



Plunkett Centre for Ethics

Annual Report 2009



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY



St Vincents
& Mater Health
Sydney

Mission

The Mission of the Centre is to promote the values of compassion and fellowship, intellectual and professional excellence, and fairness and justice. Its primary focus is on the realization of these values in the provision and allocation of health care. The Centre expresses this commitment through research, teaching and community engagement, as these are informed by the Catholic tradition.

Objectives

- ◆ 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 practices, and the allocation of healthcare resources.
- ◆ To offer courses in philosophical ethics and in the ethics of healthcare provision, medical research and healthcare resource allocation.
- ◆ To engage and where appropriate to collaborate with local, national and international bodies as they seek to respond to their intellectual and ethical needs.
- ◆ To foster collaboration on ethical matters between Australian Catholic University and St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney, St Vincent's Hospital Sydney, St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney and Sacred Heart Hospice.

Functions

Conducting and promoting research.
Providing research training and supervision.
Developing and teaching courses.
Conducting ethical reviews of professional practice.
Providing an ethics consultation service.
Participating in public discussions.

Pro Vice Chancellor's Foreword

The Plunkett Centre for Ethics is named after a courageous and brilliant colonial Irishman, John Hubert Plunkett. Mr Plunkett became the Attorney General in the young Sydney colony and was renowned for his commitment to the highest level of professional ethics, even when his personal safety was at risk. His hard work and guiding hand was responsible for many advances in the colony including education (funding for schools and the establishment of Sydney University), law and order and the unrelenting application of ethical principles.



The Plunkett Centre for Ethics carries his name and advances ethics into a relatively new and difficult field, contemporary medicine. In the last 40 years, this has been a rapidly expanding and challenging area due to several astounding medical developments such as whole organ transplants. The ethical considerations involved when humans are subjects of treatment and/or research have required the establishment of Human Research Ethics Committees and of Clinical Ethics Committees. In this field, the Plunkett Centre for Ethics under the indefatigable Director, Associate Professor Bernadette Tobin, has confirmed itself as an ethical specialist, able to advise on the practical application of the principles of social justice. In addition, the Centre is active in research, in ethical education and in the dissemination of information on ethics to the academic and general community.

The Centre is the result of a collaborative agreement that was initiated in 1989 between the Australian Catholic University and St Vincents & Mater Health (Sydney). It has matured and under the guidance of Mr Steven Rubic (CEO, St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney) and the Director, Associate Professor Bernadette Tobin, is continuing to expand its reputation and influence.

This report summarizes the research, education, clinical consultations, publications and community contributions of the Centre for 2009. It is testament to the commitment of Mr Rubic, Associate Professor Tobin, the Management Committee, and the staff and they are commended for ensuring another highly successful year for the Centre.

I am sure that John Hubert Plunkett is delighted that his name continues to be associated with the application of the highest ethical standards to a challenging field, contemporary medicine, which is of vital importance to the health and welfare of the community.

Thomas Martin
Pro Vice Chancellor, Research

Academic Staff

Stephen Buckle MA Hons (MaqU), PhD (ANU)
Senior Lecturer in Philosophy,
Australian Catholic University
Research Associate, Part time



Stephen Buckle

Helen McCabe RN BHA (UNSW), MA PhD (ACU)
Research Associate, Part time.



Helen McCabe

Bernadette Tobin MA MEd (Melb), PhD (Cantab)
Associate Professor and Reader in Philosophy,
Australian Catholic University
Director, Full time



Bernadette Tobin

Honorary Staff

Gerald Gleeson, STB (Catholic Institute of Sydney),
MA (Cantab), PhD (Leuven)
Associate Professor of Philosophy,
Sydney College of Divinity
Catholic Institute of Sydney



Gerald Gleeson

Jonathan Gillis MB BS, PhD, GradDipPallMed,
FRACP, FJFICM, FACHRM
Senior Staff Specialist in Intensive Care,
Palliative Care Physician,
Children's Hospital, Westmead,
Clinical Associate Professor, University of Sydney



Jonathan Gillis

Warren T. Reich, S.T.D
Distinguished Research Professor of Religion and Ethics,
Georgetown University, Washington DC



Warren Reich

Office Manager

Paul Stanton



Paul Stanton

Management Committee

Professor Gail Crossley, Acting Pro-Vice Chancellor, Research, ACU (until August)
Professor Thomas Martin, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Research, ACU (from September)
Professor John Ozolins, Head, School of Philosophy, ACU
Mr Steven Rubic, Chief Executive Officer, St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney
Mr Mark Hales, Director of Mission & Corporate Relations, St Vincents & Mater Health
Dr Bernadette Tobin, Director

Director's Foreword

Our annual report conveys something of the previous year's achievements, activities, appointments and initiatives.

