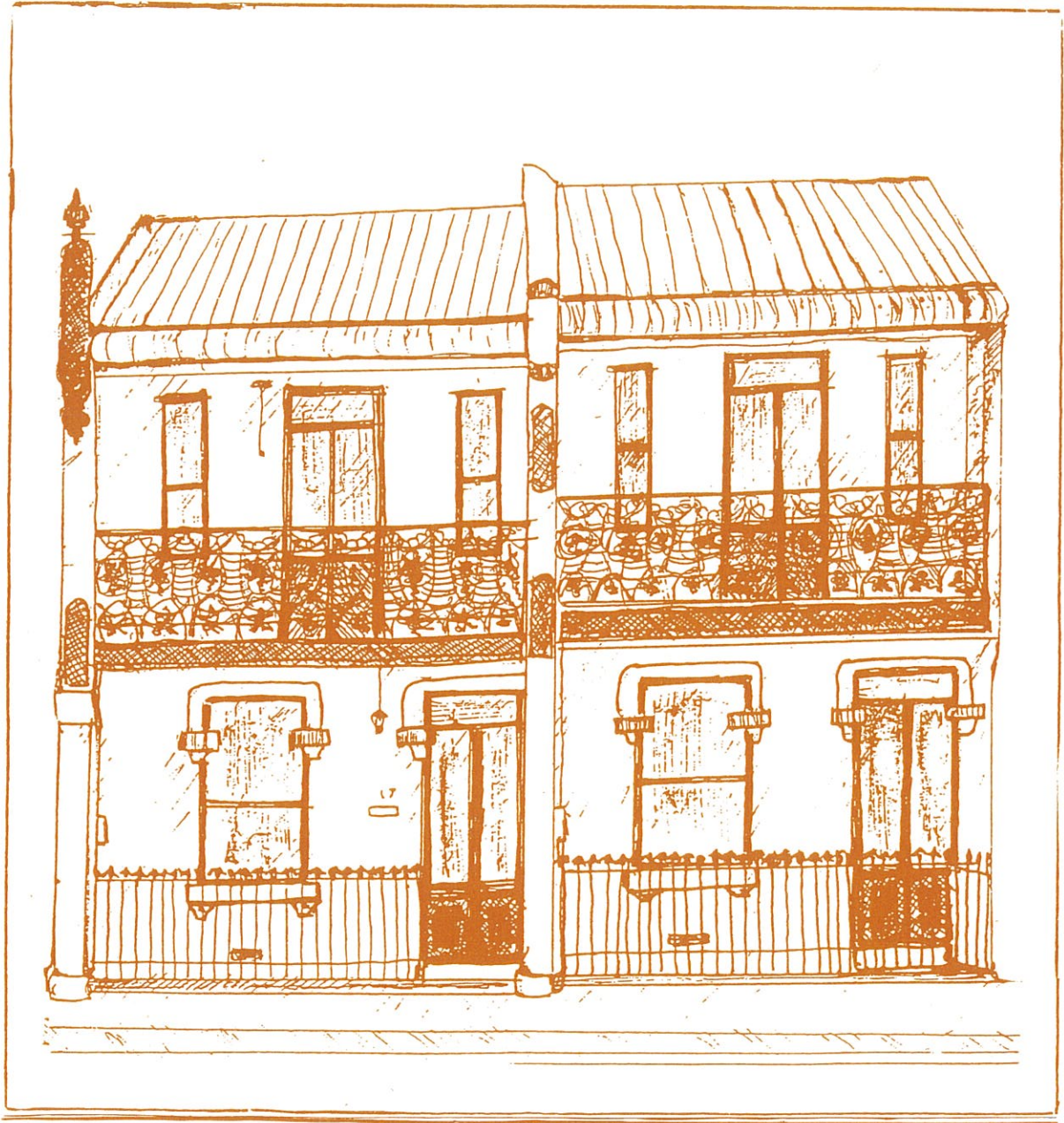


Plunkett Centre



Annual Report 2004



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY



St Vincents
& Mater Health
Sydney

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Plunkett Centre is to promote the values of compassion and fellowship, intellectual and professional excellence, and fairness and justice. Its primary focus is on the realisation of these values in the provision and the allocation of health care. The Centre expresses this commitment through research, teaching and community engagement, and by bringing a Catholic perspective to all its endeavours.

