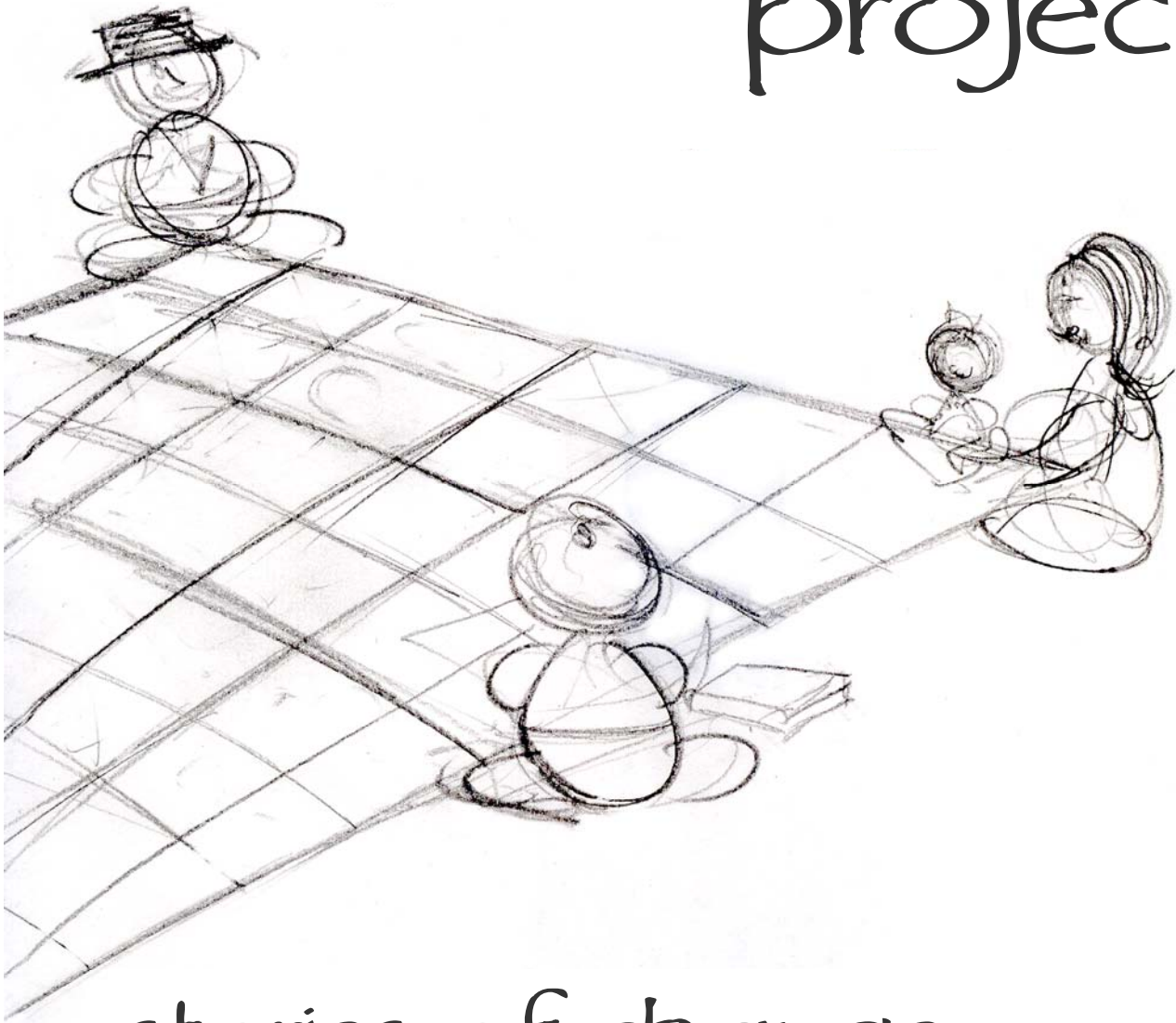


the patchWORK project



stories of change in work/life

- in the new industrial relations,
individual contracting &
welfare to work environments



May 2006

sao.clriq.org.au

What is the PatchWORK Project?

In 2005 the **Social Action Office** (SAO) researched the then proposed WorkChoices and Welfare to Work legislation and lobbied the Senate for a full and transparent inquiry into the likely impacts of the wide reaching changes such legislation might cause.

