

Annual Report 2010



JOHN PIERCE CENTRE
Spirit of the Deaf Community



MISSION STATEMENT

Inspired by Jesus Christ and the traditions of the Catholic Church, the John Pierce Centre seeks to empower all Deaf people and their families within Victoria to live their lives to the full.

Vision:

To Promote Community through Spiritual, and Family Support

Values:

- ❖ To be inclusive of Deaf and hard of hearing people and their families.
- ❖ To be fair and ethical in all of our dealings
- ❖ To have a team of staff and volunteers filled with passion and compassion
- ❖ To be open to working with other organisations, individuals and corporations
- ❖ To manage our resources with efficiency and effectiveness
- ❖ To create a safe environment
- ❖ To be accountable and transparent in our governance and business practices

John Pierce Centre – Directors’ Annual Report 2010/2011

On behalf of the John Pierce Centre (JPC) Board of Directors I am pleased to present our report for the 2010/2011 year.

The JPC financial results for the year ended 31 December 2010 indicate a strong cash position being maintained. Although the annual operating result was a deficit this was in accordance with the Directors’ expectations. Overall the JPC business standing is of a satisfactory nature.

As in past years, the Directors note with appreciation the continued generous financial support received from parishes and the Archdiocese. Their respective generosity despite the increasing demands being placed upon all Australian donors to support an ever increasing number of charitable and community works is acknowledged with gratitude.

During the year the Board confirmed financial arrangements with the Archdiocese regarding funding of the Chaplaincy position. It was agreed that the Archdiocese will remit from the annual Ephpheta parish appeal an amount sufficient to pay the JPC chaplaincy stipend. Funds raised in excess of annual stipend requirements will be held in trust by the Archdiocese and used to supplement any future shortfall in annual parish appeals. Should the situation arise where insufficient funds are raised through the annual parish appeal and there is also insufficient funds held in trust, the Archdiocese will fund the short fall. For its part JPC will continue to raise its profile across the Archdiocese as a means to enhancing annual fundraising activities. The signed agreement with the Archdiocese will remain in force for five years at which time it will be reviewed. However a review can be conducted earlier should JPC be unable to provide chaplaincy services.

The diversity of pastoral and community works provided by JPC throughout 2010 is highlighted in the following table:

Activity	2010
<i>Home visits/ Hospital & Nursing Home visits</i>	<i>265 / 23</i>
<i>Welfare queries</i>	<i>200</i>
<i>Country pastoral visits</i>	<i>68</i>
<i>Funerals/Baptisms/Weddings</i>	<i>6 / 2 / 2</i>
<i>Sacramental home visits/classes</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Interpreting (church events only)</i>	<i>36</i>
<i>Masses/Communion Services</i>	<i>23 / 12</i>
<i>Deaf Club meetings (pastoral presence)</i>	<i>14</i>

<i>Activities/excursions</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Faith Development groups</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Courses/workshops/weekends</i>	<i>- / 9 / 2</i>
<i>Counselling referrals to Centacare</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Pastoral networking meetings/ visits to other organisations & schools</i>	<i>16/11</i>
<i>Professional Development Courses/Conference</i>	<i>4 / 1</i>

The Board took the opportunity to receive and consider the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers XXIV International Conference (19-21 November 2009) recommendations which seek to embrace deaf people in the life of the Church. In giving its response to the recommendations to the Archdiocese's Episcopal Vicar for Health and Aged Care, JPC made the following points:

- it is encouraging that the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers acknowledged that hearing issues should be treated separately when addressing faith and religious practice, and
- full integration of deaf people into the life of the Church should not be characterised by regarding them as having a handicap. This is not the case. Deaf people communicate in a different manner. Action to better integrate deaf people into Church life should be underpinned by appreciating and understanding this defining fact.

JPC notes that Rebecca Miller is a member of a national Catholic Church body which is currently considering how to best respond to the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers recommendations.