The objectives of the Centre are

- to deepen and advance knowledge and understanding of the ethical standards relevant to human health and well-being, and in particular to clinical practice, medical research, business and management practice, and the allocation of healthcare resources;
- to offer courses in philosophical ethics and in the ethics of health care provision, medical research and health care resource allocation; and
- to engage and where appropriate to collaborate with local, national and international bodies as they seek to respond to their intellectual and ethical needs.

The Centre realises these objectives by

- conducting and promoting research;
- providing research training and supervision;
- developing and teaching courses;
- conducting ethical reviews of professional practice;
- offering an ethics consultation service; and
- participating in public discussion.

Contents

Management	2
Staffing	4
Financial Report	7
Research Projects	9
Clinical Ethics	10
Publications	11
Consultancies	13
Presentations	15
<i>Bioethics Outlook</i>	17
Submissions	18
Media	19
Teaching	20
Other Appointments	21

Management Committee

From the University:

Professor John Coll, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and International), Chairman
Dr John Ozolins, Head, School of Philosophy

From the Hospital:

Ms. Mary Foley, Chief Executive Officer, St. Vincents & Mater Health
Mr. Mark Hales, Director of Mission, St. Vincents & Mater Health

From the Centre:

Associate Professor Bernadette Tobin, Director

In attendance:

Mrs Linda Purves, Administrative Officer (Minutes Secretary)
Dr Stephen Buckle, Senior Lecturer in Philosophy

From the Chair of the Management Committee



The Plunkett Centre for Ethics, a co-operative Centre jointly supported by Australian Catholic University and St Vincents and Mater Health, Sydney, provides leadership in the field of Bioethics, and increasingly in other areas of ethical consideration of relevance to the sponsoring partners. The University and St Vincents and Mater Health have a partnership agreement for the Plunkett Centre under the direction of Associate Professor Bernadette Tobin, which was renewed for a further five years in 2003.

The members of the Centre have published articles and discussion papers in the areas of Ethics, Theology and Philosophy, especially those of relevance to medical and health care practitioners and managers. They also continue the important role of postgraduate teaching and research supervision. Helen McCabe has completed her PhD entitled *Ethical issues associated with the introduction of managed care in Australia* and Kristine Morrison an MPhil entitled *Virtuous nursing: more caring than science and more scientific than care*. In 2004 the Centre continued to support visits by Professor Warren Reich of Georgetown University. He has an international reputation as the Editor of the *Encyclopaedia of Bioethics*, and now is an Adjunct Professor at Australian Catholic University.

Staff of the Centre have also been active in providing advice to individuals and submissions to government on major bioethical issues surrounding organ and tissue donation and cloning and related technologies. The Centre has continued to publish *Bioethics Outlook*, its reflections and scholarly contributions on many issues in the field. The Director and staff continue to offer the Master of Arts in Applied Ethics and intensive courses in ethics for teachers.

The Director and other members of the Centre are to be congratulated for their contributions to the national debate, and to the development of policy papers for Catholic health care organisations and the wider health ethics community. As Co-Chair of the sub-committee which undertook the revision of the 1996 Ethical Guidelines on Assisted Reproductive Technology, Dr Tobin presented them to the NH&MRC which endorsed their publication.

On behalf of the Management Committee, I commend this report to all interested in the continuing activities of the Plunkett Centre.

Professor John C Coll
Chair
Management Committee
15th April 2005

Staffing

Director

Bernadette Tobin MA Med (Melb), PhD (Cantab)
Associate Professor and Reader in Philosophy,
School of Philosophy, Australian Catholic University

Academic Staff

Gerald Gleeson STB (CIS) MA (Cantab) PhD (Leuven)
Professor of Philosophy, Catholic Institute of Sydney

Stephen Buckle MA Hons (MaqU), PhD (ANU)
Senior Lecturer in Philosophy, School of Philosophy,
Australian Catholic University

Visiting

Warren Reich BA (St. Joseph's College, Alabama), STB
(Catholic University of America), STL (Catholic University of
America), STD (Gregorian University, Rome), Distinguished
Professor of Religion and Ethics, Professor Emeritus of
Bioethics, Georgetown University.

Ulla Wessels PhD, Institute of Philosophy, University of
Leipzig

Research Students

Helen McCabe RN BHA (UNSW) MA (ACU)

Kristine Morrison RN CM BHSc (UWS) PostDip
Nursing (UTS) PostDip Christian Studies (ACT)

Mary Self MBBS Hons (Qld) MA (ACU) FRACS

Administrative Staff

Linda Purves JP

From the Director



It is often said today that science is getting ahead of ethics, that ethics needs to catch up with science, that new technologies present us with ethical ‘dilemmas’ for which we are unprepared. Indeed, that claim is one which we often hear at the Plunkett Centre.

