# Plunkett Centre



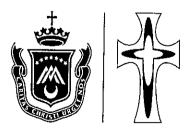
**Annual Report 2002** 

## Plunkett Centre for Ethics in Health Care



## **AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY**





ST VINCENTS & MATER HEALTH SYDNEY

## **Mission Statement**

The Mission of the Plunkett Centre is to promote the values of compassion and fellowship, intellectual and professional excellence, and fairness and justice. Its primary focus is on the realisation of these values in the provision and the allocation of health care. The Centre expresses this commitment through research, teaching and community engagement, and by brining a Catholic perspective to all its endeavours.

#### The Objectives of the Centre are:

- to deepen and advance knowledge and understanding of the ethical standards relevant to human health and well-being, and in particular to clinical practice, medical research, business and management practice, and the allocation of healthcare resources;
- to offer courses in philosophical ethics and in the ethics of health care provision, medical research and health care resource allocation; and
- to engage and where appropriate to collaborate with local, national and international bodies as they seek to respond to their intellectual and ethical needs.

#### The Centre realises these objectives by:

- conducting and promoting research;
- providing research training and supervision;
- developing and teaching courses;
- conducting ethical reviews of professional practice;
- · offering an ethics consultation service; and
- participating in public discussion

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## Management

#### From the University:

Professor John Coll, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and International), Chairman Professor Elizabeth Cameron-Traub, Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences Dr John Ozolins, Head, School of Philosophy

#### From the Hospital:

Mr Steven Rubic, Executive Director, St. Vincent's Private Hospital Mr Adrian Verryt, Director of Mission, St. Vincent's Public Hospital Professor Terry Campbell, Professor of Medicine, St. Vincent's Public Hospital

#### From the Centre:

Associate Professor Bernadette Tobin, Director

#### In attendance:

Mrs Linda Purves, Administrative Officer (Minutes Secretary)



Ms. Mary Foley, Chief Executive Officer of St. Vincent's & Mater Health and Professor Peter Sheehan, Vice-Chancellor, Australian Catholic University, at a ceremony to mark the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding in November, 2002.

## From the Management Committee



The Plunkett Centre for Ethics in Health Care, a cooperative Centre jointly supported by Australian Catholic University and St Vincent's and Mater Health, Sydney, provides leadership in the field of bioethics. In keeping with its Mission, the Centre provides training and advice to the health care community on ethical issues as they impact on practice. The University and St Vincent's and Mater Health have recently signed a new five year agreement for the Plunkett Centre under the direction of Associate Professor Bernadette Tobin.

The members of the Centre have published articles and discussion papers in the areas of Ethics, Theology and Philosophy, especially those of relevance to medical and health care practitioners and managers. They also continue the important role of postgraduate teaching and research supervision. The Centre particularly focuses on issues of importance to the Catholic health care sector. In 2002 the Centre received funds from the University to enable Professor Warren Reich, Georgetown University, to visit and work at the Centre. He has an international reputation as the Editor of the *Encyclopaedia of Bioethics*.

Staff of the Centre have been active in consulting with individuals and making submissions to government on major bioethical issues surrounding organ and tissue donation, cloning and related technologies. The Centre has continued to publish *Bioethics Outlook*, its reflections and scholarly contributions on many issues in the field.

The Director and other members of the Centre are to be congratulated for their contributions to the national debate, and to the development of policy papers for Catholic health care organisations and the wider health ethics community. The Director continues to serve on a number of committees of the National Health and Medical Research Council and has recently served as Deputy Chair of the Australian Health Ethics Committee. The Centre continues to provide advice on the implementation of the recently published "Code of Ethical Standards for Catholic Health and Aged Care Services in Australia".

I commend this report to all interested in the continuing activities of the Plunkett Centre.

