

THREADING A NEW INDUSTRY

NAME TAG IDEA TAKES OFF IN AUSTRALIA

Paul Kelly and Kev Carmody might not have had beads in mind when they penned the song, From Little Things Big Things Grow. But it is a most fitting description for a project run by the Good Shepherd Sisters in Cebu in the Philippines.

In the last edition of Life & Justice we reported on a hand made name tag project running in Cebu. It provides an income for young women, including women who want to leave the sex industry. It's also an opportunity for Australians to use their buying power justly. Instead of going to a major chain store and buying plastic name tags that are often thrown away or lost once the conference or gathering is over, here's an alternative.

Many Life & Justice readers have jumped at the opportunity to purchase the name tags with the colourful beaded string around the neck. The response has been overwhelming, especially for the producers in Asia.

Orders started coming in, first for 50, then for 100 and then an order from the Mercy Sisters and other Good Shepherd organisations and services. To day, more than 1000 name tags have been ordered from Australia.

It is hoped that Good Shepherd staff and networkers around the world will order the name tags from the Good Shepherd Centre in Cebu and help the women trade their way out of poverty.



If you are interested in ordering name tags please contact Sr Tania de Jong at the Good Shepherd Social Justice Office in Abbotsford, Victoria. You can phone her on 03 9421 6873 or email her on tania@goodshep.com.au.

The name tags, which cost \$2 each, can be done in a range of colours. Perhaps you have corporate colours that you want to use ...even football team colours!!!

TPV System Scrapped in Budget

The end of the Temporary Protection Visas (TPV) system was announced in the 2008 Budget.

Pamela Curr from the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre said the TPV system was a flawed Howard/Ruddock policy designed to deter asylum seekers. She said it failed in that more people sought asylum after it was introduced than ever before.

"The Labor government has kept the promise to refugees to end the inhumane TPV which separated families for years and should be applauded for this," Pamela said.

New Faces at Trading Circles

The popularity of The Trading Circles, and the products made by women at Good Shepherd Centres around the world, is growing.

Welcome to Kelly Leonard who has taken over as coordinator of The Trading Circle in Sydney. Kelly comes to the job with a great understanding of the projects. She recently spent three months in Laos with Kommaly (see page 4). Congratulations also to Marg Chiaroni who has opened a Trading Circle shop in New Zealand. The next edition of Life & Justice will feature profiles of the two projects.