With respect to achievements, it is hard to go past the award to Stephen Buckle of a Discovery Grant from the Australian Research Council for a research project which focuses on the 'sceptical materialism' of the eighteenth century Scottish philosopher David Hume.

This is important for the work of the Plunkett Centre. Hume's epistemology and ethics form a key element in the background of modern utilitarian thought to which a Centre like ours, which exists to examine and promote the values of compassion and fellowship, intellectual and professional excellence, and fairness and justice, as they are understood in the Judeo-Christian tradition, often responds.



With respect to appointments, the most significant has been the appointment of long-time researcher at the Plunkett Centre, Dr Helen McCabe, to a Lectureship in Ethics in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Australian Catholic University.

Of course, we shall miss Helen enormously, but we are delighted with her promotion to this position: Helen's professional experience in nursing and her doctoral studies on the ethical challenges generated by the US's health care 'system' make her contribution to the professional education of nurses almost uniquely valuable.

In the following pages our aspirations, our achievements and activities are noted. Once again, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and good cheer of my colleagues in the Plunkett Centre, the support and encouragement of both our sponsoring institutions, and the wise advice of our Management Committee.

Bernadette Tobin

Research

Hume's influence in contemporary ethics: Stephen Buckle

Origins of utilitarian moral theory: Stephen Buckle

Resource distribution in health care: Helen McCabe

The concept of medical harm: Helen McCabe

Cultural differences and their significance in palliative care: Bernadette Tobin

Truth and faith in ethics: Bernadette Tobin

Research Support

Laurdel Foundation \$25,000

Research Supervision

Stephen Buckle: ACU Honours thesis, Ewan Bridge, 'Descartes, Hobbes and Hume on Reason and Imagination'.

Bernadette Tobin with Professor Jane Ingham and Associate Professor Liz Lobb: The role of family conferences in end of life care in a hospice, Independent Learning Project of Mr Edward Roper, Faculty of Medicine, University of New South Wales.

2009 Plunkett Seminar

Human Rights Laws: Would they benefit patients in hospitals, participants in medical research, and residents in nursing homes? Mr Edward Santow: Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales, Professor Greg Craven, Vice Chancellor, Australian Catholic University.



(L to R) Professor Greg Craven, Dr Bernadette Tobin, Mr Steven Rubic & Mr Edward Santow
2009 Plunkett Seminar

Publications

Books

Helen McCabe *Administering Health Care Services: an ethical perspective*, 2009. Saarbrücken: VDM Verlag Dr Muller AG & Co. ISBN: 978-3-639-13859-7

Peer-reviewed articles

Buckle, Stephen: ‘Arguing from Potential’, in Justin Oakley (ed.), *Bioethics* (Aldershot: Ashgate Publishing, 2009). International Library of Essays in Public and Professional Ethics. (Reprinted from *Bioethics* 2, 3 (July 1988): 227-53

Gerald Gleeson: “Are People More Important than their Bodies”, *Australasian Catholic Record*, 86 (April, 2009): 173-188

Helen McCabe: ‘Reconciliation, Health and Indigenous Australians’, *Ethics Education*, 14 (2), 2009: 5-15

Shirley Alexander, Louise Baur, Roger Magnusson, **Bernadette Tobin:** ‘When does severe childhood obesity become a child protection issue?’ *Medical Journal of Australia* (2009), 190 (3): 136-140

David Isaacs, Henry Kilham, Julie Leask, **Bernadette Tobin:** ‘Ethical issues in immunization’, *Vaccine* 2009 Jan 29; 27(5): 615-8

Other articles

Gerald Gleeson: “Living Persons, Natural Bodies”, *Nathaniel Report*, (27), 2009 8-11

Gerald Gleeson: Nature, Persons, and Bodies, *Bioethics Outlook*, 20 (2), 2009: 1-10

Bernadette Tobin: Medical priorities: a view, *Bioethics Outlook*, 20 (4), 18-20

Letters

Shirley Alexander, Louise Baur, Roger Magnusson, **Bernadette Tobin:** When does severe obesity become a child protection issue?, Commissioned Letter to Editor, *Medical Journal of Australia*, 190 (11), 1st June 2009: 655