Professor John Coll
Chair
Management Committee

## Staffing

Director	Bernadette Tobin MA MEd (Melb) PhD (Cantab) Associate Professor and Reader in Philosophy, School of Philosophy, Australian Catholic University	Full-time
Academic	Staff	
	Mary Byrne RN BHSN (ACU) BA (Hons) (Melb) Manager (part-time), St Vincent's Nursing Research Unit	Part-time .5
	Gerald Gleeson STB (CIS) MA (Cantab) PhD (Leuven) Professor of Philosophy, Catholic Institute of Sydney	Part-time .3
	Stephen Buckle MA Hons (MaqU), PhD (ANU) Senior Lecturer in Philosophy, School of Philosophy, Australian Catholic University	Part-time .5
Research	Students	
	Helen McCabe RN BHA (UNSW) MA (ACU)	Full-time
	Kristine Morrison RN CM BHSc (UWS) PostDip Nursing (UTS) PostDip Christian Studies (Aust. College of Theology)	Full-time
	Mary Self MBBS Hons (Qld) MA (ACU) FRACS	Full-time
Administr	cative Staff	
	Linda Purves JP	Full-time

### From the Director



Once again, we are pleased to sketch the range of our activities during the preceding year: research, teaching, ethics consultation and various forms of community service. Each member of the Centre tends to focus on a particular part of that range. And so:

Stephen Buckle continued his work on the historical origins of modern medical ethics and maintained his Postgraduate Seminar Program on clinical ethical theories each Monday morning at the Centre.

Gerald Gleeson concentrated on developing his account of the Catholic Christian understanding of the human person.

Mary Byrne conducted in-service programs for health care practitioners in Catholic health care institutions based on the Code of Ethical Standards.

Bernadette Tobin served on several committees associated with the National Health and Medical Research Council.

And Linda Purves made sure that we were open to the world and functioning!

Our international links were well maintained during the year. Emeritus Professor Warren Reich of Georgetown University addressed a seminar at Australian Catholic University on the subject of 'vulnerability as a principle for bioethics'. Professor Nancy Dubler of Montefiore Hospital in New York addressed Grand Rounds at St Vincent's Hospital on the subject 'bioethics consultation in settings beset by conflict'. And the Director was invited to address a meeting of the New York Academy of Medicine and of the Division of Surgery at the Singapore General Hospital.

Our Intensive Bioethics Course is worthy of special note: we reshaped it so that it catered for teachers of the NSW Board of Studies *Studies in Religion* curriculum.

Finally, we shall miss Mary Byne who left us to concentrate on her responsibilities in the hospital's Nursing Research Unit: she played an integral part in the life of the Centre.

Bernadette Tobin 18.2.03

## Financial Report for 2002

Income Carried Forward Australian Catholic University St Vincent's & Mater Heat Research Grants Internal Consultancies Membership Subscription Seminars Other ACU ARC Spirt G Other Total Income	alth Sydney	30,354 100.000 100,000 35,000 15,700 4,252 5,032 12,500 10,309 2,896	316,043
			*
Expenditure Salaries		200,325	
Rent		25,000	
Running Costs Computer Maintenance Computer Software Other Total  General Costs Conference Expenses Stationery & Furniture Memberships Other Total	3,115 1,728 1,141	8,443 5,602	
Other Travel Strategic Research Internet Access Books Journals Photocopier Lease Printing Total  Spirt Expenditure	1,343 12,322 3,186 6,157 9,798 6,496 4,682	43,984 10,309	
Total Expenditure			293,663
Carried Forward			22,380

## Research Projects

#### Australian Research Council (Spirt Program) Grant

Industry Partner: Catholic Health Australia

Project: Managed Care in Australia: a philosophical inquiry into the ethical issues

#### Funding:

1999-2000	\$21,756 (PhD scholarship) + \$5000 to Plunkett Centre
2000-2001	\$21,756 (PhD scholarship) + \$5000 to Plunkett Centre
2001-2002	\$21,756 (PhD scholarship) + \$5000 to Plunkett Centre

#### Australian Research Council (Spirt Program) Grant

Industry Partner: Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

Project: Surgical practice in a changing health system: resolving the ethical questions

#### Funding:

2000-2001	\$20,822 (scholarship) + \$5000 to Plunkett Centre
2001-2002	\$20,822 (scholarship) + \$5000 to Plunkett Centre
2002-2003	\$20,822 (scholarship) + \$5000 to Plunkett Centre

### Australian Research Council (Spirt Program) Grant

Industry Partner: St. Vincent's Private Hospital

Project: Professionalism vs. caring: toward a coherent ethic of nursing

#### Fundine:

2001-2002	\$23,590 (M.Phil scholarship) + \$5000 to Plunkett Cen	ıtre
	\$23,590 (M.Phil scholarship) + \$5000 to Plunkett Cen	

## Australian Catholic University (Vice Chancellor's Strategic Planning Fund) Grant:

Project: The Crisis of Care in Modern Medicine

Funding for Stage 1: Care-as-Community v Care-as-Medical-Attention-to-the-person 2001-2002 \$25,000

Funding for Stage 2: Historical Foundations of the union of scientific care and personal care: how to respond to the conflict between them in today's health care world

2002-2003 \$35,000

## Clinical Ethics Program

The need for rehabilitation of a man who lives on the streets (Social Work, St Vincent's)

The case of a pregnant client whose physical and behavioural disorders threaten the well-being of her to-be-born baby (Social Work, St Vincent's)

The case of a woman with "multiple system atrophy" (Social Work, St Vincent's)

The use of non-psychotropic medication in community treatment order management plan (Mental Health Unit, St Vincent's)

The case of a mentally-ill homeless person who "only needs accommodation" (Mental Health Unit, St Vincent's)

The patient and his barrister-brother (Palliative Care, St Vincent's)

A patient with an infectious disease that would put other people at risk (Intensive Care Unit, St Vincent's)

The care of a heart transplant recipient (Intensive Care Unit, St Vincent's)

Admission and long term care of a patient whose family do not accept that there is little hope of recovery (Intensive Care Unit, St Vincent's)

Care of an older woman who is refusing to eat (Accident and Emergency, St Vincent's)

Withholding diagnosis from a patient (Accident and Emergency, St Vincent's)

A request by a father to donate his second kidney to his daughter when the first kidney donated had failed (Outpatients Unit, St Vincent's)

The offer by a grandmother to donate her heart and lungs to her grandson who is in need of a transplant (Outpatients Unit, St Vincent's)

The care of women in theatre (St Vincent's)

Factors influencing a mother's pain relief choices (St Vincent's)

The care of a woman who regrets undergoing surgery (St Vincent's)

The refusal of further diagnostic tests and treatment (St Vincent's)

The case of a HIV positive pregnant woman who refuses anti retroviral therapy for herself and for her to-be-born baby (Children's Hospital, Westmead)

Withdrawing/withholding neonatal intensive care (Children's Hospital, Westmead)

Feeding children who have cerebral palsy (Children's Hospital, Westmead)

Disagreement in the family over treatment for an elderly, confused woman with multiple organ disease (Geriatric Unit, Prince of Wales)

Deciding whether to commence PEG tube feeding (Geriatric Unit, Prince of Wales)

Determining whether to provide antibiotics and a feeding tube for an elderly patient who is reluctant to eat (Geriatric Unit, Prince of Wales)

## **Publications**

#### Peer Reviewed Publications

- Buckle S, "Aristotle's Republic, or Why Aristotle's Ethics Is Not Virtue Ethics", *Philosophy*, (2002) 77: 565-595
- Byrne M, "The Use of Advance Directives" in St Vincent's Health Care Campus Nursing Monograph (2002), Sydney, 13-16
- Gleeson G, "Person, body and gender", The Australasian Catholic Record, (2002) 79 (3) 285-298
- Tobin B, "Community v individual benefit", Medical Journal of Australia, (2002) 176 (March 18) 279-280 (with S.R. Leeder & E.R. Somerville)
  - "The goals of health care and their relation to justice in allocation of health care resources", Contemporary Nurse, (2002) 12 (3) 209-212
  - "End of life issues: case 2" Medical Journal of Australia, 176 (21 January) 80-81 (with P. Glare)

#### Other Publications

- Buckle S, "The Scottish Enlightenment: Essay in Reinterpretation, Paul B. Wood (ed), Rochester NY 2000: A Review," Journal of the History of Philosophy, (2002) 40 404-405
  - Letter to the Editor, "The Moral Asymmetry of Human Life", Higher Education Supplement, The Australian, 11 September, (2002)
- Byrne M, "Access to Health Care Through Research?", Bioethics Outlook, (2002) 13 (1) 1-6
  - "Ethical issues in health care near the end of life", Bioethics Outlook, (2002) 13 (3) 1-7
  - "Morality, Law and Public Policy", Bioethics Outlook, (2002) 13 (4) 5-12
- Gleeson G, "Ethics and bioethics: the Catholic tradition", Bioethics Outlook, (2002) 13 (2) 1-5
  - "The embryo debate is not over", Health Matters, (2002) 17 4-5
    "The Embryo Stem Cell Debate" (with Tobin B), Bioethics Outlook, (2002) 13 (4) 1-4

