

annual report
2006

vacro



our achievements

President's Comments



VACRO remains the only organisation in Victoria whose sole focus is on supporting offenders and their families in ways that reduce recidivism, help to maintain appropriate familial bonds, and reduce the inappropriate infliction of suffering and disadvantage on innocent family members.

I am honoured to be part of an extraordinary organisation; one that delivers programs and services few other organisations would even conceive of.

Our strong council, the continued leadership of our CEO, along with our staff and volunteers all work together to deliver the services in a manner that shows that the mission and values of the organisation are more than just words - they form the basis for all aspects of assistance offered.

[Full Report Available](#)

Chairman's Comments



The Council and staff have undertaken a strategic planning process which has allowed us to hone in on the work that VACRO does both now and in the future. We have ensured that we remain true to our values, whilst remaining focused on responding to the need in an ever changing 'system'. We have revised our Mission Statement to reflect the impact of these developments (see below) and developed our 5 key strategic areas of work.

I would like to thank our President, the Hon. Mr. Justice David Harper, the members of our VACRO Council (whose names are listed on this report), the CEO Andrea Lott and our wonderful staff and volunteers. It is due to the dynamism, dedication and enthusiasm of this whole team that VACRO continues to be able to offer support at a standard that keeps us at the forefront of service delivery in this area of work.

[Full Report Available](#)

Chief Executive Officer's Comments



This has been a fantastic year for VACRO; one which we have concentrated on strategic planning, capacity building, new programs & research and a broader dissemination of information, education & training to the community. Our focus on our three key areas (Offender Services; Family and Children's Services and research & Development) has been strengthened by all the work undertaken, with some major achievements that we are very proud of.

The combination of strong leadership via the VACRO Board, the incredibly dedicated group of staff & volunteers, our ever supportive members, donors and partner agencies all seem to somehow fit together to form a team that amazes me with its strength. I am pleased to be part of such a team and look forward to the coming year - it is a pretty exciting agenda already!

[Full Report Available](#)

Thank you to John Griffin

John Griffin's time as Chairman reflected his vast expertise and experience in the area of VACRO's operations, to say nothing of his integrity, industry, wisdom and compassion. His contribution to the organisation has been invaluable. His decision to resign, made in light of the demands of his office as Executive Director, Courts, in the Department of Justice, was one we entirely understand; but that does not lessen our indebtedness to him, or our regret at his departure. He remains as a towering figure in the VACRO story.

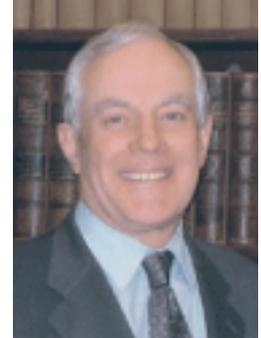
The Hon. Mr. Justice David Harper

Together we can reduce crime

VACRO provides support and information for individuals charged with a criminal offence, offenders, prisoners and their families, as well as leadership, education, training and research on the Justice System for the community.

President's Report

This year saw the 134th year of operation for VACRO; making it (so far as the evidence discloses) the second oldest charitable organisation in Victoria. What is without doubt is that VACRO remains the only organisation in Victoria whose sole focus is on supporting offenders and their families in ways that reduce recidivism, help to maintain appropriate familial bonds, and reduce the inappropriate infliction of suffering and disadvantage on innocent family members. Given that VACRO's clients are often already among the most disadvantaged among us, VACRO's work is especially important. I am honoured to be a part of an extraordinary organisation; one that delivers programs and services that few other organisations would even conceive of - and they range from the provision of basic assistance (Prisoner Banking and Property services) to a suite of programs that offer case management, counselling and multiple other sources of support to both offenders and their families.



We are very fortunate that the organisation is in such good hands - we have a strong Council that has an excellent mix of skills and talent. Roger Dench, our new Chairman, has almost completed his first twelve months in this role and has led the Council through a strategic planning process that has set us on a solid path for the next few years. We are indebted to Council members who offer their time and knowledge to VACRO, leading it with pragmatism, commitment and enthusiasm.

As we welcome change, so we acknowledge that it often comes at a cost. Roger succeeds John Griffin, whose time as Chairman reflected his vast expertise and experience in the area of VACRO's operations, to say nothing of his integrity, industry, wisdom and compassion. John has been a mainstay and friend of VACRO for as long or longer than most of us can remember. His contribution to the organisation has been invaluable. His decision to resign, made in the light of the demands of his office as Executive Director, Courts, in the Department of Justice, was one we entirely understand; but that does not lessen our indebtedness to him, or our regret at his departure. He remains as a towering figure in the VACRO story.