The Board has also been considering the implications of JPC Constitution Rule #21.1.11 wherein a Director may only hold office for a maximum of three terms or 9 years from their date of election or appointment to the Board. This rule has significant implications for the Board as the possible departure of three current Directors would result in a loss of experience and expertise. The Board has agreed that this matter requires an amendment to the JPC Constitution.

In considering the JPC Director's Award for Outstanding Service to the Deaf Community, it was unanimously agreed that Malcolm Stevenson be formally recognised for his special contribution to the work of JPC. Additionally it was agreed that for the first time a posthumous award should be made. Due to his unique contribution to the Mission of JPC it was decided that Michael Andersson should also be recognised in this year's awards.

On behalf of the Directors I thank Br Paul McGlade who has continued with the

challenging role of Minute Secretary to the meetings of Directors. We are very grateful for his generous and cheerful contribution to our work.

It is also fitting that the Board acknowledges with appreciation the commitment and leadership shown by Sr. Janette Murphy. Her involvement with JPC over 15 years; firstly as the Pastoral Associate at St Francis Parish and then as a member of the JPC staff has been a time of much achievement. Her departure, in December 2010, as the Chaplain marked the end of an association from which the JPC community gained friendship, assistance and constant support. The Board hopes that Sr. Janette leaves JPC with a strong sense of satisfaction and achievement. We wish her well with future endeavours.

Finally I thank Rebecca Miller, Fr John Hill the JPC staff and the JPC volunteers for another year of wonderful achievement of the JPC Mission, often under challenging circumstances. The Board continues to be grateful for the calm, efficient and effective manner that underpins the style by which our services are provided.

I commend the John Pierce Centre Board of Directors Report for 2010/2011.



Patrick B. Gallagher
Chairperson

Executive Manager's Report

Services Overview 2010

Pastoral Care involves engaging and listening with the heart to another's experience, journey and search for meaning. It is intentionally holistic. The goal of this care is the sustaining; nurturing, healing and empowering of people in all aspects of their lives, whatever their circumstances.

(CPE -RMH 2009)

In 2010 JPC continued employment of 8 part-time staff (*4.5 equivalent full time*), who each created a wonderful energy and welcoming environment for the Deaf people who sought support, comfort or information from JPC. Each of these people used their gifts to achieve the mission of the JPC and I thank the JPC team for their individual contribution, commitment and flexibility in fulfilling their various roles. Each has a significantly important role to play in achieving the mission of the JPC and ensuring its day to day smooth operation.

Our Pastoral focus in 2010 was to increase the number of people coming to our Community Centre. Pankina – Deaf Seniors has seen a substantial growth in 2010 with up to 70 people attending. We felt that for some of these members who live alone a space to gather with friends was very important. Our goal was also to attract new members of younger Deaf people. To reach this aim we established the Women's Circle and Men's Time Out as well as an Art Program. Each of these groups have been well attended and we will look at new opportunities for groups throughout 2011.

Our older community members continue to need our support and pastoral care with some experiencing decreased mobility and a range of age related illnesses. Depression, stress and anxiety are alleviated when a person feels connected with their community and has confidence that help is available. Visiting in the home provided through our Pastoral Care team provides a private and personal approach that allows people the freedom to share their concerns. No issue is too trivial for our Pastoral Care workers who continually display empathy and respect when visiting in a Deaf person's home.

Negotiating government departments, financial institutions and the health care system are challenging for many people. Deaf people are more vulnerable to poor health outcomes, financial crisis and insecure housing due to reduced access to information, language barriers and poor understanding of Deaf access in the broader community.

In 2010 our 'duty worker' service was well utilized as the growth in our

Community Centre programs provided a convenient opportunity for many to access a support worker whilst at JPC. This group regularly enjoys an attendance of over 50 people. As some travel from all over Melbourne and even Geelong to attend, it is a convenient way to access assistance. Sometimes a phone call or a letter to be explained is all that is necessary. However this early intervention can resolve issues that may become more complex if left with no action.