McCabe H, "Healthcare Allication: an ethical framework for public policy", Bioethics Outlook, (2002) 13 (3) 8-12

Tobin B, "Transplantation Ethics, Robert Veatch, Washington, DC, Georgetown University Press, 2000: A Review", Monash Bioethics Review, (2002) 21 (2) 35-36

"The beginning of life: Ethics and Bioethics in the Catholic tradition", Bioethics Outlook, (2002) 13 (2) 6-11

End-of-life issues, Letter to Editor, Medical Journal of Australia, (2002) 177 51 (with Ian Cameron)

Confidentiality, Letter to *Medical Journal of Australia*, (2002) 177 165 (with Stephen Leeder and Ernest Somerville)

"Christianity and the Making of the Modern Family', Rosemary Radford Ruether, A Review", New Blackfriars, (2002) 83 982 December

"The Embryo Stem Cell Debate" *Bioethics Outlook*, (2002) 13 (4) 1-4 (with Gerald Gleeson)

"Ethics of medical research on humans, Claire Foster, author: A Review", eMJA, (2002) (http://www.mja.com.au/public/bookroom.html)



The Monday Morning Seminar: Back Row: Kristine Morrison, Stephen Buckle, Mary Byrne, Mary Self. Front Row: Gary Nieukamp and Megan Best

## Consultancies

#### Overall number of consultations undertaken by staff of the Centre: 38

from within the Catholic Health Care Sector

from outside the Catholic Health Care Sector

14

#### Range of people seeking a consultation

Health care administrators	10
Doctors	6
Nurses	4
Allied health workers	7
Media	5
Other	6

#### Selection of issues on which consultation was sought:

- Theological understanding of illness and the causes of disease
- Caring for pregnant women who have used IVF services
- Care of newborn infant
- Moral interpretation of the embryonic stem cell debate
- Use of foetal cells in research
- Cloning
- Stem cells derived from cord blood
- Donor conception
- Family planning services
- Results of prenatal tests
- Catholic theology relating to the beginning of life and the status of the embryo
- Prenatal Genetic Diagnosis
- Care of a person with chronic pain and suicidal thoughts
- Lack of self esteem underpinning poor access to treatment
- Guardianship
- Not for resuscitation orders

- Patients with advance care directives
- Patient treatment decision difference of medical opinion
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
- Assessing death by the brain function criterion
- Withdrawal of feeding
- Parliamentary euthanasia bill
- Withdrawing life-sustaining treatment
- Catholic theology relating to the sanctity of life
- Pharmaceutical services in a Catholic facility
- Collaborative services with a non-Catholic facility
- Urgent "elective" surgery on a public holiday
- Accessing healthcare information for clients with sexually transmitted diseases
- Needle exchange programmes
- Resource allocation
- Development of a Code of Ethics
- Historically-based differential pay rates in a large organisation
- Professional association taking on a political role
- Publication of information about novel, high risk activity
- Employment contract requiring participation in activities one judges to be wrong

## **Submissions**

To Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee: re research on human embryos (Gerald Gleeson)

To Senate Committee: re Stem Cells (Bernadette Tobin)

To NSW Health Department: re Draft Guidelines for Decision Making at the End of Life (Bernadette Tobin)

To NSW Health Department: re Draft Guidelines for Decision Making at the End of Life (Gerald Gleeson)

To Australian Health Ethics Committee: re Draft Guidelines on Ethical Matters in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research (Mary Byrne)

#### **Presentations**

#### Mary Byrne

"Introduction to Clinical Ethics" National Leadership Development Program, Little Company of Mary Health Care, Canberra, Adelaide (2 sessions), Sydney, Hobart (2 sessions), Melbourne and Wagga.

"Ethical Issues at the end of life" Catholic Women's League, Manly Parish.

"Ethical Issues in Aged Care" Nursing in Aged Care, Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick.

"Ethical issues in Palliative Care" Ethical and Legal Aspects of Palliative Care, Sacred Heart Palliative Care Service, Sydney.

"Ethics and Ethical Standards in Health and Aged Care" Catholic Health Australia Education Programme, North Sydney.