The **PatchWORK Project** of the Social Action Office has arisen from the work begun in 2005 and aims to capture stories of significant change. Through recording and reflecting upon people's stories we aim to deeply understand the impacts that changes to industrial relations/workplace laws are having on individuals, families and communities, including communities of work and individuals not currently employed in paid work. This includes impacts on the following "**domains of change**":

- People's incomes and access to sufficient and appropriate work
- People's relationships (at work, at home with family and/or friends and other social/community activities such as sport and recreation, volunteering)
- People's wellbeing: physical, emotional and psychological health.

People's lived experience then becomes the basis for the policy and advocacy work that the SAO has committed to engage in.

The **Social Action Office** (SAO) is a project of the Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes, Queensland (CLRIQ) and is involved in policy advocacy work around social and environmental justice issues. We stand in solidarity and partnership alongside individuals and communities and work for the common good.

Have a yarn, have a chat with a neighbour or mates over the back fence or over a cuppa or a beer. Talk in a patchwork circle, a learning circle. Story telling and listening to stories are vital ways in which we come together – to help each other, to make sense of our worlds, to learn, to teach and to risk being changed as a result of what we hear and tell. Stories and listening to stories bear witness to our worlds of experience and through these processes create and draw meaning in our lives.

The stories and information gathered from participants in the PatchWORK Project and/or the Project workshops may be used for a number of purposes such as:

- The sharing of stories and understandings gained from the stories with other interested parties for policy/advocacy purposes
- For publication, i.e. to generate press/media about the issues raised, reports and briefing papers
- The basis for community arts activities.

Most Significant Change

Today we are looking at what you consider to be the "most significant change" as a result of industrial relations and related welfare to work changes being introduced by the federal government.

We would like you to consider the following questions:

What is a significant change?

A significant change is what you believe or see as significant. You are free to make that judgement for yourself.

The significant change that you choose can be in:

- your own life and experience
- the lives of others (families, friends, work colleagues or others)
- an aspect of Australian life
- the community in which you live and/or work.

What counts as change?

Again this depends on your own assessments and judgements. It may be big, small, negative, positive, affecting an individual, a family, an organisation or a community or impacting in some way on the "domains of change" we mentioned earlier, i.e. people's

- income and access to work
- relationships
- wellbeing.

If you are interested in participating in the **PatchWORK Project** simply by completing this form at your convenience, please ...

- fill out the details below ensuring that you complete the section on Confidentiality and Consent, and signing that section
- then post it to:

Project Officer
Social Action Office
PO Box 8304
Woolloongabba Qld 4102

If you are interested in participating in the **PatchWORK Project** through a workshop process, please contact Angela Ballard on angela@sao.clriq.org.au or on (07) 3891 5866 to organise a workshop in your region, organisation or community.

Contact Details

Name and description of storyteller*:

* please use a word or two (adjective and noun) to describe yourself in the context of the story you choose to record, e.g. interested citizen, student, worker, parent, friend, employer, contractor, pensioner, academic. Be as specific as you wish, e.g. hard-working cleaner. If you wish to remain anonymous, leave out your name.

Phone/s:

Email or postal address:

Location: Date of recording:
(where you are recording this story – venue, State)

Sex: Male Female
Age: 15 to 24 35 to 44 55 to 64
25 to 34 45 to 54 65+

Confidentiality and Consent

We may wish to use your story or part thereof as part of ongoing private circles of reflection, or share it in the public domain, e.g. media/press releases and publications and/or the basis of community arts activities. We also invite your further participation in such activities. Please consider carefully what level of privacy and confidentiality you want us to maintain for the information you share.

- If you wish your details and the story gathered from you to remain confidential and used only for the purposes of reflection within the Social Action Office, please tick here:
We will ensure that your details and responses remain secure and confidential.
- If you are happy for us to use the story and information gathered from you in the ways outlined above, but without identifying you or others, please tick here:
- If you want us to check with you first about using your name/identifying information in the ways outlined above, please tick here:
- If you are happy for us to use your name/identifying information, the story and written information gathered from you, please tick here:

If you would like to be further involved in the activities of the PatchWORK Project, please tick here:

Signature:

