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### **CIRCULAR No 3 - August, 2008.**

**To: Executive, Diocesan Presidents, State Presidents and Caritas Leaders.**

Dear Members,

The last couple of months have been very quiet in MU Australia – must be winter! However I cannot say the same for Parish life. August is shaping as one of those months that have multiple events and not enough days. September is not much better, though I will miss some of the local activities as I am going to Rockhampton and Perth. I will be in Perth for a few days from 15 September so that we can do more planning of the program for the Australia Council Meeting in 2009.

**E-MAILS.** Department Co-ordinators are still reporting that emails are “bouncing back”. Would you please check that all your Diocesan Co-ordinators email addresses are correct as in CODE, OR if CHANGED, the new address has been passed onto LOIS and the appropriate MUA Co-ordinator?

Emails are the best and most efficient way of communication, as it makes it simple for Co-ordinators to pass on information to branches.

Would you also ask your Co-ordinators to check that email boxes are emptied, as this is sometimes a problem?

**AWC – Australian Womens Coalition.** Much activity has been generated through the Office of Women (OFW) by different Secretariats.

Women Speak have prepared a submission in relation to what the Australian Government has, and has not signed off, in relation to Commission for Discrimination Against Women (CDAW) at the United Nations (UN).

S4W – Security for Women, have prepared a submission on the need and cost of child care. I have commented on this as I believe that they have not addressed the question of family support and financial security for some who choose to be their own child carers, or those who need short term child care while retraining before returning to the workforce. AWC are preparing a submission on Acute Care Facilities Support, or the lack of such support. I hope you took time to respond to this important survey.

When these documents are released to the public, I will pass them onto you. Some individual organisations made submissions in regard to these and other issues, such as Discrimination and Violence against Women. The Government seems very keen for grassroots information at the moment. It will be interesting to see how long it takes for this information to translate into policy changes.

**VISIT.** While in Broken Hill for an AWC Meeting in June, I was able to spend time with MU members who are in one of our more isolated branches. It was good to share a meal and talk with them. They serve their community well in spite of age. Their wonderful photographic record of branch life in Broken Hill is truly amazing.

On my way home I met with an ABM representative at Sydney Airport to discuss what is happening in Papua New Guinea and Melanesia.

Unfortunately the lady from ABM who was working with Melanesia and who was my contact and had met with us in Brisbane, has left to work with Sudanese refugees in Sydney. Perhaps we can make contact with her in her new role.

**WELCOME.** Welcome to Lurline Jones, new Diocesan President in Rockhampton

**THANKS.** Thank you letters continue to arrive from overseas members who attended SWWRM in Toowoomba. The letters recognise your fine contribution as hosts. MSH has advised that donations from Australian Dioceses brought the Conference in under budget and that this will help ease financial restraints with other Conferences. Thank you for your generosity.

**AGM.** Lois will be sending out notification of AGM details in the near future.

I know that you all have been very busy over the past months. I enjoy reading about your Diocesan work in Newsletters, Magazines and Minutes.

I love swimming events. The Olympic finals have been in the middle of the day and this has been a bit of a problem when other things have to be done.

Hope you have all survived the winter ills.

God bless you and all you do.

Deane.

17 August, 2008.