

Catholic Social Services Victoria held their annual dinner on Friday, August 4. The dinner was an opportunity for the broader Catholic social services community and those they work with to celebrate their work and to strengthen the links within their community of service. It was also an occasion to honour David Beaver, retired recently after 24 years as CEO of Centacare Ballarat. Sr Joan Healy, rsj AM was also awarded with life membership of Catholic Social Services Victoria. Sr Joan has been a leader for more than 50 years in caring for children and families in need.

Fr Frank Brennan, Chief Executive Officer of CSSA posted the following:

It has been a great night here in Melbourne for the annual dinner of Catholic Social Services Victoria. Life members Kevin Mogg, Bernie Geary and Vicki Clark attended and we honoured Sr Joan Healy RSJ and David Beaver as the new life members. Sherry Balcombe welcomed us to country.

Joan Healy has given a lifetime of service to people in need, in recent years most especially to refugees and asylum seekers.

David Beaver has made significant contributions to the Catholic social services ministry in Australia. Additional to his leadership of Centacare Ballarat over a significant twenty-three years, his contributions to the work of CSSA at the national level have been extensive.

David led the national body as Chair in the late 90s and early 2000s during a significant period of our history both during the growth of the national network and the holding of national employment contracts.



Over many years, David has provided strong engagement with our work on national social services policy development, advocacy and membership operational issues including service delivery, contract management, social service governance and business development.

He has been most generous in his availability to mentor and provide advice to subsequent Board Directors and CSSA CEOs. He always extended great kindness and a welcoming manner to new staff at the national office and many hold him in great fondness.

He has been a regular contributor as both presenter and keynote speaker across a huge array of topics at many CSSA member events.

We are pleased that we will continue to have a connection with David through his recent appointment as a formation facilitator for the new Ministry Leadership Program. This program is creating a new path for the formation of leaders of Catholic social service ministries and through this role, David is able to share his deep spirituality along with his wisdom and experience as a leader.

CSSA is greatly indebted to David and he will be greatly missed. His legacy of being a strong advocate for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable in our society, within our Church and community will continue to inspire us.

Accepting his life membership of CSSV this evening, David reminded us that it was easy to be sucked into the cutthroat world of welfare. It is necessary to see that it is all about relationships. 'We can't go it alone as individuals and we can't go it alone as service deliverers.' With his characteristic humour, David noted that the Ballarat table was towards the back of the room, indicating how rural services tended to be treated in Victoria!

It was a very joyful night for all. Good energy in the room. As Joe Caddy said, there was a room full of people bringing together love and knowledge.

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David is pictured centre of photo.