



Catholic Social Services  
**Australia**

**SPEECH**

**2010 AWARDS**

**PERKINS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE INDIVIDUAL**

**CANBERRA**

**MONDAY 8 FEBRUARY**

Presented by

**PROFESSOR JOHN WARHURST**

**DEPUTY BOARD CHAIR, CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES AUSTRALIA**

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**PERKINS AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE – INDIVIDUAL**

This award is presented to an individual who has shown outstanding commitment to service. The award is open to people from our agencies and also to people in the wider community.

The award is presented in honour of Bishop Eric Perkins, who spent his life committed to the Church's outreach to the poor and was the first Victorian priest to qualify as a social worker.

He was ordained a priest in 1940 and in partnership with Monsignor JF McCosker he had a major impact on national Catholic social policy, through peak bodies such as the National Catholic Welfare Committee and its successor the Australian Catholic Social Welfare Commission.

**Highly Commended: JOSIE GREGORY**

**Advocate For Women And Children Experiencing Domestic Violence**

**Centacare Broken Bay**

Josie has been the coordinator of the Northern Sydney Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service for 14 years.

Her reputation as a strong, down to earth advocate has ensured realistic resources and support are in place for women and children experiencing domestic violence.

Her professional approach and commitment to women and children has led to productive working relationships with court staff, policy and other support services, and the enduring respect of magistrates.

Josie's work started with the newly established Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Scheme auspiced by Mercy Family Centre.

She attended court hearings and provided care and support to women who often experienced trauma because of the violence in their lives. The ensuing police intervention and court processes can be very alienating.

The merger with Centacare Broken Bay in 2001 saw the program in close touch with a broader range of support services and in 2009 Josie led the program through yet another significant change with the expansion of the service to include the Manly and North Sydney Local Courts.

Josie is passionate about her clients. She combines compassion and professionalism and she uses her innate understanding of the frustrations and limitations of the work to train less experienced staff to become strong advocates for women and their children.

Congratulations Josie. It's an honour to present this award to you tonight.

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