Volunteers

The commitment and goodwill of our many volunteers continues to humble us. We are fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteers who are so willing to give their time and skills to support our services, newsletter and fundraising activities. To all our volunteers we extend our sincere thanks for your help and friendship in 2010. We are also grateful to Peter Tarrant who has assisted in the maintenance of our website.

In 2010 we held two Sausage Sizzles at Bunnings stores. The profits of these events helped us to assist Deaf families experiencing financial hardship. We were able to purchase school uniforms, pay school camp fees, assist with minor home repairs and support families to attend a camp at Phillip Island. This is a fantastic outcome and we give our genuine thanks to the staff and volunteers who helped with such enthusiasm.

Donors

The Deafness Foundation Trust generously provided a grant that allowed us to produce a brochure titled "Mother Father Deaf". This brochure is now available to Deaf parents of primary school aged children to assist them in educating their child's school about what it means to be a CODA – Child of Deaf Adults.

The Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation and the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust each provided support for diverse projects. One allows us to provide fun activities for Deaf families with young children, and the other will allow us to install water tanks and landscaping to improve our environmental awareness and sustainability. The Gorman Foundation also provided much needed support in the areas of interpreting, and information technology.

All Philanthropic Trusts and donors to the JPC are to be sincerely thanked and congratulated for their willingness to take action and address real areas of need in the Deaf community in 2010.

The JPC operates as an independent not-for-profit company and maintains its links with the Catholic Church as a member of Catholic Social Services Victoria. We are thankful for the support of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne and Archbishop Hart for providing the premises for the Centre and by funding for the cost of the Lay Chaplain, religious and pastoral care services. JPC receives no Government funding but receives generous donations, bequests and grants from

philanthropic organizations to fund its work each year.

The services of the JPC are available to all Deaf people throughout Victoria and are inclusive of their immediate families – this may include Pastoral Care to the parents and siblings of an adult Deaf person, and regularly includes support to the hearing children of Deaf parents.

Strengthening Networks

Our ability to provide quality counseling to Deaf people and their families has always been viewed as an important aspect of our work. JPC receives regular requests for counseling in the areas of grief counseling, relationship issues and parenting concerns, each areas of specific skill and expertise. Since 2007 JPC has referred Deaf people to Cabrini Centacare - Malvern whose staff have willingly met this challenge to create a welcoming and ‘Deaf friendly’ service. This relationship also allowed us to offer a Grief and Loss program to Deaf women in 2010. This experience was enhanced by a weekend retreat at Anglesea and we sincerely thank Flora Gomes and her team at Cabrini Centacare for their empathy and commitment to the Deaf community.

St. Mary’s School for Deaf and Hearing Impaired Children welcomed our Chaplain and Pastoral Associates during the year as we plan to assist the school with their Religious Education program for Deaf and Hearing Impaired students in 2011. JPC is delighted to have an opportunity to work with the school.

Christmas Hampers

Each year the JPC is able to deliver 25 – 30 hampers to families in need throughout Victoria. We travel as far as Bendigo and Lakes Entrance to visit isolated Deaf people in these areas. These hampers provide food and presents to assist families experience the joy of the Christmas season. We are indebted to the good people of St. Paul Apostle Parish - Endeavour Hills who generously assist us with this service each year

Rural Outreach

Visits to the following districts have been possible.

- ❖ Bendigo
- ❖ Geelong
- ❖ Albury/Wodonga
- ❖ Wangaratta
- ❖ Sale
- ❖ Horsham

Support by our Rural Outreach Workers included arranging transport and support to those attending our Country Masses, Social events such as lunches at the local Pub, attending local Deaf club activities, visits to Schools where deaf children are attending, referrals to counseling and support to access welfare and financial support agencies, bereavement support and funeral preparation. We

also played a role in distributing information regarding local social/recreation events in these communities.

The depth of commitment and interest in our services from many who have little direct contact with Deaf people and their families continues to amaze and inspire us.