"Ethics and Ethical Standards in Health and Aged Care" Catholic Health Australia Education Programme, Port Macquarie.

"Ethical Issues in Aged Care" Nursing in Aged Care, Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick.

"Euthanasia" Clinical Pastoral Education Seminar, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney.

"Embryonic Stem Cell Transplantation", Clinical Ethics Forum, Newcastle Mater Misericordiae Hospital.

"End of Life Issues" Ethics and Bioethics: Morality, Moral Decision Making and Moral Teaching, Seminar for High School Teachers, Sydney.

"Embryonic Stem Cell Research: A Christian Perspective" Community Forum, Sydney.

"Ethical Considerations in Legislating for Reproductive Rights" International Council of Jewish Women, Triennial Convention, Sydney.

"Ethical decision making at the clinical level" Staff Development Sessions, (7 sessions) Calvary Health Care, Adelaide.

"Ethical issues in Aged Care: a case study" Staff Development Sessions (2 sessions) Little Company of Mary Aged Care, Dalton Gardens, Ryde.

"Ethical Issues relating to Organ Donation" Future Problem Solving Forum, Loreto College Normanhurst.

"Advance Care Planning" Geriatric Registrar Training Session, Sydney.

- "Ethical issues and ageing", New South Wales Pastoral Care Conference, Sydney.
- "Ethical issues in palliative care", Ethical and Legal Aspects of Palliative Care, Clinical Pastoral Education Seminar, (2 sessions) St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney.

Ethical Issues in health and aged care at the end of life, Mercy Health Services Training Unit, Albury.

"Ethics and Ethical Standards in Health and Aged Care", Unit 4: Catholic Health Australia Education Programme, Canberra.

"Ethical Issues and the Sanctity of Life", Educational Forum, Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, Terrigal.

"Ethical Issues in stem cell research", Educational Night, St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith.

#### Gerald Gleeson

"Ethics", Natural Family Planning Teacher Training Course, Pymble.

"Science in service of the human", Christian Sexuality Seminar, Harris Park.

"Moral decision making", Ethics and Bioethics: Morality, Moral Decision Making and Moral Teaching, Seminar for High School Teachers, Sydney.

"Ethical Issues", Forum of Antioch leaders, Sydney.

"Medical Ethics Hypothetical", University of New South Wales.

"Ethical Issues Today", Catholic Women's League Conference, Sydney.

"Conscience and Conversion", Vatican II: 40 Years On, Melbourne.

"Speaking of Persons, human and divine", Biennial Philosophy and Theology Conference, Strathfield.

"A Catholic Response to Infertility", Australian Council for Natural Family Planning Conference, North Sydney.

"Ethics of Stem Cell Research", Drummoyne Parish Forum, Sydney.

"Ethical Issues for Vocations Ministry", Catholic Vocations Ministry Conference, Pennant Hills.

#### Bernadette Tobin

"The goals of medicine", Medicine, Law and Ethics Conference, Gosford and Wyong Emergency Departments, Terrigal.

"Ethical Issues in Xenografting", World Police Medical Officers Conference, Sydney.

"Ethical challenges in end of life decision making", Mental Health for Older People Conference, South East Health Education Seminars, Sydney.

"Stem cells: ethical issues", School of Philosophy Public Lecture Series 2002, Australian Catholic University, Strathfield.

"Forgoing neo-natal intensive care", Children's Hospital, Westmead.

"Terminal Sedation and Refusal of Hydration and Nutrition: ethical issues" *Palliative Care in General Practice*, Sacred Heart Hospice, Sydney.

"Beginning of life ethical issues", Dialogue Australasia Network, Riverview College, Sydney.

"Ethical Issues in the allocation of health care resources", Singapore General Hospital.

"Ethics of decision making in cancer", Department of Medicine, Concord Hospital, Sydney.

"Addressing the ethical issues in hospital planning", Foundation Day, Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney.

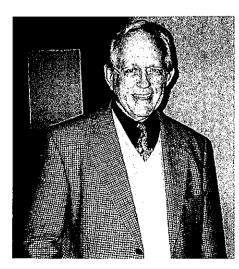
"Ethical Issues in end of life care", Palliative Care Association of NSW State Conference, Terrigal.

"Public health ethics and genetics", Genetics and Public Health Short Course, University of Sydney.

"Developments in public policy concerning end-of-life care and the use of reproductive technology", New York Academy of Medicine, New York.

