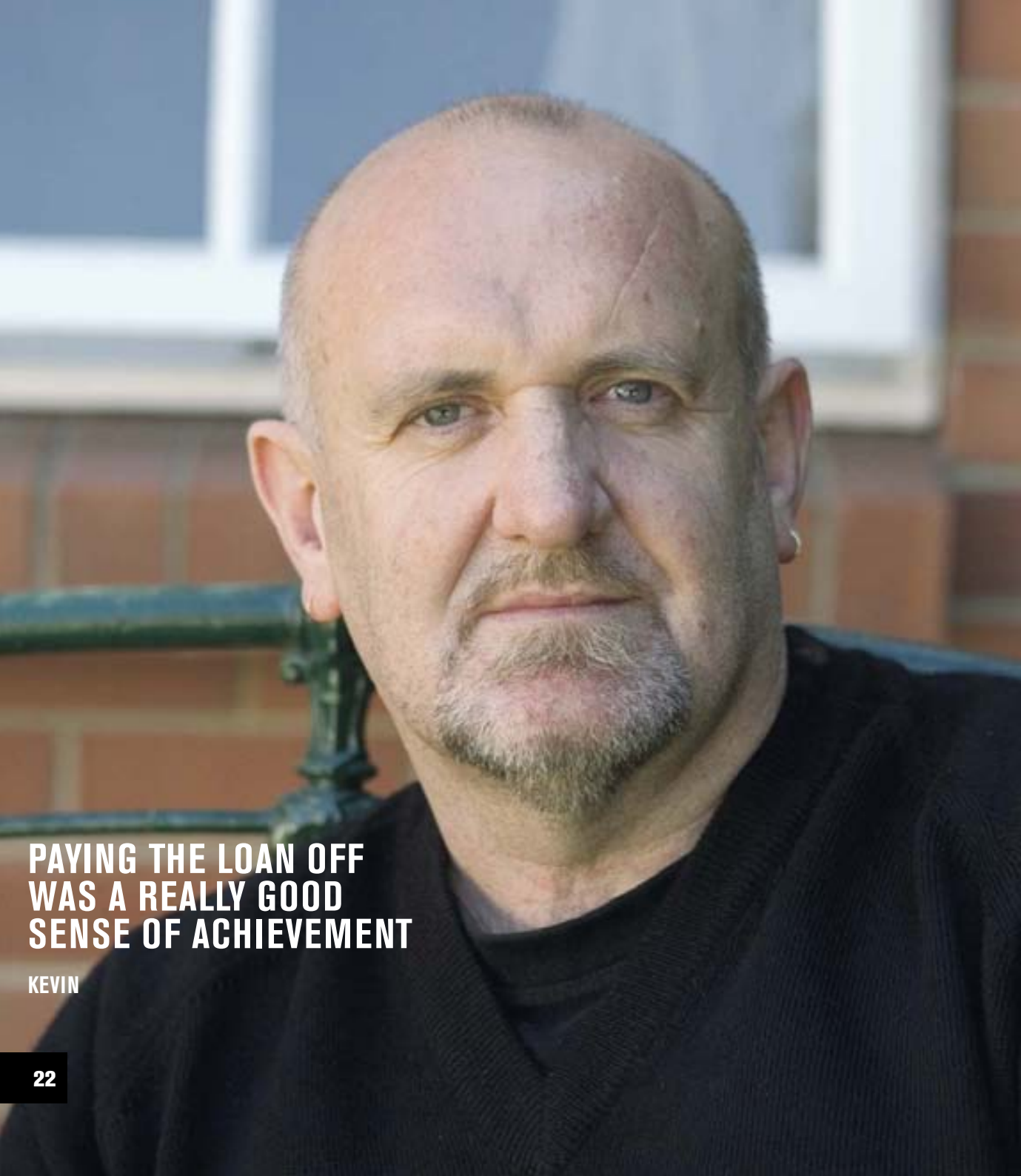
While studying English, Depojay heard the Brotherhood was looking to train and employ refugees to repair and retrofit fridges as part of their Phoenix Fridges project.

Depojay applied for the six-month traineeship and was successful. In June, he became part of the first group of refugees employed on the project that offers retrofitted fridges to low-income families, helping to cut refrigeration costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

'I like this job ... I like to refurbish the fridges and find it interesting. It's for six months and hopefully I will get a job at the end.'

Depojay considers himself very lucky to have found a new home, a job and a new life in Australia, a country so different from Burma.

'In my country we cannot see our future—we cannot decide our future. In Australia, we can decide. If we work hard, we can achieve one day. After I finish this training, I want to learn more and more. This job is for me.'



**PAYING THE LOAN OFF
WAS A REALLY GOOD
SENSE OF ACHIEVEMENT**

KEVIN

ACROSS THE TRANSITIONS

FINANCIAL INCLUSION

A lack of access to affordable credit and limited understanding of how financial services work prevent disadvantaged people from obtaining financial security and independence. To counter this, the Brotherhood has developed a financial inclusion approach that helps disadvantaged people participate as equals in the market economy.

It's often overlooked just how important obtaining finance, even for small sums, can be. For instance, for the want of \$1000 to repair a car, an unemployed parent may be prevented from getting a job not easily accessed by public transport.

The Brotherhood believes the answer is to build a bridge between disadvantaged people and the financial services sector. To do this, we have developed four financial inclusion programs.

Programs

The **Progress Loan** program provides low-repayment loans for health care card and pension card holders, in partnership with ANZ. The program's objective is to enable low-income consumers to access affordable, mainstream finance to purchase necessary items. The program aims to eventually break even and create a model that can be replicated by other community organisations and financial institutions.

The **Interest-Free Loan** program gives applicants the opportunity to strengthen their financial position as a stepping stone to obtaining a Progress Loan.

In 2006–07, 133 Progress Loans were granted for a total of \$224,304. A further 95 Interest-Free Loans were financed for a total of \$67,773. Items funded included whitegoods, cars, car repairs and registration, computers, furniture, and dental and medical services. A strong foundation has been laid for the continued expansion of the programs in the next year.

Saver Plus is a matched savings program developed by the Brotherhood and ANZ and delivered through additional partnerships with the state government, Berry Street Victoria, the Benevolent Society and The Smith Family. The program helps families and individuals on low incomes develop a savings habit and reach a savings goal, by matching their savings towards education costs dollar-for-dollar up to \$1000. Participants receive support and financial education.

Following its successful pilot program, Saver Plus has now extended to 18 sites. In 2006–07, 1287 people participated in Saver Plus. During the program 95 per cent of participants met or surpassed their savings goals. Three new sites engaging Indigenous Australians have been established in Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Money Minded is a flexible and comprehensive adult financial education program developed to help people build their financial skills, knowledge and confidence so they can make informed decisions about the use and management of their money. An initiative of ANZ and delivered in partnership with the Brotherhood and others, the program includes workshops on topics such as planning and budgeting, credit providers, dealing with debt and consumer rights and responsibilities.

During 2006–07 the Brotherhood provided training to 82 community educators from organisations such as neighbourhood and community houses, public housing

tenant groups and emergency relief organisations, who ran workshops for 279 people. A working party has also been established to tailor programs to the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse groups.

The Brotherhood also advocated to raise awareness within the corporate sector of the role of insurance in preventing low-income people from falling further into poverty.

In 2006–07, ANZ received the Special Award for Impact on the Community in the 2006 Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Community Business Partnerships. ANZ was also recognised as the CANNEX–Money Magazine 'Socially Responsible Institution of the Year'. The Saver Plus, Progress Loan and Money Minded programs provided in partnership by the Brotherhood and ANZ contributed to this recognition.

Research

The February 2007 report, *Saving behaviour of past Saver Plus participants*, provides results from the second follow-up survey of previous Saver Plus participants. Encouragingly, 75 per cent of those surveyed continued to save the same amount or more 12 to 24 months after completing Saver Plus. They reported that the educational items saved for had benefited their children through improved academic performance, reduced stress, increased participation in school activities such as music and sport, and increased self-esteem and confidence.

Market research was undertaken with ANZ to identify desirable features to be provided with loans to help people on low incomes, including flexible repayments and clear and simple agreements.

Funding was received to research, in association with the Law Department of Griffith University, the understanding of credit contracts by people with low incomes.

Kevin

Kevin works part-time as a handyman and in other casual work, and also receives a government benefit from Centrelink.