Reviews

Stephen Buckle: Review of P. J. E. Kail, *Projection and Realism in Hume’s Philosophy* (Oxford, 2007), *Hume Studies*, 34 (1), 2009

Bernadette Tobin: ‘Ethics and law revisited’, a Review of *Ethics and law for the health professionals*, 3rd ed. Ian Kerridge, Michael Lowe, Cameron Stewart, Sydney, The Federation Press, 2009, in *Medical Journal of Australia*, 191 (10), 16th November 2009: 572

Bernadette Tobin: A Review of Paul Komesaroff: *Experiments in love and death: medicine, postmodernism, microethics and the body*, MUP 2008, *Internal Medicine Journal*, 39,(2), March 2009: 139



(L to R) Paul Stanton, Jonathan Gillis, Helen McCabe, Gerald Gleeson, Stephen Buckle, Ed Roper, Warren Reich

Clinical Ethics

Gillian Hathaway, **Bernadette Tobin**, 'Ethical challenges of manipulative patients and clients', Social Work Department, St Vincent's Hospital.

David Isaacs, Dominic Fitzgerald, **Bernadette Tobin**, 'Palivizumab: can we afford it?', Children's Hospital at Westmead.

Marie Craig, **Bernadette Tobin**, 'On the obligation to respect the wishes of a patient whose competence is uncertain', Social Work Department, St Vincent's, Hospital.

Liane Davison, **Bernadette Tobin**. 'Care of person with paranoid schizophrenia', Social Work Department, St Vincent's Hospital.

Julie Hamblin, Kim Donaghue, **Bernadette Tobin**. "'Pillow angels": the ethics of attenuating a child's growth', Children's Hospital at Westmead.

Bernadette Tobin. 'The significance for social workers of judgments in Mr A, Rossiter and Mr JT', Social Work Department, St Vincent's Hospital.

Teaching

Stephen Buckle:

Plunkett Postgraduate Seminar: Alexis de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*,

Charles Taylor's *A Secular Age*, ACU

PHIL 100: Introduction to Philosophical Inquiry, ACU

PHIL 102: Theories of Human Nature, ACU

PHIL 209: Political and Social Philosophy, ACU

PHIL 215: Modern Western Philosophy, ACU

BUSN 203: Business Ethics, ACU

Gerald Gleeson:

Moral Philosophy, Catholic Institute of Sydney

Helen McCabe:

PHIL 509: Competing Interests, Choice and Conflicts, ACU

Ethics and the Law, Nursing, University of Notre Dame Australia

Consultancies

A selection of ethical issues addressed:

- Confidentiality of patient records and increase in professionals who ‘need to know’
- Informed consent from patients who participate in drug trials
- The provision of ‘extra’ services to some residents in nursing homes
- The ethics of ‘harm minimization’ programs
- Material cooperation with other healthcare institutions
- Donation after ‘cardiac’ death: pre-mortem procedures
- Ethical challenges in ensuring clarity about a patient’s resuscitation status
- Care of a person who has been diagnosed as ‘post-coma unresponsive’
- The concept of ‘values’ in the expression of institutional ethics
- Evaluating instruments for advance care planning
- Ethical challenges in the use of induced pluripotent stem cells.
- Responding to unreasonable requests from patients
- Refusal of nutrition and hydration: has the Church changed its advice?
- Need for research committee oversight of education programme
- Ethical evaluation of government pandemic planning guidelines
- Review of policy on admission to intensive care unit
- Rights of family members in medical decision making
- Catholic Church teaching on organ and tissue donation
- Ethical issues in bariatric surgery

2009 Consultations

Summary by source:

Year	St Vincents & Mater Health	Other Institutions	Total
1997	11	23	34
1998	14	24	38
1999	15	24	39
2000	34	20	54
2001	35	29	64
2002	24	14	38
2003	19	12	31
2004	15	12	27
2005	12	20	32
2006	9	19	28
2007	14	13	27
2008	15	22	37
2009	26	38	64

Summary by profession:

Year	Administration	Doctors	Nurses	Allied Health Practitioners	Others	Total
1997	4	5	7	4	14	34
1998	5	6	8	3	16	38
1999	6	9	9	4	11	39
2000	18	6	6	4	20	54
2001	22	12	6	2	22	64
2002	10	6	4	7	11	38
2003	8	9	8	1	5	31
2004	7	7	1	4	8	27
2005	6	6	1	7	12	32
2006	4	7	2	3	12	28
2007	8	8	5	1	5	27
2008	15	7	7	3	5	37
2009	24	17	4	1	18	64