There is some truth to this view, but not much! We should be open to the likelihood that science needs to slow down, lest the meaning and value of human life be compromised. Technologies which allow us to mix the genes of different species, to implant tissues and organs from other animals into human beings, to manufacture human embryos by cloning procedures, certainly force us to rethink the meaning of common morality’s recognition of the special dignity of human beings, its prohibition against recklessness in the pursuit of innovation, its appreciation of the significance of procreation in human life, etc.

By and large, however, the view science is getting ahead of ethics is mistaken. Seemingly-new questions are generally old questions in new forms. This is certainly true of the questions we now must ask about the wisdom of using certain life-sustaining medical technologies when a person’s life is drawing to an end. There is a long tradition in Catholic moral philosophy, one of the chief sources of contemporary secular medical ethics, of clarifying the nature and extent of our responsibility to care for our own lives and for the lives of others. Of course, ventilators and feeding tubes are relatively new technologies, but the questions that need to be carefully considered about their wise use generally have illuminating antecedents in traditional philosophy, both Christian and secular. The challenge is rethink the meaning and significance of our long standing moral convictions about the preciousness (or ‘sanctity’) of human life in our new circumstances. You will find here recorded some of our efforts to do just that over the last year.

On behalf of my colleagues, Gerry Gleeson, Steve Buckle, Helen McCabe, Kristine Morrison, Mary Self, Warren Reich and Linda Purves, I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Plunkett Centre for 2004.

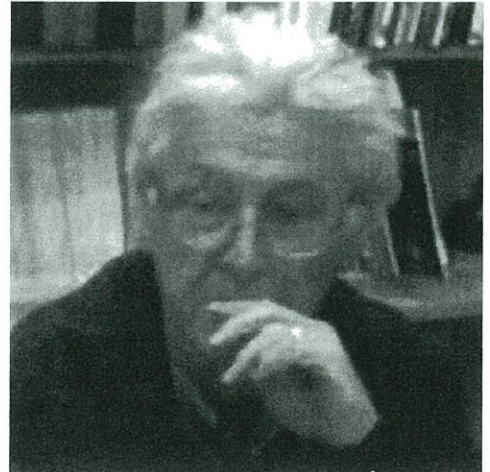
A/Professor Bernadette Tobin
Director
17th March 2005



Dr. Ulla Wessels, Leipzig University, Visitor to the Plunkett Centre,
with Dr. Stephen Buckle

Financial Report for 2004

	Operating Account	Research Infrastructure Block Grant	Consolidated
Income			
C/Forward	4,585		
SV&MH	125,000		
ACU	146,865	17,030	
Consultancies	20,000		
Subscriptions	4,739		
Seminars	4,380		
Other	2,550		
Total Income	308,119	17,030	325,149
Expenditure			
Salaries	203,987	7,050	
Rent	25,000		
Running Costs			
Computer Hardware		4,913	
Computer Maintenance	4,000		
Other	2,032		
General Costs			
Stationery & Furniture	2,710		
Memberships	334		
Other	2,031		
Other			
Internet Access	1,735		
Books	4,613		
Journals	4,592	5,067	
Photocopier/lease	3,960		
Printing	3,735		
Travel	661		
Total Expenditure	259,390	17,030	276,420
Carried Forward	48,729	-	48,729



Dr. Gary Nieukamp, Dr. Stephen Buckle and Professor Rai Gaita
at the annual philosophy seminars attended by Professor Gaita at
the Plunkett Centre

Research Projects

Australian Research Council (Spirt Program) Grant

Industry Partner: Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

Project: Surgical practice in a changing health system: resolving the ethical questions

Funding:

2000-2001 \$20,822 (scholarship) + \$5000 to Plunkett Centre

2001-2002 \$20,822 (scholarship) + \$5000 to Plunkett Centre

2002-2003/4 \$20,822 (scholarship) + \$5000 to Plunkett Centre

Australian Research Council (Spirt Program) Grant

Industry Partner: St. Vincent's Private Hospital

Project: Professionalism vs. caring: toward a coherent ethic of nursing

Funding:

2001-2002 \$23,590 (scholarship) + \$5000 to Plunkett Centre

2002-2003/4 \$23,590 (scholarship) + \$5000 to Plunkett Centre

Australian Catholic University

Research Infrastructure Block Grant

2004 \$17,030

Clinical Ethics Program

- Palliative care for a woman whose daughter refused basic care for her mother (Sacred Heart Hospice, Sydney)
- Palliative care for a woman whose son refused any treatment which might reduce her lucidity (Sacred Heart Hospice, Sydney)
- Klara's case: what to do when a family member blocks appropriate care (Sacred Heart Hospice, Sydney)
- Hydration for a patient with end-stage metastatic cancer (Sacred Heart Hospice, Sydney)
- Working with a GP with inadequate knowledge of pain relief: challenges for the community-based palliative care team (Sacred Heart Hospice, Sydney)
- Care of a young woman who makes 'unreasonable requests' for treatment (Children's Hospital, Westmead)
- No such thing as a free lunch: medicine and the pharmaceutical companies: how should we respond? (Children's Hospital, Westmead)
- Bed allocation for the sick: when the patient is reluctant to accept discharge plan (Social Work Department, St. Vincent's Hospital, Sydney)
- End of life care for old man who refuses community help (Social Work Department, St. Vincent's Hospital, Sydney)
- Ethical challenges for social worker in the face of 'paternalism' by other staff (Social Work Department, St. Vincent's Hospital, Sydney)
- Care of a child with DiGeorge syndrome (Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick)
- Ethical obligation to render assistance in an emergency (Grand Rounds Presentation, St. Vincent's Hospital, Sydney)

Publications

Books

Gleeson G, "From Ethics to Spirituality", *Catholic Social Justice Series No. 49*, North Sydney, Australian Catholic Social Justice Council, (2004), 32pp

Book Chapters

Gleeson G, "A Credible Sexual Ethic?", in *The Possibility of Belief*, edited by Richard Lennan, St. Paul's Press (2004), 207-220.

Gleeson G, "A Response to the papers by John McDermott and Kevin Hart", in *Faith and Reason*, edited by Anthony Fisher OP and Hayden Ramsay, Adelaide, ATF Press, (2004), 270-6.

Peer Reviewed Publications

Buckle S, "Analytical Philosophy and Continental Philosophy: The Campbell Thesis Revised", *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, (2004) 1 (12), 111-150.

Gleeson G, "Speaking of Persons, Human and Divine", *Sophia*, (2004), 43 (1), 45-60.

Tobin B, "Nutrition in cerebral palsy", *Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health* (2004), 40, 5/6, 308-310 (with D Isaacs, HA Kilham, HM Somerville, EV O'Loughlin)

Other Publications

Gleeson G, Clinical, "Clinical Ethical Judgements without 'short cuts' ", *Bioethics Outlook*, (2004), 15 (3), 11-12

Tobin B, "Post-coma unresponsiveness: NHMRC issues a clinical framework for diagnosis", *Bioethics Outlook*, (2004), 15 (3), 1-2, 10

Book Reviews

Buckle S: Constantin George Caffentzis; "Exciting the Industry of Mankind, George Berkeley's *Philosophy of Money*", *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, (2004), 551-553.

Buckle S: Arlene Judith Klotzko, *A Clone of Your Own? The Science and Ethics of Cloning*, *Bioethics Outlook*, (2004), 15 (2) 9-12

Tobin B, "Bodies for Sale: Ethics and Exploitation in the human body trade" by Stephen Wilkinson, *Monash Bioethics Review*, (2004), 23 (4), 60-62

Letters

Buckle S, "Derrida and Enlightenment Values", *Higher Education Supplement, The Australian*, 20 October, 2004.

Tobin B, Letter to the Editor; *Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health* (2004), 40 (12), 722-723



Jacintje Kraus (4th year medical student, UNSW), Bernadette Tobin, David Langsford (PhD in philosophy, 4th year medical student and occasional tutor in philosophy at ACU), Helen McCabe and Linda Purves at a morning tea to celebrate the forthcoming marriage of Jacintje and David

Consultancies

Total number of consultations undertaken by staff of the Centre:	27
- from within St Vincents & Mater Health :	15
- from other healthcare practitioners/institutions :	12

Selection of issues addressed:

- Responsibilities to a patient whose daughter obstructed her care
- Treatment in Sydney of a patient from the Solomon Islands
- Ethical significance of a health care institution accepting donated proceeds of gambling
- Ethical issues associated with a pharmacist's dispensing of the "morning after" pill
- Ethical issues raised by xenotransplantation
- Continuing nursing care of malnourished but non-compliant patient
- Medical treatment of foreign student who lacks health care cover
- Examination of patients by medical students
- Ethical challenges associated with the use of injecting rooms
- Limits of treatment in an unconscious elderly man
- Provision of tubal ligation
- Provision of pathology tests for IVF purposes
- Medical students' perceptions of ethical issues in clinical education
- Competency of patient with psychiatric condition to consent to medical testing
- Privacy of patients undergoing follow-up procedures after 'gender reassignment' surgery
- Ethical sufficiency of an HREC's monitoring of research projects
- Collaboration with researchers who study cells derived from human embryos
- Ethical adequacy of a hospital's 'short statement' of ethical standards
- Treatment of patient with advanced motor neurone disease
- Responsibility of doctor to inform patient that a 'treatment' option is outside the limits of his own practice

- Research on attitudes to deaths in neo-natal intensive care
- Ethical issues in removal and storage of ovarian tissue in women with cancer
- End of life issues and advance care planning
- Care of a woman whose 12 week old foetus was found to have abnormalities incompatible with extra-uterine life
- International policies on withdrawing/withholding life-prolonging treatment
- Responsibility of medical device manufacturer reluctant to manufacture a potentially dangerous device
- Admission policies to an intensive care unit

Year	Total number	Source by Location		Source by professional group				
		From SV&MH	From elsewhere	Administrators	Doctors	Nurses	Allied health practitioners	Others
1997	34	11	23	4	5	7	4	14
1998	38	14	24	5	6	8	3	16
1999	39	15	24	6	9	9	4	13
2000	54	34	20	18	6	6	4	22
2001	64	35	29	22	12	6	2	22
2002	38	24	14	10	6	4	7	11
2003	17	9	9	8	9	8	1	5
2004	27	15	12	7	7	1	4	8

Presentations

Gerald Gleeson

“May feeding be stopped in cases of progressive dementia”: contribution to *Conference on Life-Sustaining Treatments and Vegetative State*, Rome, Italy.

“Being Human”, a seminar for clergy: Wagga Wagga, NSW

“On the obligation to provide nutrition and hydration”, *Address to Catholic Health Australia, Conference*, Adelaide, S.A.

Helen McCabe

“End of life decision-making”: *Workshop for Health Professionals*, Sacred Heart Hospice, Sydney.

“Ethics of decision making in cancer”: *Seminar Series*, Concorde Hospital, NSW

Bernadette Tobin

“Ethics in palliative care”: *Palliative Care Perspectives Workshop*, Sacred Heart Palliative Care and Rehabilitation Service (February Workshop)

“Ethics in palliative care”: *Palliative Care Perspectives Workshop*, Sacred Heart Palliative Care and Rehabilitation Service (March Workshop)

“Medical students and pharmaceutical promotions: where do we draw the line”? *United Medical Protection/UNSW Medsoc Symposium*, Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney.

“Ethical challenges in looking after a dying woman whose daughter created obstacles to her care”, *Clinical Nurse Specialist Meeting*: St. Vincent’s Hospital, Sydney.

“Ethical aspects of treatment decisions at the end of life”: *Royal Australasian College of Physicians*, Canberra (with Dr. Paul Glare).

“Ethical dilemmas: justice in the allocation of health care resources”: *International Mission on Medicine*, Sydney.

“Our genetic future”: *Blackheath Philosophy Forum*, Blackheath, NSW.

“Ethical dilemmas: respecting the confidentiality of the doctor-patient relationship”: *International Mission on Medicine*, Sydney.

“You, medical rationing and the law”: *Prince of Wales Grand Rounds*, Randwick, NSW.

“Vested Interests in Clinical Research: Ethical dimensions”: *World Congress of Clinical Pharmacology*, Brisbane.

“Is there a right to reproduce”? *First year medical students*, UNSW.

“Some ethical issues in human reproduction”: *Second year medical students*, UNSW.

“Palliative Care in General Practice: some ethical challenges”: *Continuing Education Programme for General Practitioners*, Sacred Heart Hospice, Sydney.

“Advance Care Directives: ethical issues”: *Workshop for Health Professionals*, Sacred Heart Palliative Care and Rehabilitation Services, Sydney.

“Ethical challenges in research on adult stem cell”: *Annual General Meeting*, St. Vincent’s Clinical Foundation Sydney.

“Advance Care Planning: ethical opportunities and challenges”: *Sister of Charity Health Service Council*, Sydney.

“Ethical Decision-Making in Clinical Practice”: *Bioethics Study Group*, National University of Ireland at Maynooth, Ireland.

“Ethics for People with a life-threatening illness”: *Workshop for Health Professionals*, Sacred Heart Palliative Care Service, Sydney.