But there are others who also deserve our sincere gratitude. As with all organisations, it is the staff who are the 'face' of the organisation; it is this dedicated group of people (including a range of volunteers) to whom we must offer the most thanks. In particular, I want to thank our CEO, Andrea Lott, who continues to lead the organisation with extraordinary levels of enthusiasm and energy. The team work together to deliver the services in a manner that shows that the mission and values of the organisation are more than just words - they form the basis for all aspects of assistance offered. Their work is undertaken with the highest level of integrity and expertise. Every visit to the VACRO office re-inspires me and provides me with a fresh view of my own work in the field.

I look forward to the working with VACRO in the coming year and into the future. It continues to be my pleasure and privilege.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "David Harper". The signature is fluid and cursive.

The Hon. Mr. Justice
David Harper

Chairman's Report

2 005/06 has been a year of substantial development for VACRO. Our programs and projects continue to produce great outcomes for our client group as well as for the broader community. The Council and staff have undertaken a strategic planning process which has allowed us to hone in on the work that VACRO does both now and into the future. We have ensured that we remain true to our values, whilst remaining focused on responding to need in an ever changing 'system'. We have revised our Mission Statement to reflect the impact of these developments. Together we can reduce crime.



VACRO provides support and information to those charged with a criminal offence, offenders, prisoners and their families.

We provide leadership in research, policy and education & training on Justice System issues to produce valuable outcomes for individuals and the community.

Dropping out of the Mission Statement are Five Key Strategic Areas which will focus our energy, resources and work:

1. Boosting research and development and our related sectoral intelligence,
2. Raising VACRO's profile across a range of Government departments and agencies, allies, funders and the community in general,
3. Targeting and delivering a clearly identified set of sustainable services to meet the needs of those charged with a criminal offence, offenders, prisoners and their families,
4. Forming clearly defined and beneficial relationships between VACRO's highly professional staff, Council and other allies
5. Broadening the range and number of funding sources.

As the Department of Justice continues to put resources into elements of pre and post release support for offenders, new providers of services are attracted to incorporating this support into their existing work. VACRO welcomes this addition, particularly as many new partnerships have allowed for better integration and support. In reality, the need for an organisation like VACRO continues, as we remain the only organisation in Victoria with a sole focus on providing support for this target group. This ensures that our work continues address the needs and gaps in the justice and corrections system and work towards long term change and sustainability.

We are looking forward to the challenges of the coming year – they are proving to be quite exciting already. A range of plans and strategies that were undertaken this year are starting to show signs of coming to fruition. We will have much to report in the coming 12 months!

I would like to thank our President, the Hon. Mr Justice David Harper, the members of the VACRO Council (whose names are listed in this report), the CEO Andrea Lott and our wonderful staff. It is due to the dynamism, dedication and enthusiasm of this whole team that VACRO continues to be able to offer support at a standard that keep us at the forefront of service delivery in this area of work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Dench', written over a white background.

Roger Dench
Chairman

Executive's Report

This has been a fantastic year for VACRO; one in which we have concentrated on strategic planning, capacity building, new programs & research and a broader dissemination of information, education & training to the community. Our focus on our three key areas (Offender Services; Family and Children's Services and Research & Development) has been strengthened by all of the work undertaken, with some major achievements that VACRO is very proud of.

VACRO has undertaken many significant projects this year ranging from an exploration of the policy void in relation to the experiences of children of offenders from the time of arrest, through the courts, prison and back into the community. This project has provided fantastic opportunities for VACRO to work with remarkable organisations and individuals and looks like having some very tangible outcomes in 2006/07. Watch this space!

Also in 2006/07, VACRO will undertake a research project into the long term needs of prisoners post release via a generous grant through the Collie Foundation. At present, most 'transitional support' programs are funded for up to 12 months post release, in recognition of the numerous people who require support for longer than this period VACRO will undertake the research to ascertain what is needed, how it could best be provided and seek to make recommendations for future action.

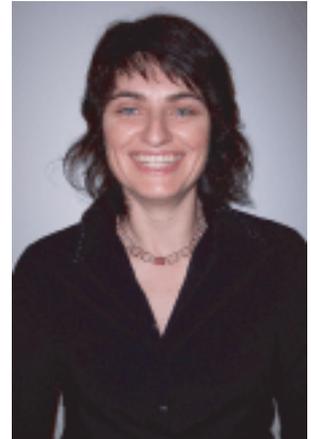
A major achievement this year has been our 'FORK project'. The Families of Offenders Resource Kit project, funded through FACSIA, will work across 8 local government areas over the next three years to assist communities to develop their resources for working with families of offenders. This program works from a community capacity building framework to ensure communities can gain the information (and training & support) to enable them to work in a sustainable way into the future. This is a great tool for building understanding, creating pathways for communication with the broader community and opportunities to affect change on a larger scale than VACRO has previously. VACRO is very proud of this initiative!