Media

Stephen Buckle

‘Windschuttle and the *Quadrant* Hoax’, *The Australian*, 8 January, 2009

‘The Meaning of *Terra Nullis*’, *The Australian Literary Review*, March 2009

‘Baader-Meinhof and Germany in the 1970s’, *The Australian*, 7 May, 2009

‘Galileo and Relativity’, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 19 August, 2009

‘Afghanistan and the Karzai Government’, *The Australian*, 21 August, 2009

‘Ancient Greeks and Vulgarity’, *Higher Education Supplement, The Australian*, 26 August, 2009

‘The Representative Male and Misogyny’, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 23 September, 2009

Bernadette Tobin

What is wrong with a police officer from Katherine posting a video of a drunk indigenous man on youtube.com? *The Drive Program with Rowan Barwick, ABC Alice Springs*

Dr Simon Longstaff and **Bernadette Tobin**: Bush fire emergencies: should it still be women and children first? Naming an alleged arsonist. An “unwanted IVF twin”. *Mornings with Deborah Cameron, ABC Local Radio 702, Sydney*

Bishop Robert Forsyth and **Bernadette Tobin**: Should a court be allowed to decide something as life changing as removal of breasts for minor who suffers from ‘gender dysphoria’? Should doctors direct obese people to lose weight? Is it wrong for the government to delay the Emissions Trading Scheme? *Mornings with Deborah Cameron, ABC Local Radio 702, Sydney*

Bishop Tom Frame and **Bernadette Tobin**: Should there be a moral test for Prime Ministers, opposition leaders, senior executives etc? If information is a lie, should journalists protect their source? How do you propagate ethical values in children hypnotised by the glamour of celebrity life styles? *Mornings with Deborah Cameron, ABC Local Radio 702, Sydney*

Bernadette Tobin: Should we allow women to be paid for egg donations? *The World Today with Ashley Hall, ABC Radio National*

Bernadette Tobin: Why do people continue to debate voluntary euthanasia? *The Drive Program with Barry Nicholls, ABC Statewide Radio, Western Australia*

Bernadette Tobin: Quoted in ‘Ethics fears over human egg payment’ by Leigh Dayton, *The Australian*, re payment of women for ‘donating eggs to form embryos for medical research.

Bishop Robert Forsyth and **Bernadette Tobin**: What is the ethical consideration of a newspaper editor who, in possession of damaging private information, confronts a public figure knowing that it will destroy that person's professional standing? In what circumstances is it permissible to publish images of dead bodies for public consumption? Is it ethical for insurance companies to discriminate against some people based on a genetic test that shows they might develop a disease in the future? *Mornings with Deborah Cameron, ABC Local Radio 702, Sydney*

Dr Tom Frame and **Bernadette Tobin**: Is it ever legitimate for fans to boo the referee? If you are paid to escort people the length of the Kokoda track, are you ethically obliged to bring them back alive? Is it legitimate for the Australian media to concentrate on Australian lives lost when a crisis occurs overseas? *Mornings with Deborah Cameron, ABC Local Radio 702, Sydney*

Bernadette Tobin: Ethical issues in transplanting a uterus. *PM Program with Meredith Griffiths, ABC Radio National*

Bishop Robert Forsyth and **Bernadette Tobin**: Following the apology to the "Forgotten Australians", what kind of ethical obligations does a government have once it says "Sorry"? Given the Fort Hood massacre, should there be an ethical way to get out of the army? What are the ethical issues raised by people joining the army but then deciding that they do not want to serve overseas or see frontline duty? How do you explain yourself if you are not going to give Christmas presents? *Mornings with Deborah Cameron, ABC Local Radio 702, Sydney*



John Hubert Plunkett

Bernadette Tobin: Quoted in 'Designing principles at birth of a new era' (on pre-implantation genetic diagnosis) by Rachel Browne: *The Sun-Herald*, 22 Nov 2009

Bernadette Tobin: Release of new National Health and Medical Research Guidelines for health practitioners on disclosing genetic information. *The Drive Show with Steve Kinnane, ABC Local Radio 702*

Submissions to Public Inquiries

Bernadette Tobin:

To Standing Committee on Law and Justice, NSW Parliament: re *Adoption by Same Sex Couples* (from Director of Plunkett Centre for Ethics)

To Joint Working Group of Standing Committee of Attorneys General, Australian Health Ministers' Council Community Services Ministers' Council: re *A Proposal for a National Model to Harmonize Regulation of Surrogacy* (from Director of Plunkett Centre for Ethics)

