

## **MEMO: Ministry Update**

**From: Director of Ministry – Peter Clinch**

**To: Regional Ministry Coordinators and Ministry Leaders**

**Date: Friday 11 February 2011**

### **Introduction**

I trust ministries of Oceania have commenced well for another year of service in the spirit of Edmund Rice. The Directorate staff and structures are in place to support the ministries and ministry leaders to enhance and implement the Mission of Oceania.

A ministry within Australia and New Zealand first point of contact with the Ministry Directorate is the Regional Ministry Coordinator. The Coordinators for 2011 are: QLD / NT Gerard Keating, NSW / ACT Bernie Gartland, Victoria / Tasmania Laurie Collins, WA / SA Mark McGlaughlin and New Zealand Peter Clinch. Ministries within Timor Leste, PNG and Philippines their Province contact is the Oceania Province Developing Nations Coordinator, Shane Wood. Pauline Meemeduma will continue to support ministries with best practice, strategic planning, and policy development and supporting the coordination of Edmund Rice Camps.

This group of coordinators is the Ministry Directorate's Administration and Coordination Team. It is my intention during 2011 to strengthen this group of coordinators and seek their advice and wisdom in developing the strategic directions for the Ministry Directorate.

At the Directors' November meeting last year, the Directors decided to use the term "Partners" to describe their working relationship with each other. The Directors acknowledged, as integral to their proper functioning, is a team approach with key people within each Directorate. In turn the Regional Coordinators are required to develop support structures within their Region. Presently the Directors are refining their understanding of partnership with the Oceania Leadership Team.

The Directors and Oceania Leadership Team members have a meeting during Friday 11 February with the assistance of an external facilitator to further discuss and develop roles, communication and structures to ensure we are operating in ways that enhance the mission of Oceania.

### **Ministry Strategic Plan**

Coordinators within the Ministry Directorate with Jim Wilcox (consultant) had a videoconference last week to follow up on last year's workshop with the development of a Ministry Directorate Strategic Plan, which is based upon the Province Mission Statement and Directions constructed by the Oceania Leadership Team. The Ministry Directorate Strategic Plan is undergoing its final editing and is to be circulated to the coordinators during March. This document gives direction and focus to the Directorate for the next three years and will require periodic evaluation and refinement.

### **Characteristics of Edmund Rice Ministry and accreditation process**

One of the key successes for the Directorate last year was the completion of the document detailing the essential characteristics of an Edmund Rice Ministry. This document is to be launched at the February 20-22 Oceania Coordinators / Managers meeting at Mulgoa. After the Province launch regional roll out of the document will happen.

The next step is the development of an accreditation process for all ministries within the directorate. The membership of the Work Group to develop this process is Mark McGlaughlin (convenor), Pauline Meemeduma and Danny Moore. The Work Group will keep people informed of its progress.

### **Ministry Reviews**

Processes have been established to review the ministries at Murgon / Cherburg QLD and Edmund Rice refugee Services St Albans / Sunshine Victoria. Pauline Meemeduma is leading the St Albans / Sunshine review and Gerard Keating is the convenor of the Murgon / Cherburg review. Both reviews are to be completed by the end of February. I acknowledge with appreciation the co-operation and support of the ministry leaders, Marty Sanderson and Sean McManus, in enabling the review process to happen.

The Edmund Rice Centres at Mulgoa and Lower Plenty (Amberley) are taking considerable time and effort to develop / redefine their ministry vision to enable the centres to continue to meet the spiritual needs of people. Peter Hay (Amberley) and Gerard Brady (Mulgoa) are the prime movers!

### **Justice and Advocacy Province Coordination**

One focus for 2011 is the development of a more cohesive process for advocacy and justice action across the Province. It is envisaged that a discussion paper is to be developed to commence the process. Material will be circulated as it becomes available for comment. I am hopeful there will be people evenly distributed across Oceania who can promote justice initiatives and engage in advocacy that supports the particular ministries within the regions of Oceania.

### **Edmund Rice Camps**

During January I visited an Edmund Rice Camp located at Bridport Tasmania. I was delighted with what I saw and experienced. The leaders and participants were happy and obvious bonds were developing. The evening meal was well prepared by four parents of the volunteers.

Melanie Tate, Ashley Little and Stephen Cooper worked solidly to prepare a discussion paper before Christmas 2010 regarding ERC Sector development. The paper is extensive and futuristic. My appreciation and thanks to the work group, who undertook this task as well as their normal responsibilities. The Regional Ministry Coordinators had a videoconference to discuss the ERC Sector Discussion Paper. The Coordinators expressed their appreciation for the work and efforts of the work group and acknowledged the positives for ERC Australia / NZ to commence the task of finding common ground and working towards a sector approach. Pauline Meemeduma, ERC Coordinator will report to the work group of the points made by the Regional Coordinators and assist in developing a way forward.