"Reproductive Ethics", University of New South Wales.

Emeritus Professor Warren Reich (Georgetown University) Visiting Professor to the Plunkett Centre



## Media

#### Gerald Gleeson

ABC Radio 702: The Drive Programme: "Is abortion worse than child abuse?" September.

ABC Radio 702: The Sunday Night Programme: "Ethics and Religion", November.

#### Bernadette Tobin

BBC World Service: "Ethical Issues in the use of stem cells derived from embryos", January.

Channel 7 News: "Ethical issues associated with allowing clinical trials in Xentransplantion", July.

ABC Radio Perth: "Woman who miscarries at 19 weeks who wants death certificate for baby", July.

ABC Radio National: "Xenotransplantation", July.

ABC Radio Adelaide: The Breakfast Programme "Xenotransplantation", July.

2NUR Newcastle Radio Morning Magazine: "Xenotransplantation", July.

ABC Radio Victoria: "Donating gametes via the internet: ethical issues", July.



Morning Tea with Professor Nancy Dubler, Professor of Medical Ethics, Montefiore Medical Centre, New York. L to R: Nancy Dubler, Mary Byrne, Helen McCabe, Linda Purves and Mary Self.

## Teaching

#### Stephen Buckle

Supervisor, PhD. Thesis, Surgical practice in a changing health system: resolving the ethical questions (with Bernadette Tobin)

Lecturer, Graduate Certificate in Applied Ethics (Health Care), Master of Arts in Applied Ethics (Health Care)

Lecturer in Philosophy, Bachelor of Arts, Australian Catholic University

Presenter, Philosophy Seminar for postgraduate students, Plunkett Centre for Ethics, St. Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

#### Mary Byrne

Presenter, Registrar Training Programme, Accident & Emergency Centre, St. Vincent's Hospital

Presenter, Clinical ethics for health care professionals (Intensive Care, Outpatients, Division of Nursing (St. Vincent's Private Hospital), St. Vincent's Hospital

Presenter, Clinical ethics for medical students (third and fourth years), St. Vincent's Hospital

Presenter, Intensive Bioethics Course, Sydney

#### Gerald Gleeson

Presenter, Intensive Bioethics Course, Sydney

#### Mary Self

Presenter, Clinical ethics for medical students (fourth year), St. Vincent's Hospital

#### Bernadette Tobin

Lecturer, Master of Arts in Applied Ethics (Health Care)

Presenter, Clinical ethics for medical students (fourth and sixth years) St. Vincent's Hospital

Presenter, Clinical ethics for health care practitioners (Social Work, Palliative Care, Mental Health) St. Vincent's Hospital

Presenter, Intensive Bioethics Course, Sydney

Supervisor, PhD. Thesis, Managed Care in Australia: A philosophical inquiry into the ethical issues (with John Quilter)

Supervisor, PhD. Thesis, Surgical practice in a changing health system: resolving the ethical questions (with Stephen Buckle)

Supervisor, MPhil. Thesis, Professionalism v Caring: toward a coherent ethic of nursing for Australia (with Peter Coghlan)

## Other Appointments

#### Stephen Buckle

Editorial Board, Australasian Journal of Philosophy Member, Australasian Association of Philosophy Member, British Society for the History of Philosophy

#### Mary Byrne

Human Research Ethics Committee, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney Bioethics Consultative Committee, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

#### Gerald Gleeson

Bioethics Consultative Committee, St. Vincent's Hospital, Sydney National Board, Sisters of Charity Health Service Garvan Institute of Medical Research (Director)

#### Bernadette Tobin

Australian Health Ethics Committee (NHMRC)

Committee to Revise Ethical Guidelines on Assisted Reproductive Technology (NHMRC) (Chair)

Bioethics Consultative Committee, St. Vincent's Health Care Campus, Sydney Mary Philippa Brazill Trust (Founder & Trustee)

Guild of St. Luke (Member of Council)

Regional Mission and Values Committee, St. Vincent's Health Care Campus, Sydney

Australians Donate (Member of Council)

Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation (Director)

Ministerial Advisory Council on Biotechnology (NSW)

Bioethics Panel of Ministerial Advisory Council on Biotechnology

NHMRC Working Party on Persistent Vegetative States

NHMRC Working Party on Xenotransplantation