

## **Report for Mercy Global Concern Displacement of Peoples Group. Carole McDonald RSM ACRATH**

I am no longer the Victorian Coordinator for ACRATH as I resigned after 7 years of filling this post. While I continue to be involved in ACRATH, I am not as active as previously and of course I am no longer a member of the National Committee. For this reason my Report is a brief picture mainly about the work of ACRATH in Victoria in 2018. I have mentioned only a couple of activities in other parts of Australia.

Over 20 presentations in parishes on the work of ACRATH towards the elimination of trafficking and anti-slavery

Over 10 presentations in Secondary schools – usually across a whole year level

10 presentations to Chaplains, Diocesan groups, Catholic Marriage Educators, and Conferences of priests and religious on Forced Marriage issues

Work with parishes and groups on Seasonal Worker issues in Mildura (Vic) – a fruit picking area and Bundaberg (Qld) also a very large fruits picking area.

Collaboration with other groups – St Vincent's Health; Vic – Tas Catholic Anti-Slavery working group; Catholic Social Services Working group Vic; Project Respect Vic; Anti-Slavery NSW; Baptist world Church; Red Cross,

Advocacy in Parliament in Canberra in August for 4 days; Various meetings with UN and Embassy representatives

In Victoria as a group we have also participated in In-service activities such as our national 2 day Conference in Sydney; we have had updates on Child Safety requirements; updates on the work of Good Shepherd in Asia; Talitha Kum and the Rome Conference; update on 16 day Campaign against Violence against Women and Easter Chocolate Campaign. We are preparing a statement for the Plenary Council 2020. We have a Reflection time at every meeting,

A new Office has been opened in Perth where our members have been active for several years, but without a home base. This is a great bonus for the group.

Other states have been very active in many different activities.

As the Federal Government cut funding for Anti-Trafficking working groups this year, we have had to survive on donations. Fortunately Religious Congregations have been very generous and some schools and parishes likewise. However we are actively lobbying the Government to recommence funding in 2019. While much of the work is done by our many volunteers, it is important for ongoing work that we receive funding into the future.