Other projects to highlight are:

- The Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH) has started a pro bono law clinic at VACRO once a week via Corrs Chambers Westgarth law firm. They provide civil and administrative legal assistance to ex-offenders and their families.
- Oxfam Skillshare has provided us with pro bono assistance around Public Relations – a 'sticky' issue for an organisation like VACRO. Our Volunteer has been amazing and will continue to work with us around plans that will carry us through the coming years.

And the list goes on! Much of our hard work is coming to fruition. I know that it is because of the combination of strong leadership via the VACRO Board, the incredibly dedicated group of staff & volunteers, our ever supportive members, donors & partner agencies.

They all seem to somehow fit together to form a team that amazes me with its strength. I am pleased to be a part of such a team and look forward to the coming year – it is a pretty exciting agenda already!



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Andrea Lott'.

Andrea Lott
Chief Executive Officer

Finance Report

Financial Statement for year Ended 30 June 2006

	2006	2005
Revenue	\$	\$
Income	1,730,072.00	1,713,126.00
Total Revenue from Ordinary Activity	1,730,072.00	1,713,126.00
Expenses from Ordinary Activities		
Employee Benefits Expense	(1,147,810.00)	(1,068,543.00)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	(32,176.00)	(32,803.00)
Motor vehicle expenses	(113,039.00)	(94,327.00)
Professional fees	(149,225.00)	(145,137.00)
Occupancy expenses	(41,846.00)	(50,041.00)
Administrative expenses	(152,526.00)	(136,378.00)
Client expenses	(58,078.00)	(83,092.00)
Other expenses	(48,049.00)	(210,243.00)
Total Expenses from Ordinary Activities	(1,742,749.00)	(1,820,564.00)
Surplus (deficit) from ordinary activities	(12,677.00)	(107,438.00)
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	106,288.00	213,437.00
Trade Receivables	216,726.00	189,442.00
Inventories	9,256.00	12,775.00
Other	13,394.00	10,429.00
Total Current Assets	345,664.00	426,083.00
Non-Current Assets		
Property, plant and Equipment	531,541.00	580,629.00
Total Non-Current Assets	531,541.00	580,629.00
Total Assets	877,205.00	1,006,712.00
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	109,302.00	224,130.00
Provisions	50,657.00	52,447.00
Total Current Liabilities	159,959.00	276,577.00
Non-Current Liabilities		
Provisions	2,133.00	2,345.00
Total Non-Current Liabilities	2,133.00	2,345.00
Total Liabilities	162,092.00	278,922.00
Net Assets	715,113.00	727,790.00

vacro council

The Hon. Mr Justice David Harper BA Hons, LLB (President)

Roger Dench B. Sc, Dip. Ed, MBA (Chairman)

Leslie Heath B. Business (Treasurer)

Graeme Horsburgh B. Bus, LLB (Secretary)

John Sayers LLB (Melb) LLB (Melb)

Dr Jane Hendtlass B.Sc. (Hons.), LLB.(Hons.), Ph.D. FAICD, AIMM, ARACI

Allan Elliott LLB

Ann Cunningham B.Ec.,Dip.Ed.,M.Crim.

David Youssef M.I. Fire. E, Adv. Dip. Fire Fighting Mtg, Grad. Cert. Appl. Mgt

Special Thanks to

Sylvia Morrissey

M & A Kantor

Helen Leyshon

St. Vincent Health

The Anglican of Trinity Surrey Hills

C K Cooke

Our Lady of the Pines Donvale

Sue Kemp

Ada van der Hoogte

Minter Ellison

Ed Merckel

EW, JM & SK Muntz

The Sarah & Baillieu Family Foundation

Magistrates Court of Australia

Colin Neave

June Danks

Keser Pty Ltd

Susan Fahey

St Peter's Primary School

Jean Cheshire

Jane Hendtlass

Junia Waring

Robert Kerr

William Angliss Charitable Fund

John Griffin

John & Lorraine Theel

Cecily Johns

Mis D A Eddison

Jack O'Connell AO KPMG

Scots Church Adelaide

Embelton Limited

FaCSIA

Helen Hill

Street Smart

Neilma Gantner

Jennifer Smithers

WC Meagher

Barbara Worcester

RE Ross Trust

William Buckland Foundation

Victoria Law Foundation

Department of Justice

Robert Stray & Associates

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