Sacramental Programs and Liturgy

JPC is primarily a Pastoral Care service and on the 3rd. Sunday of each month we provide Mass in Auslan for the Deaf community. We thank St. Francis, Melbourne for assisting us to provide an Auslan interpreter once a month for Deaf people who gather there. Throughout the year we have assisted a number of Deaf people with sacraments including marriage preparation and ceremonies and also children of Deaf families to receive their holy communion

Under the guidance of our Chaplain JPC's Liturgy group Emmaus, meets to plan the Mass and reflect on the liturgy. We thank these group members and our volunteers who assist with transforming our Community Centre into a place of worship for our monthly Mass. Gail Finn is also to be thanked for the powerpoint displays that ensure our Mass is a wonderfully visual experience.



Rebecca Miller
Executive Director



Thank - You

The Board of Directors and Staff of the John Pierce Centre sincerely thank the following Philanthropic Trusts, businesses and individuals who have generously supported and donated to the John Pierce Centre in 2009

- ❖ The Deafness Foundation Trust
- ❖ Helen Macpherson Trust
- ❖ Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation
- ❖ Gorman Foundation

JPC would also like to thank the following Parishes for warmly welcoming our volunteers in November, and supporting the work of the John Pierce Centre so generously in 2010.

St Theresa's Albion, Queen of Heaven Ardeer, Mother of God Ardeer, St. Simon The Apostle Rowville, St. Colman's Balaclava, Our Lady Help of Christ East Brunswick, St. Damian's Bundoora, St. Peter's Epping, St. Joseph Mernda, St. Mary's Whittlesea, Marymede Chapel South Morang, St. Anne's, Kew, St. Joachim's Kew, St. Martin De Porres Laverton, Queen of Peace Altona Meadows, RAAF Base Point Cook, St. Thomas More's Mt. Eliza, Sacred Heart Newport, St. Margaret Mary Spotswood, Holy Name Reservoir, St. Mary Immaculate Conception Ascot Vale, St. Margaret's Maribyrnong, St. Columba's Elwood.

John Pierce Centre
Spirit of the Deaf Community

A Company Limited By Guarantee - ABN – 55 005 611 601

Board of Directors – 2010

MEMBER
Mr. Patrick Gallagher
Mr. John Davies
Mr. Michael Andersson (deceased)
Mrs. Catherine Perry
Mr. Peter Meyers
Mr. Kevin Ziebell
Fr. Greg Reynolds
Ms. Margaret Urquhart

Minute Secretary to the Board of Directors Br. Paul McGlade

Board – Subcommittee Members

Finance Sub – Committee

Mr. Peter Meyers
Br. Frank Hennessey
Ms. Catherine Perry

Award Sub-Committee

Ms. Rebecca Miller
Ms. Margaret Urquhart

Public Relations Sub-Committee

Mr. John Davies
Mr. Kevin Ziebell

Management Sub-Committee

Mr. Patrick Gallagher
Ms. Margaret Urquhart
Fr. Greg Reynolds

Members of John Pierce Centre as at 31 December, 2010

A’Hearn, Bryan Francis
Baldwin, Kath
Batson, Eric Stanley
Bourne, Kevin
Bourke, Gregory
Broglio, Bruno Joseph
Davies, John
Donnellon, Karon
Griffiths, Moreen Ann
Hennessey, Frank

McPhee, Anne
Miller, Jack
Moore, Dorothy
O’Callaghan, Barry David
Perry, Catherine
Phillips, Carmel
Robinson, Peter James
Rogers, Jo
Ryan, John
Thornton, Carl

Hill, John
Kenny, Joan

Kevin

Thornton, Raylee
Tully, Jan Urquhart,
Urquhart, Margaret

Ziebell,

JPC Staff and Pastoral Care Team

Rebecca Miller

Christine Elder

Gail Finn

Janette Murphy RSJ

Fr. John Hill

Katrina Mynard

Jules Hayes

Gabriel Noonan

Wendy Devlin

Executive Manager

Office Administrator

Pastoral Administration Officer

Chaplain

Chaplain

Pastoral Associate/Community Worker

Rural Outreach Pastoral Care

Rural Outreach Pastoral Care –Sale Diocese

Community Development Worker

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