

COMMISSION ON SOCIAL QUESTIONS

The continuing Pandemic with its associated restrictions made gathering in person impossible and our attempts to meet online weren't as successful as hoped, though we were able to stay abreast of what member churches were doing.

During 2021, the Social Question Commission maintained an involvement through its members on a number of justice groups, both within Victoria and Nationally. These groups being Refugee Action Network, Anti-Gambling Task Force, Say No to Violence.

Members also participated in Refugee Week activities (in June), Naidoc activities (in July) and Week to Eradicate Poverty (in October)

In 2021, the Palm Sunday Peace March was able to be held with some 5000 attending. The Executive Officer of VCC was a key note speaker at March. The Refugee Action Network did manage a number of online gatherings to show support and were active in the campaign to release the remaining men in hotel detention within our State. These activities included gathering in Lincoln Square Carlton at the foot of the Park Hotel to offer support to those held within.

The members have reconvened for 2022 and the foci for 2022 will be:

- i. maintaining our watching brief on matters of social importance within the State
- ii. preparing material for Victorian Church Leaders Network in readiness for discussions with political parties in the lead up to State Elections to be held in the later part of 2022.

The Social Question Commission is seeking to broaden its membership and is keen to hear from either individuals or member churches who have people both interested and engaged in Social Questions.

Compiled by Rev Ian Smith

Secretary to Social Questions