



Betty Roberts OAM
Archdiocese of Hobart

Mrs Betty Roberts has made an outstanding contribution both to her church and community throughout her life – and especially since arriving in Tasmania from her home state Western Australia. She came with her husband Dr Noel Roberts and they raised seven children.

Betty planned and founded the Pregnancy Support Service in 1975 and worked with this organisation for eight years. She was a founding member of Caroline House Inc. a refuge for women with alcohol and other drug problems. Betty founded Holyoake Tas. Inc. in 1988 and was Director and Counsellor for 12 years counseling hundreds of men, women and children. Holyoake offers structured programs for parents, spouses, siblings and children of people suffering addiction. Betty retired from direct involvement in 1999.

As a result of her involvement in these foundations, Betty became a speaker at many conferences and conventions. She also planned and organized three state-wide conferences on drug issues and a one-day seminar at Parliament House entitled “Do we need Marijuana?” In 1994 she delivered two papers on the effects of drugs upon the family at the “International Harm Minimisation Conference” at Wrest Point Casino. In 2002 she prepared a submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Substance Abuse in the Australian Community. She was the Tasmanian Director on the Board of Drug Free Australia 2006-2009. She is a member of the Australian Family Association.

Betty’s involvement in Church affairs has been significant – especially within each parish where she has resided; she was Archbishop Guilford Young’s nominee for many years to the Diocesan Pastoral Council. She made a submission to the Bishops’ Inquiry into the *Participation of Women in the Catholic Church in Australia*. Betty is a member of the Catholic Women’s League and is presently the National Convenor on Social Issues – appearing and preparing submissions for CWLA on such matters as the Productivity Commission’s consultation on Maternity, Paternity and Parental Leave and the Human Rights Commission on a possible *Charter of Rights*.

She has a special affinity with people who are housebound and marginalized and despite a heavy schedule of engagements has a regular program of visitation to the lonely.

Mrs Betty Roberts was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 1991 for her commitment to the community.