Money is tight but he has taken out loans and paid them off twice through Progress Loans, a Brotherhood partnership with ANZ, and through a previous micro-finance scheme at the Brotherhood.

These loans have helped him with essential purchases and given him the confidence to deal with banks.

He first heard about taking out such loans when shopping at a Brotherhood community store in Moonee Ponds.

'I took out a Progress Loan of \$850 for a fridge because my old one packed up. It's hard to survive without a fridge. I had to use an esky for a while and it was like camping.'

Kevin had to buy fresh food daily and ice for the esky. He couldn't plan ahead for food purchasing.

'The loan was a godsend. Knowing you've got a fridge you can then stock up on specials through NQR (Not Quite Right discount grocery store). Without a fridge you can't do anything,' he said.

'Paying the loan off was a really good sense of achievement. When I finished, ANZ sent me a letter thanking me. It's usually us against the banks but I found this a pleasant relationship.'

Kevin says that paying off the loan means he has the confidence to better manage money, now and in the future.

NEIGHBOURHOOD CHANGE

While social disadvantage exists across the nation, it is highly concentrated in specific communities. Through its strong support for the Victorian Government's *A Fairer Victoria* strategy, the Brotherhood is working on new approaches to building stronger communities and tackling disadvantage.

Neighbourhood Renewal

The Victorian Government's Neighbourhood Renewal strategy has targeted 19 disadvantaged communities for extra assistance. Its aim is to narrow the gap between these disadvantaged communities and the rest of the state by improving outcomes across a range of areas including employment and education, health and well-being, crime and safety, housing and the physical environment, access to services, local pride and community participation.

The Brotherhood plays a key role in three specific Neighbourhood Renewal sites—Doveton Eumemmerring, Fitzroy and Collingwood, and Hastings.

Doveton Eumemmerring Neighbourhood Renewal

The Brotherhood's role in the Doveton Eumemmerring Neighbourhood Renewal project is to foster community development by increasing residents' participation in the life

of their community, reducing the isolation of disadvantaged residents and contributing to whole-of-government policy development.

The Brotherhood's project officers conduct regular resident meetings and information forums, provide training and personal development opportunities, promote healthy physical activity and, through feedback to the state government, influence policy making.

Highlights in 2006–07

- » The **Doveton Show Day** is held annually at Doveton's Myuna Farm. Organised by residents, the event not only provides a low-cost alternative to the Royal Melbourne Show but also showcases Doveton and Eumemmerring to the broader community.
- » The **Australia Day Celebration** at a local sports ground highlights cultural diversity and sporting prowess, and includes children's activities.
- » The **Community Cultural Kitchen** is a community garden, kitchen and catering project created to bring cultures together and reduce racial tension.

More than 4000 residents were involved in Neighbourhood Renewal activities in 2006–07.

Fitzroy and Collingwood Neighbourhood Renewal

In the Fitzroy and Collingwood Neighbourhood Renewal project, the Brotherhood helps local residents enter the workforce through employment and learning strategies. The Brotherhood's innovative programs include Community

Enterprises, which provide Intermediate Labour Market pathways for disadvantaged job seekers.

Highlights in 2006–07

- » The Brotherhood's Community Enterprises provided 40 jobs for local people.
- » Over 100 residents were supported by our Group Training Company through a job club, life skills development and accredited traineeships.
- » A street-cleaning enterprise was established and began fulfilling a service contract for the City of Yarra. The City of Yarra is also employing other trainees supported by the Group Training Company.
- » A recycling project to employ local residents commenced in both the Fitzroy and Collingwood public housing estates through the Brotherhood's Community Contact Service.

Employment programs supported a total of 120 Collingwood and Fitzroy residents.

Hastings Neighbourhood Renewal

As part of the Hastings Neighbourhood Renewal project, the Brotherhood helps local residents find pathways to sustainable employment, collaborates with local business, seeks state government Community Enterprise Development funding for community initiatives, and works in partnership with Sustainability Victoria on environmental outcomes.

Highlights in 2006–07

- » A survey was undertaken to identify the employment and training needs of local residents.

- » A school-based apprenticeship program began, with the aim of involving 12 students in apprenticeships with local employers.
- » The Brotherhood assisted in the establishment of the Hastings University of the Third Age (U3A) for older residents.
- » Brotherhood Community Enterprises employed local residents in jobs such as gardening and home improvement, introducing energy-saving measures into 170 local homes.

The Frankston Partnership

The Frankston Partnership, announced as part of the A Fairer Victoria strategy, represents a new way of addressing locally identified issues in a more strategic, integrated and responsive way.

The Frankston Partnership initially involved Frankston City Council, the Brotherhood of St Laurence and the Departments of Education and Training, Human Services and Victorian Communities. The Partnership has been extended to include a number of other key networks.

Highlights in 2006–07

- » A strategic action plan was devised to ensure young people maximise their potential in education, employment, training and community participation.
- » An early intervention service was developed through a collaborative bid for federal crime prevention funding.
- » **Youth Voices**, a consultation project involving young people consulting other young people about issues that affect them, was undertaken.

The Brotherhood is also contributing to the Department of Planning and Community Development's place-based community renewal partnerships in Laverton, Rosebud and Frankston North.





RESEARCH AND POLICY CENTRE

The Brotherhood is committed to researching the causes, consequences and solutions to poverty and disadvantage. In 2006–07, our Research and Policy Centre (RPC), formerly known as Social Action and Research, expanded and flourished with new staff, new projects and important new research, policy and action strategies.

The RPC's work continued in the four transition areas and explored the key social policy themes of social investment, social exclusion and social governance. Attention was given to migration and new settlers, Indigenous issues, communities and community engagement, and transport. Important work commenced on the pressing issue of equity in response to climate change.

Work undertaken by the RPC has a number of funding sources—Brotherhood funding, grants, philanthropic trusts, and government and consultancy contracts. There was considerable growth in our externally funded work, with more than 30 projects in progress at any one time.

The RPC has successfully applied for a number of Australian Research Council (ARC) grants. Current projects are:

- » Impact of welfare-to-work changes on sole parents (with Deakin University)
- » Investigating transport disadvantage: social exclusion and well-being in metropolitan, regional and rural

Victoria (with Monash University, University of Westminster, University of Ulster, the Department of Infrastructure and the Bus Association of Victoria)

- » Left out and missing out: towards new indicators of social exclusion (with the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of NSW, Australian Council of Social Service, Mission Australia and Anglicare NSW)
- » Low-paid work in the services sector in Australia (with the University of Adelaide, Australian Centre for Industrial Relations Research and Training at the University of Sydney, RMIT University, the Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Union, and the Trades and Labour Councils in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide).

The Brotherhood's work was showcased at conferences and seminars, including:

- » New transitions: challenges facing Australian youth, half-day conference, 18 August 2006
- » Our social rights and responsibilities: the new politics of welfare, conference, 30 August 2006
- » Equity in response to climate change, roundtable, in association with the National Welfare Rights Network, the Climate Institute and the Australian Conservation Foundation, 26 March 2007
- » a series of workshops on the transition area of retirement and ageing, to assist in defining our research and policy work program
- » the Brotherhood's seminar series, held weekly during the academic terms
- » a seminar series held with the Department of Infrastructure, the Bus Association Victoria and Monash University.

The research of the Brotherhood was reported in a range of publications, including internal research reports, external papers and book chapters, submissions, *Brotherhood Comment* and other outlets. Talks and papers were presented at 16 events, including international conferences in the United Kingdom, Canada and Spain.

Tertiary students continued to play an important role in the RPC. We have a strong partnership with Monash medical students, who come to the Brotherhood for placements to develop their understanding of poverty and disadvantage. We offer learning and work experience to undergraduate and postgraduate students from many social science disciplines at Victorian universities.

The Brotherhood's research into the four key transitions is outlined in the relevant sections of this report. Selected Research and Policy publications are listed below.

Library and information services

The team has continued to provide staff and the public with the latest printed and online information about research, policy and service trends, especially related to the four key transitions. Material from the Brotherhood archives was used in several external displays about the Brotherhood's innovative responses to poverty and social exclusion.

Brotherhood Research and Policy Centre reports

Bedson, L (2007), *The Community Enterprise Development Initiative: learnings from work with twelve disadvantaged neighbourhoods in 2005–06*.

Bedson, L (2007), Partnerships advancing community engagement: four pilot projects. Work-in-progress report.

Boese, M & Scutella, R (2006), *The Brotherhood's Social Barometer: challenges facing Australian youth*.

Brotherhood of St Laurence, Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, Program Evaluation Unit & the School of Population Health (2006), Strategy options in arts and health, University of Melbourne, unpublished report.

Equity in Response to Climate Change Roundtable: Melbourne, 26 March 2007, papers from proceedings.

Marsh, E & Perkins, D (2006), *Building pathways to local jobs for young people: City of Kingston Youth Employment Strategy*, City of Kingston.

Mestan, K & Stanley, J (2006), *STEP into residential care: a training program evaluation*.

Stanley, J, Ng, C W & Mestan, K (2007), *Social exclusion in Boroondara: stage two: identifying the issues for children who experience social exclusion in Boroondara*.

Stanley, J & Currie, G (2006), *Social capital, community strengthening and public transport stage 1—Methodology Development Project*, unpublished report, with Monash University.

Taylor, J & Nelms, L (2006), *School engagement and life chances: 15 year olds in transition*.

Teshuva, K, Nelms, L, Johnson, V, Foreman, P & Stanley, J (2007), *Outcomes for older people with chronic and complex needs: a longitudinal examination of the use of community services following an aged care assessment in Victoria*.

Externally published papers and articles

Johnson, V & Stanley, J (2007), 'Capturing the contribution of community arts to health and well-being', *International Journal of Mental Health Promotion*, vol. 9, no. 2.

Smyth, P (2007), *Social investment in human capital: a vehicle for reintegrating economic and social policy?*, paper presented at 'From welfare to social investment' conference, Centre for Public Policy, University of Melbourne, February 2007.

Stanley, J (2007), 'Climate change: urgent and fair action is needed', <www.NewMatilda.com>, 30 March 2007.

Stanley, JR & Stanley, JK (2007), 'Public transport and social policy goals', *Road and Transport Research*, vol. 16, no. 1.

Taylor, J (2006), 'Life chances: including the children's view', *Australian Journal of Early Childhood*, vol. 31, no. 3.

Public submissions and responses

Response to Victorian Energy Efficiency Target, Issues Paper (May 2007).

Submission to the Australian Fair Pay Commission, with Anglicare Australia (July 2006).

Submission on the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*: proposed regulations (March 2007).

Submission to the Prime Ministerial Task Group on Emissions Trading, with Catholic Social Services Australia and the National Welfare Rights Network (April 2007).

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

The following principles, practices and structures establish the framework for the governance of the Brotherhood.

The Patron of the Brotherhood is Lady Southey AM.

The President of the Brotherhood is the Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne, The Most Revd Philip Freier.

Organisational information

The Brotherhood is incorporated under the *Brotherhood of St Laurence (Incorporation) Act 1971*, number 8188 of the Victorian Parliament, and is domiciled in Australia. The registered office of the Brotherhood is 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy Victoria 3065.

The Brotherhood is an income tax exempt charity and has deductible gift recipient status.

The structures, principles and practices which provide the framework for the governance of the Brotherhood are described on the following pages.

Charter Members

Ms Joanna Baeviski (from November 2006)	Ms Elizabeth Loftus
Mr Ernest Barr	Dr Ian Manning
Mr Chris Barrett (from November 2006)	Ms Patrice Marriott (to November 2006)
Ms Diana Batzias	The Revd Dr Peter Marshall
Ms Cath Bradley	Ms Alison McClelland
Mr Neville Brooke OAM	Mr John McInnes OAM
The Revd Ron Browning (to November 2006)	Father James Minchin
The Revd Barbara Colliver	Mr Baillieu Myer AC (to November 2006)
Dr Terry Cutler	Mr Tony Nicholson
Mr Tony Darvall AM (to November 2006)	Dr Apollo Nsubuga-Kyobe (from November 2006)
The Revd Elizabeth Dean	Mr Ian Reid
Mr Ivan Deveson AO (to November 2006)	Dr Nouria Salehi OAM
The Rt Revd David Farrer	Ms Fiona Smith (from November 2006)
Mr Michael Feeney	The Revd Clemence Taplin
Mr William Ford	Mr Evan Thornley MLC
Mr Carrillo Gantner AO	Ms Jenny Trethewey
Ms Celia Gerreyn	Mr David Triplow APM
Mr David Green (from November 2006)	The Revd Janet Turpie-Johnstone
Ms Susan Gribben	Ms Angela Were (to October 2006)
The Rt Revd Philip Huggins	Mr John Wilson
Mr James Jacoby	Mr Graeme Wise
The Hon. Rob Knowles AO	

Life Members

Professor Connie Benn AM

The Rt Revd Michael Challen AM

Mr Sandy Clark (from November 2006)

Dr Stephen Duckett

Mr Kurt Eisner

The Revd Nicolas Frances MBE

Mr Eric Hart

The Rt Revd Dr Peter Hollingworth AC OBE

Professor Brian Howe AM

Mrs Jean McCaughey AO

Dr David Scott AO

Mrs Catherine Smith

The Rt Revd Andrew St John

Mrs Thelma Tuxen

Charter and Life Members

Up to 40 Charter Members are permitted under the Brotherhood's constitution, including the Executive Director. At least eight of them must be clerics in Holy Orders of the Anglican Church in Australia.

Charter Members receive and adopt the reports of the Board and of the auditors, receive and adopt the annual financial statements, elect Board Members and fix the remuneration of the auditors, as well as transacting any other business at general meetings.

Life membership has been conferred on a number of members who have given significant service to the Brotherhood. Life Members act as 'friends of the Brotherhood', often providing advice and ongoing support to the organisation.





The Board

Bishop Philip Huggins MA, BEc (Non-Executive Chair)

Bishop of the Northern and Western Regions, Diocese of Melbourne. Chair, General Synod Ecumenical Relations Commission. Chair, Mission to Seafarers Victoria. Executive Member, National Council of Churches and Christian World Service Commission. Member, Finance (to April 2007), Nomination and Remuneration Committees. Appointed to Brotherhood Board in November 2004. Appointed Chair in December 2005.

Jenny Trethewey BA, MA Prelim (Deputy Chair)

Manager New Projects, Leadership Victoria. Fellow of Leadership Victoria's Williamson Community Leadership Program. Trustee of the Ronald Henderson Research Foundation. Company Secretary, Australian Embassy for Timor-Leste Fund. Member, Audit and Risk, Nomination, Remuneration Committees; Aged and Community Care Future Directions Working Group. Appointed to the Board in 2001.

Tony Nicholson BA, BSW (Executive Director)

Executive Director, Brotherhood of St Laurence since October 2004. Previously Chief Executive Officer, Hanover Welfare Services. Director, Media Team Australia. Member of the Finance, Audit and Risk, Nomination and Remuneration Committees. Appointed to the Board in October 2004.

The Revd Barbara Colliver BSW (Hons), BA, BD

Vicar, St George's, Ivanhoe East. Facilitator for Supervised Theological Field Education, Diocese of Melbourne. Council Member, Anglicare Victoria. Member, North Western Mental Health Research and Ethics Committee. Member, Archbishop-in-Council Melbourne. Member, Aged and Community Care Future Directions Working Group. Appointed to the Board in April 2003. On leave of absence September–October 2006.

Celia Gerreyn BEc, LLB, MBA, FAICD, FICS

Fellow, Chartered Secretaries Australia. Fellow, Australian Institute of Company Directors. Fellow, Leadership Victoria's Williamson Community Leadership Program. ACLA Australian Government Lawyer of the Year 2004. General Counsel, Pacifica Group Limited (subsidiary of Robert Bosch GmbH). Member, Finance Committee. Appointed to the Board in August 2003. On leave of absence July 2006.

Mike James BComm

Fellow, Institute of Chartered Accountants. Fellow, Taxation Institute of Australia. Member, Certified Practising Accountants of Australia. Retired Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers. Chair, Finance Committee. Appointed to the Board in March 2007.

Professor Jack Keating BEcon, TSTC, PhD

Professorial Fellow, University of Melbourne. Associate Director, Centre for Post Compulsory Education and Lifelong Learning, University of Melbourne. Fellow, Australian College of Educators. Member, Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority. Appointed to the Board in March 2007.

The Hon. Rob Knowles AO

Chair, Foodstandards Australia New Zealand. Chair, Mental Health Council of Australia. President, Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia. Former Victorian Minister for Health, Aged Care and Housing. Former Commissioner for Complaints for the Commonwealth Government's Aged Care Program. Appointed to the Board in December 2005; took up the position in March 2006.

Father James Minchin BA (Hons) (Classics), MA (Politics), ThL (Hons)

Vicar of Christ Church, St Kilda. Member, Commission for Christian World Service (National Council of Churches in Australia). Founding member of Christ Church Mission Inc. Appointed to the Board in June 1998.

Evan Thornley LLB, BComm

Co-founder, LookSmart Ltd. Board Member, Chifley Research Centre. Member, Council of the University of Melbourne (Governor-in-Council appointment to December 2006). Co-owner, Pluto Press Australia. National Secretary, Australian Fabian Society. Director, GetUp.org.au (to April 2007). Chair, Per Capita think tank. Appointed to the Board in August 2003.

Alison McClelland BA, Dip Soc Stud, MA

Executive Director, Strategic Policy, Research and Communications Division, Department for Victorian Communities. Member, Melbourne Institute of Economic and Social Research Advisory Committee. Previously Associate Professor, School of Social Work and Social Policy, La Trobe University. Appointed to the Board in December 2005, resigned November 2006.

John Wilson LLB, MBA, Dip Theol.

Member, Anglican Archdiocese of Melbourne Diocesan Stipends Committee. Member, Clergy Housing Equity Fund. Member, Diocesan Synod. Administrator, Leith Charitable Trust. Former and founding CEO, Anglicare Victoria. Former Acting CEO, Sacred Heart Mission. Former Acting Executive Director, Brotherhood of St Laurence (January–October 2004). Chair of the Finance Committee (to December 2006). Appointed to the Board in September 2003. On leave of absence October–December 2006, resigned December 2006.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Role of the Board

The Board is responsible for setting the strategic direction and establishing the policies of the Brotherhood. It is responsible for monitoring the performance of the activities of the Brotherhood and overseeing its financial state on behalf of the Charter and Life Members. It is also responsible for ensuring that risks are adequately managed.

Composition of the Board

The Brotherhood's constitution limits the number of Board Members to 14, including the Executive Director and at least two people who are clerics in Holy Orders of the Anglican Church of Australia. Further, the Chair is required to be a communicant member of the Anglican Church of Australia.

The Board meets at least 10 times per annum. Currently there are 10 directors including the Executive Director.

Remuneration

The Brotherhood directors volunteer their time and skills to the organisation and, as such, no remuneration was paid or is payable to the directors in their capacity as Board Members.

Board sub-committees

Audit and Risk Management Committee

Formed as a Committee of the Board, the Audit and Risk Management Committee's role is to ensure that all significant financial and non-financial risks are identified and properly addressed by management on a timely basis. The Committee is made up of Board Members and external members who bring independence and external expertise to the Committee. The members during or since the end of the financial year were Michael Feeney (Chair), Karen Corry (until March 2007), David Buxbaum (from June 2007), Roger Johnson, Jenny Trethewey and Tony Nicholson. The Committee meets quarterly.

Finance Committee

Formed as a Committee of the Board, the Finance Committee assists the Board in overseeing the proper financial management of the organisation. The members during or since the end of the financial year were John Wilson (Chair until December 2006), Bishop Philip Huggins (until April 2007), Mike James (Chair from March 2007), Celia Gerreyn (on leave of absence until August 2006) and Tony Nicholson. The Committee meets monthly.

Nominations Committee

This Committee of the Board reviews and recommends nominations for Board membership. The members during or since the end of the financial year were Bishop Philip Huggins (Chair), Jenny Trethewey and Tony Nicholson. The Committee meets at least annually.

Remuneration Committee

This Committee of the Board is responsible for the remuneration policy for senior management of the organisation and the review and approval of their remuneration packages. The members during or since the end of the financial year were Bishop Philip Huggins (Chair), Jenny Trethewey, John Wilson (to December 2006) and Tony Nicholson. The Committee meets at least annually.

Mod-Style Committee of Management

This Committee was formed to oversee the management of the Mod-Style optical frame wholesale business acquired by the Brotherhood in July 2000. The members during or since the end of the financial year were Ernest Barr (Chair), Ian Reid, Tony Nicholson, Royce Jackson, Ian McHutchison (to January 2007), Jeff Moon (from May 2007), Peter Furze (from May 2007) and John Niddrie (from July 2007). The Committee meets monthly.

Other committees

A number of other committees or workgroups are established by the Board from time to time to oversee a particular task or project such as the Aged and Community Care Future Directions Working Group and the Strategy Review Committee. The committees operate only for the period of time required to complete the task or project and are not ongoing Board sub-committees.

Company Secretary

Jennifer Grayling LLB

Jennifer Grayling has held a range of senior management roles in publicly listed companies in Australia and Asia. Former Non-Executive Director of Hanover Welfare Services for five years. Appointed Company Secretary in October 2005.

Executive Team

The Executive Director is responsible for the day-to-day management of the activities of the Brotherhood as delegated by the Board. The following management team is responsible for the implementation of organisational strategies, development of policies and management of issues, and of the performance of the organisation:

Tony Nicholson, Executive Director

Nicola Ballenden, General Manager Communications and Development (from July 2006)

Susan Campbell, Executive Manager (to December 2006)

Jennifer Grayling, General Manager Organisational Services, Company Secretary

Sandra Hills, General Manager Aged and Community Care

Ian McHutchison, General Manager Social Enterprises (to January 2007)

Jeff Moon, General Manager Social Enterprises (from May 2007)

Father Jeff O'Hare, Chaplain (from October 2006)

Cath Scarth, General Manager Community Services

Professor Paul Smyth, General Manager Research and Policy Centre

Caterina Wooden, Chief Financial Officer (maternity leave from January 2007)

Jonathan Lee, Acting Chief Financial Officer (from January 2007).

Other governance processes

Planning and control

The Brotherhood produces a three-year strategic plan, annual plans and detailed budgets, which are approved and regularly monitored by the Board and its committees.

Risk assessment

The Board, its sub-committees and the Executive Team are responsible for identifying, measuring and assessing business, legal, financial, environmental and other risks in the activities of the Brotherhood. In particular, the Audit and Risk Management Committee and the Board consider all significant risks, their implications and strategies, and the Finance Committee oversees the financial affairs of the organisation.

Independent professional advice

The Board, general managers and senior staff have access to appropriate external professional advice. Legal, investment, tax and accounting advice is coordinated by the Chief Financial Officer and the Company Secretary through Freehills, Deutsche Bank and KPMG, respectively. Legal advice is provided by Freehills on a pro bono basis.

Audit and accounts

The Brotherhood's constitution requires that proper books of accounts are kept and true and complete accounts are maintained and audited annually by a registered company auditor, and the financial statements and the auditor's report are laid before the Annual General Meeting. In order that monthly management and annual accounts represent best practice and are of the highest standard, the Brotherhood complies with all applicable accounting standards and guidelines, as well as relevant Corporations Law provisions. The Brotherhood's auditor is KPMG.

Performance indicators

Management and the Board monitor the organisation's performance, from implementation of the mission statement and strategic plan through to the performance of the organisation against operating plans and financial budgets. Performance indicators are reported to the Board on a monthly basis using a balanced scorecard approach. This enables directors to monitor the Brotherhood's performance in four main areas: strategic priorities, governance, organisational capacity and health, and the impact of our work.



FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY

Operating results for the year

The total surplus for the year 2006–07 is \$23.4 million, compared with a surplus of \$5.7 million in 2005–06, and the result this year from operating activities is a deficit of \$490,000, down from \$817,000 in 2005–06.

A number of major bequests were received this year, including 100 per cent of the shares in an investment company, Pelican Investments Pty Ltd. The income statement and balance sheet of this company are consolidated in the results for this year. On 27 June 2007, the available-for-sale investments of Pelican Investments Pty Ltd were sold to the Brotherhood for consideration. The total bequest income received for the year was \$22.5 million, compared with \$4.9 million in 2005–06; this is the most important factor in the increase in surplus from last year.

Significant progress has been made over recent years towards our goal of meeting operating expenses from operating revenue, following strategic focus on a number of activities, revenue growth and cost containment and reduction strategies throughout the organisation. Projections for 2007–08 and 2008–09 show an expectation of this financial objective being achieved.

The current year's surplus will be used to fund strategic initiatives designed to further the objectives of the organisation as well as contribute to a number of capital projects currently being planned and developed.

Sources and uses of operating funds for the current and prior financial years are shown graphically on page 36. They have been prepared on a comparable basis for both years. The 2007 graphs show the increase in activity within Social Enterprises and, although the amount of donations received has remained fairly consistent, its percentage of total revenue has fallen slightly. The percentages of other sources and uses of operating funds have not changed significantly from year to year.

Review of the financial condition

Cash and investment balances increased by \$23.5 million from those held at the end of 2005–06. This reflects the significant bequests received during the year, including the 100 per cent ownership of Pelican Investments Pty Ltd, as noted above. The majority of the assets held by this company were investments, which were subsequently bought by the parent company during the year.

The carrying value of property, plant and equipment is \$55.7 million as at 30 June 2007. The revaluation increase of \$12.4 million on land and buildings was the substantial element of the increase from the previous year.

The consolidated total equity as at 30 June 2007 was \$92.8 million.

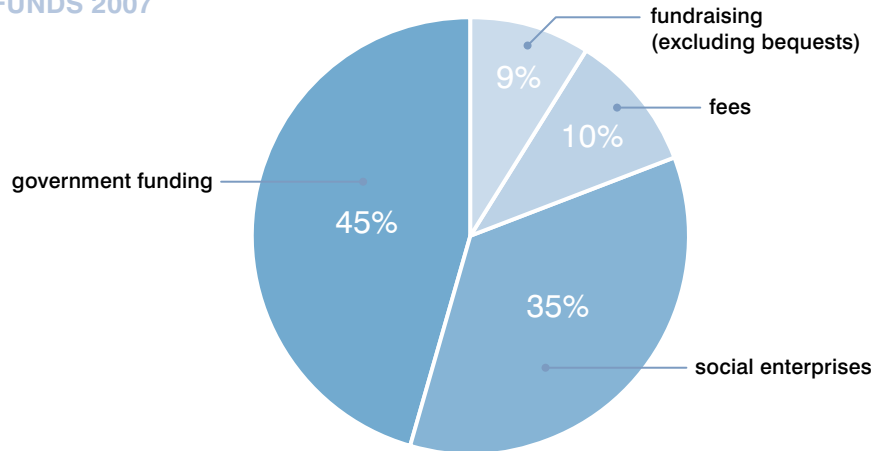
Investments for the future

Our High Street Community Centre in Frankston is close to practical completion and will be fully operational by the end of 2007. This project has involved the major redevelopment of the former Uniting Church site and it will provide facilities for some of the Brotherhood's community services programs and also opportunities for other community organisations to deliver their services to the Peninsula community.

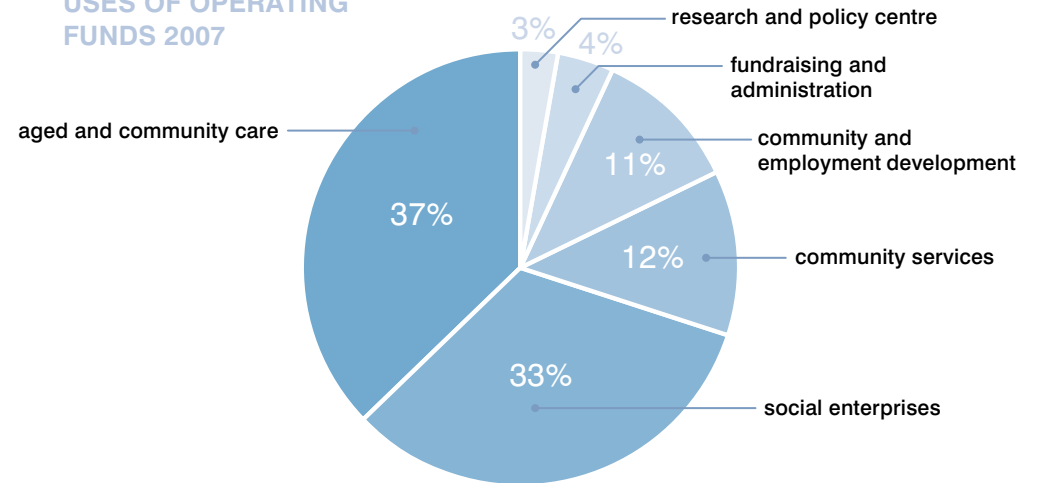
The organisation delivers respite to families with ageing members who suffer dementia and social isolation from a former residential building in Frankston. Demand and need for these services and other community care services are increasing and hence we are currently in the final stages of planning to build a larger, customised facility to enable expansion and the development of these vital services. It is anticipated that this facility will be completed by mid-2008.

FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY

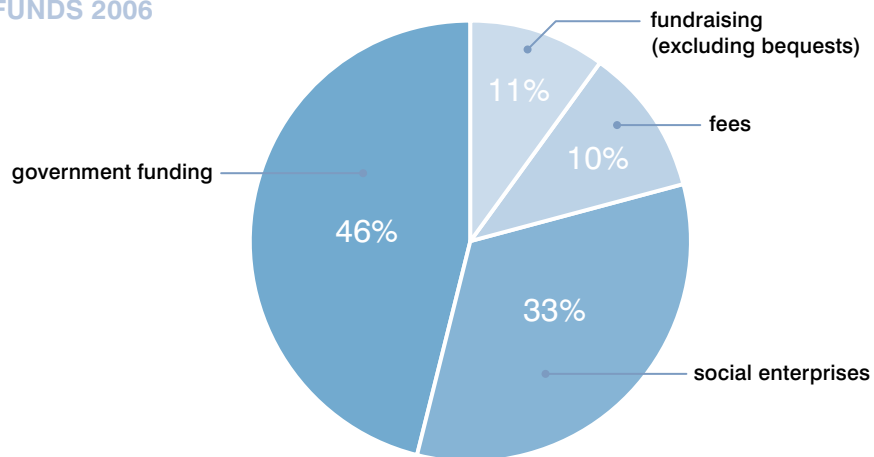
SOURCES OF OPERATING FUNDS 2007



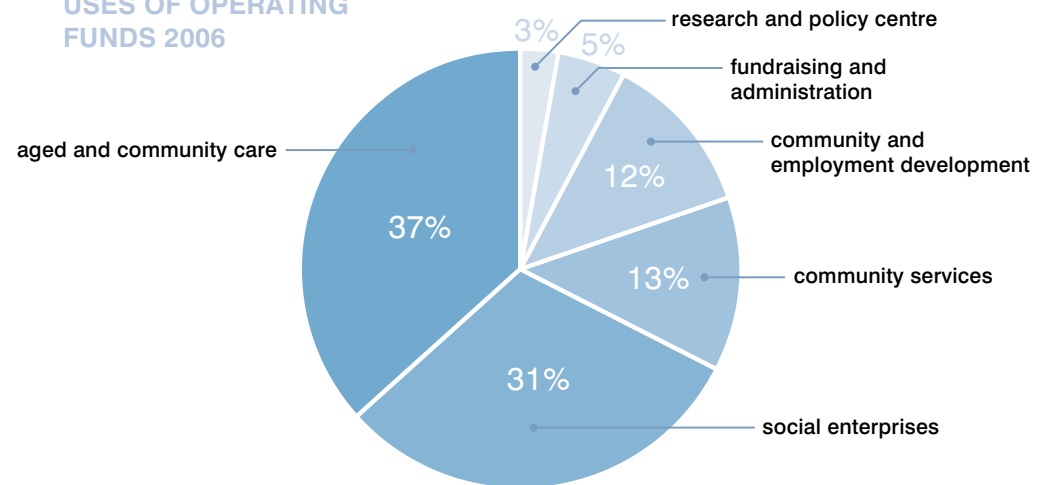
USES OF OPERATING FUNDS 2007



SOURCES OF OPERATING FUNDS 2006



USES OF OPERATING FUNDS 2006



Income statements

For the year ended 30 June 2007

	CONSOLIDATED	PARENT	
	2007	2007	2006
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
REVENUE			
Service activities			
Employment services	5,537	5,537	4,997
Aged and community care	17,866	17,866	17,077
Community services	5,499	5,499	5,036
Research and policy centre	265	265	340
Other activities			
Fundraising	2,329	2,329	2,388
Social enterprises sales	16,875	16,875	14,456
Other income	696	696	262
Total revenue from operating activities	49,067	49,067	44,556
EXPENSES			
Service activities			
Employment services	5,748	5,748	5,222
Aged and community care	18,593	18,593	16,772
Community services	6,122	6,122	5,816
Research and policy centre	1,299	1,299	1,148
Other activities			
Fundraising	1,169	1,169	1,477
Cost of social enterprises sales	7,115	7,115	6,360
Social enterprises expenses	8,757	8,757	7,599
Other expenses	754	754	979
Total expenses for operating activities	49,557	49,557	45,373
Deficit from operating activities	(490)	(490)	(817)

	CONSOLIDATED	PARENT	
	2007	2007	2006
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Financial income	1,549	3,922	974
Financial expenses	(139)	(120)	(84)
Net financing income	1,410	3,802	890
Bequests income	22,480	10,215	4,914
Bequests costs	(84)	(84)	(133)
Net bequests	22,396	10,131	4,781
Grants and donations for capital projects	834	834	890
Goodwill impairment	(674)	(674)	–
Surplus for the period	23,476	13,603	5,744

Certain comparative amounts have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.

Balance sheets

As at 30 June 2007

	CONSOLIDATED	PARENT	
	2007	2007	2006
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	15,538	15,303	10,905
Trade and other receivables	3,088	3,088	2,762
Inventories	2,332	2,332	2,478
Investments	23,000	23,000	4,098
Total current assets	43,958	43,723	20,243
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	55,726	54,199	39,988
Intangible assets	6,945	6,945	4,949
Total non-current assets	62,671	61,144	44,937
TOTAL ASSETS	106,629	104,867	65,180

FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY

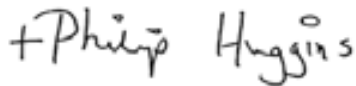
	CONSOLIDATED	PARENT	
	2007	2007	2006
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	2,851	12,843	2,415
Trust funds	2,977	2,977	2,553
Employee benefits	4,624	4,624	4,506
Provisions	196	196	194
Deferred income	2,885	2,885	3,260
Total current liabilities	13,533	23,525	12,928
Non-current liabilities			
Employee benefits	293	293	381
Total non-current liabilities	293	293	381
TOTAL LIABILITIES	13,826	23,818	13,309
NET ASSETS	92,803	81,049	51,871
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus	50,429	40,556	26,953
Reserves	42,374	40,493	24,918
TOTAL EQUITY	92,803	81,049	51,871

Directors' declaration


In the opinion of the directors of the Brotherhood of St Laurence:

- a** the financial statements and notes are in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) so as to present fairly the Parent's and the Group's financial position as at 30 June 2007 and their performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
 - i** comply with the *Brotherhood of St Laurence (Incorporation) Act 1971* (Vic) and the Brotherhood of St Laurence's Constitution; and
- b** there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Brotherhood will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the directors:



Rt Revd Philip Huggins
Chair, Board of Directors



Tony Nicholson
Executive Director

Dated at Melbourne on this 25th day of September 2007

The Annual Financial Report has been audited by KPMG. They have expressed an unqualified audit opinion.
For a better understanding of the scope of their audit, please refer to their audit report on the Annual Financial Report.

**For a complete set of financial statements visit <www.bsl.org.au>
or contact the finance department by phone (03) 9483 1183.**



THANK YOU

Another year of exceptionally generous support from our donors, volunteers and community partners has helped the Brotherhood reach even more Australians in need.

Contributions made to the Brotherhood, whether in cash or in kind, make an enormous difference to our clients. Even the smallest contribution can help change a life.

Donors

In 2006–07, support came from numerous donors, including individuals, families, bequests, charitable trusts, foundations, community groups and corporations. Contributions totalled \$26,400,000 towards our work for an Australia free of poverty.

Volunteers

Volunteers are vital to the success and future of the Brotherhood. We are supported by 1300 volunteers who work across 60 sites. The majority of work is undertaken in retail, followed by aged and community care. Research, the library, office support, fundraising, migrant services and community services are other areas where volunteer staff are prominent. Volunteering can take many forms: some people contribute regularly, others help out at one-day events and corporate volunteers take part in both ongoing programs and special occasions. Many people who receive help from the Brotherhood also contribute as volunteers.

The work of our volunteers equalled a financial contribution of \$5,760,000 this financial year.

Community partners

As this annual report testifies, nearly all Brotherhood programs are run with support from community partners. Whether it's the local newsagency or a multinational corporation, one of the greatest benefits of community partnership is that it brings more people in touch with those in need—ensuring that community building is at the heart of our vision for a more compassionate and just society.

A warm 'thank you' to all partners who have supported our work in the past year. We look forward to continuing these fruitful relationships well into the future.

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS

The Brotherhood of St Laurence acknowledges the tireless work of staff, supporters and partners that enables us to conduct research and deliver a wide range of services.

Banksia Services

- LeasePlan
- Frankston Arts Centre
- Mornington Peninsula Shire Aged Care Services Peninsula Health
- Lions Club of Frankston
- Commonwealth Carer Respite Centre Southern Metropolitan Region
- Alzheimer's Australia and Alzheimer's Victoria
- Southern Peninsula Community Care

Breakfast Club

- Freehills
- Diners Club Australia
- AXA Australia
- Carers Victoria
- Hilton White bequest
- City of Yarra
- Melbourne Newsboys Club Foundation
- Sacred Heart Primary School
- Daryl Povey

Brotherhood Community Care Northern

- Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre
- Department of Human Services (Disability Services and Office of Housing)
- Abercare Family Services

Brotherhood Community Care Socialisation Program

- Rye Provincial Tavern, Donna Coombs
- Peninsula Health, Ageing Well
- Royal District Nursing Service, Rosebud
- Peninsula Community Health Service
- Aftercare Australia
- Community Kitchen Project (Peninsula Health)
- TransAccess
- Frankston City Council, Arts Access
- Mahogany Neighbourhood Centre
- The Art Shed, Marion Trevallyen
- Frankston Mornington Peninsula Primary Care Partnerships
- Department for Victorian Communities
- Department of Human Services

Brotherhood Community Care Southern

- Department of Health and Ageing
- Department of Human Services
- Department for Victorian Communities
- Frankston Mornington Peninsula Primary Care Partnerships
- Frankston City Council
- Mornington Shire Council
- Alzheimer's Australia and Alzheimer's Victoria
- New Hope Migrant and Refugee Centre
- Peninsula Care Planning Group
- Peninsula Dementia Action Group
- Aftercare Australia

Community Enterprises

- Sustainability Fund
- Department of Human Services
- Neighbourhood Renewal
- Department for Victorian Communities
- Braybrook and Maidstone Neighbourhood Association
- Victoria University
- City of Yarra
- Adult Multicultural Education Services
- University of Melbourne
- Victorian Local Governance Association
- North Yarra Community Health
- ARC Fences
- ANZ Banking Group
- Rio Tinto
- Insurance Australia Group

- Amcor
- Fifteen Melbourne
- Berry Street Victoria
- Foundation House
- Victorian College of the Arts
- Yarra Community Housing
- City of Melbourne
- City of Maribyrnong
- Department of Transport and Regional Services
- Black and Decker
- Lend Lease
- Grocon

Community Nexus

- Department of Human Services
- Sharehouse
- Pam and Bob Watson
- Club Wild
- Frankston North Baptist Church
- Department of Human Services (Disability Services)
- City of Frankston
- Mornington Peninsula Shire
- Frankston Peninsula Carers
- Peninsula Access Support and Training
- Outlook Incorporated
- Tina Stafford (Community Artist)
- Wallara Day Programs
- Disability Opportunities Victoria
- Focus Incorporated

Community Resource Bank

- Coles Myer
- Kmart Australia
- The Westin Melbourne
- ANZ Banking Group
- AXA Australia
- LeasePlan
- Inghams Enterprises
- Toys 4 Clubs
- Two Bays Office Products
- VicRelief + Foodbank
- Western Port Pipe
- Elizabeth and Alan Rose
- Yarra Park Child Care Centre
- Powlett Reserve Child Care Centre
- Elgar Road Chiropractic Service
- Curves
- Child Support Agency
- Service Containers
- Caterpillar
- Bayer Health Care
- City of Frankston
- Hardie Grant Books
- BB's Café
- Lions Club of Frankston Bayside
- MPRE

Community Stores

- Pacific Brands
- Moreland Energy Foundation
- Adult Multicultural Education Services
- Rocco DeNino
- Green PC / Infoxchange
- Starite
- Ernest Barr
- Australian Centre for Retail Studies
- Monash University

- Department of Sustainability and Environment
- All Saints' Northcote
- Anglicare Canberra and Goulburn
- Church of the Holy Spirit Watsonia
- City of Greater Geelong
- Deakin University
- Department of Immigration and Citizenship
- Emerald Hill Residents Association
- FM Recycling
- Inghams Enterprises
- National Association of Charitable Recycling Organisations
- Open Family Australia
- Peter McLean Security
- Quad Group
- St Luke's South Melbourne
- St Paul's Fairfield
- S & G Building Services
- View Hill Fellowship
- Warehouse Sales

Coolibah Day Centre

- AXA Australia
- ANZ Banking Group
- Lanier
- Patties Foods
- State Trustees Australia Foundation
- The Metropole
- S&R Fashions
- City of Yarra
- Freehills
- Second Bite
- Metlink
- Coca-Cola Australia
- The Castle Hotel
- The Vine Hotel

- City of Melbourne Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund
- Scobie and Claire Mackinnon Trust
- National Australia Bank
- Reno Fashions
- Colorado Group
- Melbourne Grammar School
- Sacred Heart Mission St Kilda
- Choir of Hard Knocks and RecLink Australia
- Victoria University
- Essendon Football Club
- Hawthorn Football club
- Western Bulldogs Football Club
- Richmond Football Club
- Brisbane Lions Football Club
- Melbourne Football Club
- North Melbourne Football Club
- Collingwood Football Club

Craigieburn Family Day Care

- Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- Anglicare Youth and Family Mediation Program
- Broadmeadows Community Legal Service
- Craigieburn and Districts Ambulance Committee
- Craigieburn Emergency Response Team
- City of Hume
- Dianella Community Health Services
- Orana Family Services
- Broadmeadows UnitingCare
- Broad Insight
- Craigieburn Library
- Hume Global Learning Centre

Doveton Eumemmerring Neighbourhood Renewal

- Department of Human Services (Office of Housing)
- City of Casey
- VicHealth
- Doveton Neighbourhood Learning Centre
- Victoria Police
- Myuna Farm
- PACE Metro Active Project
- South Eastern Region Migrant Resource Centre
- Eastern Region Mental Health Association
- Doveton Baptist Benevolent Society
- Centre for Adolescent Health
- Anglicare Victoria

Early Childhood Services

- City of Yarra
- North Yarra Community Health
- Broadmeadows Uniting Care
- Department of Human Services
- City of Hume
- Flora & Frank Leith Charitable Trust
- Ian Potter Foundation
- Fitzroy Learning Network
- Foundation House
- Victoria Police
- Royal Children's Hospital
- Austin Hospital, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Free Kindergarten Association

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS

EMC (Ecumenical Migration Centre)

- Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- Department of Education and Training
- Department of Human Services (Family Support Program)
- Department for Victorian Communities (Victorian Multicultural Commission, Community Support Fund)
- City of Yarra
- Invergowrie Foundation
- The Myer Foundation
- Reichstein Foundation
- Scanlon Foundation
- William Angliss Charitable Fund
- Collier Charitable Fund
- Flora & Frank Leith Charitable Trust
- Lanier

EMC Given the Chance Program

- Rotary Club of Melbourne
- ORICA
- ANZ Banking Group
- BAE Systems
- Lort Smith Animal Hospital
- City of Melbourne
- Department of Human Services (Community Care Division)
- Elspeth Sharp, Sharp Advantage Career Specialists
- Michael Page Recruitment Agency

- CPA Australia
- Hurle Engineering
- Rose Chong Costumes
- Don Vogt, OSA
- Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority
- Susan Porter
- Invergowrie Foundation
- Max Corden
- Neilma Gantner
- Ruth Owens
- Coles Myer
- St Vincent's Hospital
- Connell Wagner
- Mathematical Association of Victoria
- CFMEU
- Department for Victorian Communities
- SJB Architects
- Foundation House
- May Murray Neighbourhood House
- Landers and Rogers Lawyers
- Adult Multicultural Education Services
- Auburn Council
- Strategic Community Assistance to Refugee Families
- Auckland Regional Migrant Centre
- Royal Melbourne Hospital
- Botanic Essentials
- Cyclotek (Aust)
- Lonely Planet
- Royal Botanic Gardens
- Lanier

EMC Refugee Brokerage Program

- Department for Victorian Communities (Victorian Multicultural Commission)
- Ethiopian Women's Group
- Imam Ali Islamic Centre
- Afghani-Iranian Women's Group
- Angola-Congo Community Association
- Victorian Eritrean Community Association
- Somali Eritrean Community
- City of Yarra
- City of Moreland
- City of Melbourne
- City of Moonee Valley
- Sorghum Sisters
- North Yarra Community Health
- Department of Immigration and Citizenship

EMC Refugee Family Services

- Adult Multicultural Education Services
- New Hope Foundation
- Foundation House
- Maternal and Health Services, Melton and Caroline Springs
- Western English Language School
- Carlton Family Services
- Department of Human Services (Child Protection and Family Services)
- Department of Immigration and Citizenship

- Refugee and Immigration Legal Centre
- Fitzroy Legal Centre
- Statewide Women's Legal Service
- Family Court
- McKillop Family Services
- Victoria Police
- Centrelink
- Epping Hospital
- Victoria Legal Aid
- VicRelief + Foodbank
- Australian Red Cross
- Department of Human Services (Office of Housing)
- SBS Radio

EMC Refugee Youth Program and Homework Centre

- Department for Victorian Communities (Office for Youth)
- Western English Language School
- Fitzroy Legal Centre
- NMIT (Collingwood YAMEC Unit)
- Collingwood College
- Foundation for Young Australians
- Reel2Real (St Luke's, Bendigo)
- SBS Radio (Training Unit)
- SAYGO
- The Sudanese Lost Boys Association of Australia
- City of Yarra
- Fitzroy Library
- Yarra-Melbourne Regional Library Corporation

- Catriona Hodgson
- GHD Engineering
- Kiriilly Burgess
- Dibbs and Massie Foundation
- Bennelong Foundation
- James Kirby Foundation
- Flora & Frank Leith Charitable Trust
- Joe White Bequest
- Equity Trustees
- ANZ Trustees

Employment Services

- Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
- Centrelink
- National Employment Services Association
- Job Futures
- Youth Affairs Council of Victoria
- PAGES Members (Providers of Australian Government Employment Services)
- City of Yarra
- City of Frankston
- WAYSS Ltd Housing and Support Services
- PIFS Crisis Centre
- Buoyancy
- Turning Point Alcohol & Drug Centre
- Department of Human Services (Office of Housing)

Ethical Business

- CSR Asia (Hong Kong)
- OECD Watch (Amsterdam)
- IRENE International Restructuring Education Network Europe (Amsterdam)
- Human Rights Council of Australia

- Rights and Accountability in Development (UK)
- Fairwear Australia
- Textile Clothing & Footwear Union of Australia
- ACTU
- Council of Textiles and Fashion Industries Australia
- Homeworkers Code of Practice Committee
- SustainAbility (UK)
- Uniting Church (Victoria and Tasmania)
- Australian Conservation Foundation
- Oxfam Australia
- OECD Australian National Contact Point (Federal Treasury)
- Vision 2020 Australia
- Centre for Eye Research Australia
- Victorian College of Optometry
- Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital
- RMIT University School of Fashion
- Ethical Threads Advisory Committee
- Coles Myer
- Energetics
- Industrial Relations Victoria
- Portfolio Partners
- Country Road Australia
- The Prince of Wales's Business and the Environment Programme, Cambridge University
- Australian Centre for Retail Studies, Monash University
- IMG International
- Global Sustainability, RMIT University
- Pro Bono Australia
- ANZ Banking Group
- National Australia Bank
- Commonwealth Bank of Australia

- Westpac
- Amnesty International (Australia)
- Green Capital
- Australian Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility
- OECD Investment Committee
- University of Melbourne Law Faculty
- Span Gallery
- Insurance Australia Group

Financial Inclusion

- Fitzroy and Carlton Community Credit Co-operative
- Consumer Credit Fund
- Community Sector Baking
- ANZ Banking Group
- RMIT University
- Berry Street Victoria
- The Benevolent Society
- The Smith Family
- Department for Victorian Communities
- Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- Ballarat Group Training
- Bethany Community Support
- Colac Area Health
- Loddon Mallee Housing Services
- Geraldton Resource Centre
- Centacare (NT)
- Mission Australia

Furniture Works

- City of Frankston
- Department of Human Services
- Doveton Neighbourhood House Community Services
- Salvation Army (Peninsula Youth and Family Services)

- Peter Steven for Picture Framing Services
- Patterson River Secondary College
- Rosebud Secondary College
- Elisabeth Murdoch College
- Mt Erin Secondary College
- The Body Shop
- Forty Winks
- Peninsula Timber
- Jayco Caravans
- Furnishing Industry Association of Australia
- Roberts Floor Covering

Green PC and Phoenix Fridges

- Adult Multicultural Education Services
- Department of Immigration and Citizenship
- Moreland Energy Foundation
- Sustainability Fund
- TRUenergy

High Street

- Department for Victorian Communities

HIPPY Australia

- AXA Australia
- Telstra Foundation
- Sidney Myer Trust
- Rotary Club of Sydney
- Fouress Foundation
- Make a Difference Foundation
- Macquarie Bank
- Members of the HIPPY Australia National Advisory Committee
- Members of the HIPPY Australia/ AXA 'Brains Trust' working group
- Other AXA staff volunteers

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS

HIPPY Fitzroy

- City of Yarra
- Rotary Club of Collingwood
- Marian and EH Flack Trust
- Flora & Frank Leith Charitable Trust
- JM Harrison Charitable Trust
- Floss Bottom
- The Carleton Family Charitable Trust
- The Winifred and John Webster Trust
- Readings Bookstore
- Janine Dillon
- AXA Australia
- Perpetual Trustees
- Evan Thornley
- Dr Claire Stewart
- Wellington Centre, Collingwood
- North Melbourne Language and Learning Centre
- Hotham Hub Children's Centre, Flemington
- Melbourne Community Foundation

HIPPY Moonee Ponds

- Department of Human Services
- Sidney Myer Trust

Hunter Gatherer

- Bear Prints
- Clifton Clothing
- Genki
- Homeworkers Code of Practice Committee

- Jimmy Buttons
- RMIT University School of Fashion
- Specific Textiles
- Textile Clothing & Footwear Union of Australia
- The Pattern Place

Napier Street Child and Family Services

- Melbourne Citymission Early Intervention Program
- City of Yarra
- Community Support Fund for Belonging in Australia Project
- Austin Hospital, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Rotary Club of Fitzroy
- Royal Children's Hospital, Centre for Community Child Health
- Australian Catholic University, Psychiatry Department

PACTS / Youth Pathways

- Bayside Christian College
- Carrum Downs Secondary College
- Dromana Secondary College
- Elisabeth Murdoch College
- Flinders Christian Community College
- Frankston Special Development School
- Frankston High School
- John Paul College
- Karingal Park Secondary College
- Mornington Secondary College

- Monterey Secondary College
- Mount Eliza Secondary College
- Mt Erin Secondary College
- Naranga Special School
- Padua College
- Patterson River Secondary College
- Peninsula Special Development School
- Rosebud Secondary College
- St Anthony's Coptic Orthodox College
- The Peninsula School
- Toogoolawa School
- Toorak College
- Western Port Secondary College
- Department of Education, Science and Training
- Frankston / Mornington Peninsula Local Learning and Employment Network
- Frankston School Focused Youth Service
- Centrelink
- Anglicare Victoria
- Youth Connect
- Department of Education and Training
- Peninsula Training and Employment Program
- SkillsPlus
- Link Employment and Training
- Mornington Peninsula Youth Services
- Frankston Youth Resource Centre
- City of Casey Youth Services
- Regional Industry Careers Advisor, Peter Morris
- Chisholm Institute of TAFE
- Peninsula Local Community Partnership

Research and Policy Centre

- Anglicare (Diocese of Sydney)
- Anglicare Australia
- Australian Conservation Foundation
- Australian Council of Social Service
- Bokhara Foundation
- Bus Association Victoria
- Centre for Public Policy, University of Melbourne
- City of Boroondara
- City of Kingston
- Deakin University
- Department for Victorian Communities
- Department of Education and Training
- Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Infrastructure
- Department of Justice
- Foundation Boroondara
- Hanover Welfare Services
- Helen Macpherson Smith Trust
- La Trobe University
- Liquor Hospitality and Miscellaneous Union
- Melbourne Citymission
- Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research
- Mission Australia
- Monash University (various departments)
- National Institute of Economic and Industry Research

- North West Aged Care Assessment Service
- Playgroups Australia
- RMIT University
- Social Policy Research Centre, University of NSW
- St George's Aged Care Assessment Service
- The Climate Institute
- Trades and Labour Councils in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide
- University of Adelaide
- University of Melbourne (various departments)
- University of Ulster
- University of Westminster
- Victorian Council of Social Service
- VicHealth
- Workplace Research Centre, University of Sydney

Sambell Lodge

- Department of Health and Ageing
- Monash University
- Lions Club of Northcote
- University of Melbourne
- City of Yarra
- Aged and Community Services Australia
- State Trustees
- St Vincent de Paul Society

STEP (Scheme for Training and Educating People)

- Group Training Victoria
- Group Training Australia
- Office of Training and Tertiary Education
- Department of Human Services (Office of Housing)
- Neighbourhood Renewal
- Neighbourhood Advisory Board
- Department for Victorian Communities
- Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
- Department of Education, Science and Training
- Sarina Russo Job Network
- Spectrum Job Network
- Victoria University
- Valley Maintenance Services
- Transfield Services
- Bentleigh Bayside Community Health Services
- Morwin
- GJK Facility Services
- McPeake's Asset Management
- Freedom FM
- Outdoor Travel
- Holmesglen Institute of TAFE
- Create (Geelong)
- MEGT
- City of Yarra
- Carringbush Adult Education
- Fitzroy Learning Network
- Jesuit Social Services
- Collingwood Neighbourhood House
- Damien Nash
- Adult Multicultural Education Services
- Philip and Trix Wollen
- Infoexchange Australia

- Adult Council for Further Education
- Kensington Management Company
- Dairy Australia
- Victorian Employers Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Jim Williamson
- Hobsons Bay City Council
- Laverton Community Centre
- Neighbourhood Justice Centre

Sumner House Residential Aged Care Facility

- Department of Health and Ageing
- HiLo Beds
- ANZ Banking Group

Volunteer Services

- Exxon Mobil

Youth Transitions

- Hampton Park Secondary College
- Karingal Park Secondary College
- Lyndhurst Secondary College
- Monterey Secondary College
- Mt Erin Secondary College
- Patterson River Secondary College
- Wellington Secondary College
- Dusseldorp Skills Forum

YP4

- The William Buckland Foundation
- Ross Trust
- Brown Charitable Trust

HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can help the Brotherhood achieve our vision of an Australia free of poverty. Your contribution of money, time, resources or ideas can help make a real difference to disadvantaged Australian families and individuals.

Financial donations

Financial donations can be made at any time of the year. There are many ways of making your contribution (credit card, cheque, money order or online) and our fundraising team will be happy to talk to you about the most effective way of giving.

Phone (03) 9483 1301

Fax (03) 9483 1336

Mail 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, Victoria 3065

Website www.bsl.org.au

Clothing donations

Your nearest Brotherhood of St Laurence community store is happy to accept good-quality clothing. To find the location of your nearest store, call **1300 DONATE** or **1300 366 283**.

Furniture donations

We can pick up from your home anywhere in Melbourne. Families always need good-quality furniture and small electrical appliances in working order. To arrange a pick-up, call **1300 DONATE** or **1300 366 283**.

Volunteer

We are always keen to hear from people interested in volunteering with the Brotherhood. Contact our Volunteer Services team if you would like to offer your time or expertise and be part of our services and events.

Brotherhood retail: **Rosa D'Aprano (03) 9380 3318**

Brotherhood services: **Kylie Munro (03) 9483 1390**

Bequests

Consider making a bequest to the Brotherhood of St Laurence in your will to ensure that your commitment to a fairer Australia lives on. To discuss how a bequest can be made, call **(03) 9483 1301**.

Understanding our work

Information sheets and reports about our research and services are available online at [<www.bsl.org.au>](http://www.bsl.org.au). You can also contact our Library for further information on **(03) 9483 1388**.



Brotherhood of St Laurence
67 Brunswick Street
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www.bsl.org.au



Brotherhood
of St Laurence

Working for an Australia free of poverty