ERC Volunteer Gathering commences Friday 11 February at Mulgoa. The careful planning ensures this event will be a significant time for the participants and for the ERC movement across Oceania. Thanks to Mark Monahan and Sam Belo for the preparation and organization of the gathering. Both Vince Duggan and myself will attend for part of the time.

### **Finances and Province Funding**

Hopefully all ministries have been contacted with information regarding the amount of Province finance support for 2011. If you have any queries regarding this information make contact with your Regional Ministry Coordinator.

The newly established Province Finance Office at the Oceania Support Centre at Treacy Centre Melbourne will assist the ministry directorate in developing finance plans, budget processes and acquittal of funds. Mrs Carmel Leonard is the Province Finance Manager and is a ministries first point of contact with the Province Finance Office.

Within the next month, ministries that received funds from the Province during 2010 will be required to acquit for these funds. A form is to be developed and circulated.

Anthony Ryan, Province Development Manager, is working systematically and collaboratively to seek funds for ministries across Oceania. I encourage ministry leaders to make contact with Anthony to discuss your plans and strategies in this area.

Elaine Kan will be in contact with each ministry requesting a copy of this year's budget and finance plan.

### **Strategic Planning and policy development**

Pauline Meemeduma is available to assist Oceania ministries with developing Strategic Plans and policies especially regarding child protection and codes of conduct. Pauline is highly skilled in facilitating training workshops for ministry personnel and volunteers with child protection protocols and procedures.

I acknowledge the thorough work being done by Laurie Collins in the writing of Memorandum of Understanding between each Province Ministry and Oceania Province. It is hoped Laurie will complete the present project by Easter.

It is essential that all ministries have strategic and operational plans with an accompanying finance plan.

Ministries are requested to forward any recently developed Mission /Vision Statements, Strategic Plans and Finance Plans to the Directorate Office at Oceania Province Centre via Elaine Kan.

Ministries are reminded to forward Board of Management meeting minutes and reports to Elaine Kan of the ministry directorate.

### **Indigenous Outlook**

Indigenous perspective is complex when addressed as an Oceania focus as it includes five different countries. Each country has its own variety of interpretations and foci. Shane Wood and Julieanne Manson have been invited to write a discussion paper on Oceania and Indigenous perspectives.

Each ministry is encouraged when planning for 2011 to include an Indigenous focus and connection. Regions are invited to consider the establishment of a *Yarning Circle*, which invites an Indigenous person to assist regional people keep an Indigenous focus and maintain appropriate protocols of communication. Julieanne Manson can assist regions in the establishment of *Yarning Circles*.

Donella Brown is a full-time member of the formation team based in Perth. Donella is a skilled formator and her gifts as an Indigenous woman enables her and the team to bring Indigenous perspectives to formation programs and the western region.

Presently Julieanne's role description is being examined and re written to give it a more Oceania Province focus. I publicly acknowledge my appreciation to Julieanne and Donella for their patience, loyalty and resilience as Oceania Province tries yet again to give Indigenous perspective adequate focus and action.

### **Joint Oceania Province Coordinators and Managers Gathering – Mulgoa**

The Coordinators and Managers of Oceania are to gather at Edmund Rice Centre Mulgoa from 20-22 February to meet each other, share insights and plan how to enhance the life and mission of Oceania.

### **Staff / personnel movements**

Laurie Collins' appointment as Southern Regional Ministry Coordinator has been extended by the OLT until February 2012.

Shane Wood's appointment as Province Developing Nations Coordinator has been extended by the OLT until December 2013.

Bev Patterson, Child Protection Worker QLD, completed her employment agreement with the Province as of December 31<sup>st</sup> 2010. Bev completes many years of loyal service for St Francis Xavier Province and now Oceania Province in the area of child protection and professional standards.

David Freeman's, Director Edmund Rice Institute for Social Justice Fremantle, employment agreement with the Province concluded 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010. David was leader of ERISJ for the past 6 years. David brought his extensive research skills and passion for social justice to his director's role and to the programs offered at the Institute.

I extend my best wishes to both Bev and David.

### **Conclusion**

The following extract is taken from the introduction to the Characteristics of and Edmund Ministry document.

*Inspired by the life of Jesus and his living Spirit among us, we aim to live out the charism of Edmund Rice captured in the 200 year story of the Christian Brothers and those who share Edmund's dream. Every Edmund Rice Ministry exists to affirm and celebrate difference, to build life-giving community and to go to the depth of the compassionate heart by encountering Christ present and appealing to us in all people, but especially the poor and voiceless of our world.*

*Each Ministry makes a unique contribution to, and draws impetus from the Edmund Rice Network, which aims to foster partnerships at local, Oceania and global levels with groups and individuals who are moved by the Spirit to open their hearts to a world in need of healing, transformation and reconciliation.*

May all associated with Edmund Rice ministries take time to pause and reflect upon the reason why we exist and to keep in focus and alive the Vision and dream based upon the Story and Spirit of Edmund Rice.

Blessings and best wishes for 2011.

Peter Clinch