To Australian Medical Council re *Good Medical Practice: A Code of Conduct for Doctors in Australia* (with Dr Gerald Gleeson, Dr Brett Courtenay, Dr Michael McGrath, and on behalf of Bioethics Committee of St Vincent's and Mater Health, Sydney)

To Australian Medical Council re *Good Medical Practice: A Code of Conduct for Doctors in Australia* (from Director of Plunkett Centre for Ethics): Supplementary Submission

To Australian Medical Council re *Good Medical Practice: A Code of Conduct for Doctors in Australia* (on behalf of Bioethics Committee of St Vincents & Mater Health, Sydney): Supplementary Submission

To National Health and Medical Research Council: re *Ethics and the Exchange, Sale of and Profit from Products Derived from Human Tissues* (with Dr Adrienne Morey, Dr Anthony Dodds and Prof Sue Henshall, and on behalf of Bioethics Committee of St Vincents & Mater Health, Sydney)

To National Institute of Clinical Studies,
re *Draft National Protocol on Donation after Cardiac Death* (on behalf of Bioethics Committee of St Vincents & Mater Health, Sydney)

To National Health and Medical Research Council: re *Ethical issues involved in transitions to palliation and end of life care for people with chronic conditions: a discussion paper* (with Prof Jane Ingham, and on behalf of Bioethics Committee of St Vincents & Mater Health, Sydney)



Professor Don Chisholm
Chair of Bioethics Committee
St Vincents & Mater Health, Sydney

Presentations

Stephen Buckle:

‘Hume and the Enlightenment’, Keynote Address to the conference ‘Hume and the Enlightenment’, Flinders University, Adelaide, July 2009

Gerald Gleeson:

‘Are People more important than their Bodies?’ 10th Anniversary Celebration Meeting of the Nathaniel Centre for Ethics, Wellington, NZ

Helen McCabe:

‘Orientation to the ethical code of conduct at St Vincent’s Hospital, Resident Medical Officers’ initiation programme’, St Vincent’s Hospital, Darlinghurst

‘Health Care Dilemmas in Health Care Settings’, Law and Nursing Conference, AUSMED Conferences, Sydney

‘End-of-Life Legal Decisions and Nurses’, Law and Nursing Conference, AUSMED Conferences, Sydney

‘Professional Ethics in a time of cost restraint’, St George/Illawarra Social Work Unit, St George Hospital, Sydney

‘Catholic Governance: Carrying Leadership Forward’, Annual Conference of Catholic Health Australia, Hobart

‘End-of-life decision-making’, National Women’s Register, Sydney

Bernadette Tobin

‘Some ethical challenges for Catholic Health Care in Australia’, Board and Executive Retreat, Sisters of Charity, Sydney

‘Ethical challenges in palliative care at the end of life’, Palliative Care Perspectives Workshop for Allied Health Professionals, Sacred Heart Hospice, Sydney

‘Ethics of Advance Care Planning’, Workshop for Health Professionals, Sacred Heart Hospice, Sydney

‘Ethical disagreement in health care institutions’, Senior Managers, Catholic Healthcare Limited, Epping

‘Conscientious disagreements in health care: why respect for conscience matters’, Ethics Committee, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Hospital, New York

‘Conscientious disagreements in health care: what limits are reasonable?’, Pain and Palliative Care Grand Rounds, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Hospital, New York

‘Organ Donation and Transplantation: a Christian view’, Wolper Jewish Hospital

‘Ethical challenges in health care’, National Board, Little Company of Mary

‘Designer Babies: Good science? Good ethics?’, Young Garvan Forum (with John Shine, Devora Lieberman, Charles Firth, Mia Freedman)

‘Culture, Religion and Ethics: some features of their relationships’, Culture and Beliefs in Spiritually-Appropriate Care, Sacred Heart Hospice, Sydney

‘The ethical implications of the use of QALYs in healthcare allocation’, Ethics Committee, Catholic Healthcare, Epping

‘Neither autonomy nor utility: traditions and the critique of consequentialist bioethics’, Annual Conference of the Association of South East Asian Catholic Colleges and Universities, University of Notre Dame Australia

‘Eligibility for, and allocation of, donated organs: a needs-based approach to just distribution’, Stakeholder Consultation Meeting, Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand, Sydney