Kristine Morrison, Masters of Philosophy Student and
Dr. Gerry Gleeson, Research Associate of the Centre
(John Hubert Plunkett pictured in the background)

Bioethics Outlook

Volume 15

Number 1

Post-coma unresponsiveness: NHMRC issues a clinical framework for diagnosis

by Bernadette Tobin

Address of John Paul II to the Participants in the International Congress on "Life-Sustaining Treatments and Vegetative State: Scientific Advances and Ethical Dilemmas"

Reflections on Artificial Nutrition and Hydration

Colloquium of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute (reprinted with permission)

Clinical – Ethical Judgements without "short cuts"

by Gerald Gleeson

Number 2

On the Idea of a Common Humanity

by Raimond Gaita

Number 3

Globalization and the Culture of Life Consensus Statement

Introduction by William Sullivan MD, PhD

International Colloquium of Catholic Bioethics Institutes: Globalization and the Culture of Life Consensus Statement

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Attack of the Cloners

A review of *A Clone of Your Own? The Science Ethics of Cloning* by Arlene Judith Klotzko (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004)

Review by Stephen Buckle

Number 4

Advanced Care Planning Programs and Catholic Healthcare

by Brigid Vout

Submissions

To Office of Drug and Alcohol Policy: re Compulsory Treatment and Correctional Centre Bill 2004.

To NSW Health: Improving Clinical Ethics Support (with Adrian Verryt), Director of Mission, SVH).

Media

Bernadette Tobin

Sydney Morning Herald: ‘Rights’ of donors to identifying information about children born of donor insemination”: Interviewed by Ben Wiles.

ABC’s Afternoon Programme: ‘Rights’ of donors to identifying information about children born of donor insemination”: Interviewed by James Valentine.

Radio 2SER: Predictive Genetic Testing: Interviewed by Patrick Flynn.

Sydney Morning Herald: Baby conceived for purpose of saving the life of sibling: Interviewed by Rachel Browne.

SBS: Who’s afraid of designer babies? Interviewed by *SBS*.

ABC’s Religious Report: Ambiguities in public policies about bioethics: Interviewed by John Cleary.

Adelaide Advertiser: Surrogacy: Interviewed by Lisa Allison.

Teaching

Stephen Buckle

Supervisor, PhD. Thesis, Surgical practice in a changing health system: resolving the ethical questions (with Bernadette Tobin)

Supervisor, PhD. Thesis, Informed Consent and Evidence Based Medicine.

Lecturer in Philosophy, Bachelor of Arts, Australian Catholic University

Presenter, Philosophy Seminar for postgraduate students, Plunkett Centre for Ethics, St. Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

Gerald Gleeson

Presenter, *Intensive Bioethics Course*, Sydney

Bernadette Tobin

Lecturer, Master of Arts in Applied Ethics (Health Care)

Presenter, Clinical ethics for medical students (fourth and sixth years) St. Vincent's Hospital

Presenter, Clinical ethics for health care practitioners (Social Work, Palliative Care, Mental Health) St. Vincent's Hospital

Presenter, *Intensive Bioethics Course*, Sydney

Supervisor, PhD. Thesis, Managed Care in Australia: A philosophical inquiry into the ethical issues (with John Quilter)

Supervisor, PhD. Thesis, Surgical practice in a changing health system: resolving the ethical questions (with Stephen Buckle)

Supervisor, MPhil. Thesis, Professionalism v Caring: toward a coherent ethic of nursing for Australia (with Peter Coghlan)

Co-Supervisor, PhD. Thesis, On the distinction between killing and letting die from a medical perspective, University of Melbourne

Other Appointments

Stephen Buckle

Member, British Society for the History of Philosophy

Gerald Gleeson

Bioethics Committee, St. Vincents & Mater Health, Sydney
Bioethics Committee, Calvary Hurstville Community Hospital, Sydney
Council, St John's College, University of Sydney

Bernadette Tobin

Committee to Revise Ethical Guidelines on Assisted Reproductive Technology
(NHMRC) (Co-Chair)
Bioethics Committee, St. Vincents & Mater Health, Sydney
Mary Philippa Brazill Trust (Founder & Trustee)
Guild of St. Luke (Member of Council)
Mission and Values Committee, St. Vincent's Health Care Campus, Sydney
Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation (Director)
Clinical Ethics Advisory Panel, NSW Department of Health
Bioethics Panel of Ministerial Advisory Council on Biotechnology
Editorial Board, *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics*
Board Member, Garvan Institute of Medical Research