

A stylized graphic of a dove in flight, carrying an olive branch, rendered in a light blue color. The dove is positioned on the left side of the slide, overlapping a dark blue and maroon background. The olive branch is held in its beak and extends towards the right.

Emerging Governance and Mission Issues

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Caroline Chisholm Centre
for Health Ethics

Catholic Health Australia
National Conference 2016
Sheraton on the Park
SYDNEY
29-31 AUGUST 2016

Sr Carol Keehan DC

- Responding from the Australian context



CATHOLIC HEALTH
Australia



THE DIFFERENCE WE MAKE

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LGBTI issues

- The Catholic Church has committed itself to the pastoral care of LGBTI persons. (e.g. *Homosexualitatis Problema*, #2)
 - CHA's *Principles for Care and Accommodation of Same-Sex Attracted People* (May 2014)
 - KMcG's "Responding to Sexual Diversity in Catholic Aged Care Facilities," *Health Matters* 78
 - Dept of Health and Ageing's *LGBTI Ageing and Aged Care Strategy*



LGBTI issues

- LGBTI staff
 - Collaboration (Principle 5 in Part I of the *Code of Ethical Standards*)
 - Do we need a statement about LGBTI staff?
 - e.g. We commit ourselves to non-discrimination.
 - If a statement is needed, who should issue it?
 - e.g. individual Catholic organisations, CHA template, ACCER?



PICFs – Avoiding Pregnancy

- Many drug trials require participants to avoid pregnancy.
- “use effective contraception” v. “avoid pregnancy”
- Different levels of oversight by HRECs
- Some trials have specific requirements.



PICFs – Avoiding Pregnancy

- Recently, some concern has been expressed about the Catholic approach in this area.
- This concern is being addressed in various ways, e.g. HRECs, AHEC, CHA, NHMRC.
- With good will, ways forward should be found.
- Because our ethics are not mainstream, there will always be challenges like this.



Religious Freedom & Conscientious Objection

- Legitimate secularism
- Intolerant secularism
- Multiculturalism
- Human rights, inc. conscientious objection



Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide (EAS)

- EAS groups and activists
 - autonomous choice
- Opposition to EAS
 - Human morality: it is wrong to kill.
 - Fear about EOL/dying is not a wise guide.



Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide (EAS)

- Almost always, pain can be managed.
- There can never be effective safeguards.
- Vulnerable people would be put at risk.
- The doctor-patient relationship would be compromised.
- EOL can be very significant and meaningful.



Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide (EAS)

- The EAS debate in Australia could go either way.
- If you can – when you can – please speak against EAS.
- Life until natural death has many challenges, but please speak and minister for life.