‘Advance Care Planning’, Sacred Heart Hospice, Sydney

‘Care of the elderly: how do we make good choices?’ Conference of the Asia-Pacific Palliative Care Association and Palliative Care Australia, Perth, Australia

‘Advance Care Planning’, Conference of the Asia-Pacific Palliative Care Association and Palliative Care Australia, Perth, Australia

‘Ethical implications of the judgments *Brightwater Care v Rossiter* and *Australian Capital Territory v JT*’, Ethics Committee, Catholic Healthcare, Epping

‘Ethical reasoning for middle level managers’, Executive Development Program, Little Company of Mary, Sydney



Bernadette Tobin at the Sisters of Charity Board & Executive Retreat

Appointments

Stephen Buckle:

Referee for *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*

Referee for *History of Political Thought*

Referee for *Politics Philosophy & Economics*

Jonathan Gillis:

Member World Federation of Paediatric Intensive &
Critical Care Societies Task Force on Ethics

Helen McCabe:

Referee for *Ethics Education, Journal of Nursing Studies*

Member of Ethics Committee of Catholic Healthcare Ltd

Bernadette Tobin:

Referee, *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry*

Member, Advisory Board, Anatomy Bequest Program, UTS

Member, Advisory Board, DNA Data Bank, Children's Hospital at Westmead

Member, Bioethics Committee, St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney

Founder & Trustee, Mary Philippa Brazill Trust

Member of Council, Guild St. Luke

Member, Mission and Values Committee, St Vincents Health Care Campus, Sydney

Director, Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation, Chair, Nominations and
Remuneration Committee

Member, Clinical Ethics Advisory Panel, New South Wales Department of Health

Member of Editorial Board, *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics*

Director, Garvan Institute of Medical Research

Member, Royal Australasian College of Physicians' Conflict of Interest Working
Group

Bioethics Outlook: Volume 19, 2009

No 1

Warren Reich: Consoling the troubled: an ancient art of kindness

Warren Reich argues that empathy, rather than full blown compassion, is a (perhaps, the) key ingredient in our moral life.



Warren Reich

No 2

Gerald Gleeson: Nature, persons and bodies

Gerald Gleeson articulates the conception of ‘the natural’ which lies at the heart of the Church’s teaching about the dignity of the human person.



Gerald Gleeson

Colin Thompson: Clarifying conflicts of interests

Colin Thompson clarifies the meaning and significance of the idea of a ‘conflict of interest’.



Colin Thompson

No 3

Frank Brennan SJ: In life and death: how do we honour the patient’s autonomy and the doctor’s conscience?

Frank Brennan analyses the implications of *Brightwater Care v Rossiter* and *Australian Capital Territory v JT* for the doctor’s conscience and the patient’s wishes.



Frank Brennan SJ

No 4

Peter Steele SJ: On being a good doctor

Peter Steele reminds us that good doctors, especially those who have weathered a lot, are often good teachers.



Peter Steele SJ

Nicholas Tonti-Filippini: Role and function of ethics committees

Nicholas Tonti-Filippini argues that the deliberations of an ethics committee, especially one in a Catholic institution, should reflect the relationship between faith and reason.



Nicholas Tonti-Filippini

Bernadette Tobin: A view of medical priorities

Bernadette Tobin argues that a recognition of the variety of ways in which we can ‘need’ health care provided the right starting point for debates about resources allocation.

Financial Report

Carried forward		75,973	
Income	St Vincents & Mater Health	137,813	
	Laurdel Foundation	25,000	
	Teaching	27,814	
	Other Income	19,594	
	Australian Catholic Univ	137,813	
	Total	348,034	
Total Income			424,007
Expenditure			
	Salaries	277,736	
	Non-Salary Items		
	Library	5,371	
	Consultancies	595	
	Leasing	2,436	
	Photocopying & Printing	4,539	
	Rent & Ground Maintenance	29,707	
	Stationery & Staff Amenities	2,645	
	Internet & Telephony	1,378	
	Travel	2,739	
	Computers & Equipment	20,970	
	Couriers & Postage	226	
	Post Graduate Seminar	-17,788	
	Other	2,002	
	Non-Salary Total	54,820	
	Assets	10,848	
Total Expenditure			343,404
Total Surplus			80,603

Plunkett Centre for Ethics
St Vincent's Hospital, Victoria Street, Darlinghurst NSW 2010
ABN 15 050 192 660
Tel: 02 8382 2869 Fax: 02 9361 0975
Email: plunkett@plunkett.acu.edu.au
Web: <http://www.acu.edu.au/plunkettcentre/>