



Statement of Strategic Intent

Opening statement

Social services is essential to the mission of the Catholic Church. Catholic Social Services Australia is the Catholic Church's peak national social services body. This Statement of Strategic Intent describes our mission. It also describes the principles that support our work, the values that direct our activities, and the relationships that we seek to build and achievements to which we aspire.

Vision

Catholic Social Services Australia envisages a fairer, more inclusive Australian society that reflects and supports the dignity, equality and participation of all people.

Mission

Catholic Social Services Australia advances the social service ministry which is integral to the Mission of the Catholic Church in Australia.

Operations

Catholic Social Services Australia draws on the experience of decades of Catholic social service and social policy development in Australia. It serves the Bishops of Australia, Leaders of Religious Institutes, Catholic social service organisations and the broader Church community in advancing the social service ministry of the Church.

Catholic Social Services Australia carries out its Mission by interacting with Catholic organisations, governments, other churches and all people of goodwill, to develop social welfare policies, programs and other strategic responses that enhance the human dignity of every person and work towards the economic, social and spiritual well-being of the Australian community.

Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

In pursuit of its mission, Catholic Social Services Australia seeks to embody and promote the core principles of Catholic Social Teaching:

- Dignity of the person
Our vision for society springs from our understanding of the fundamental dignity, sanctity and worth of every human life.
- Common good and community
People are fundamentally social beings, and how we organise socially, politically and economically has implications for our capacity to grow in community.
- Preferential option for the poor
The most important measure of the success of our community is the manner in which we direct our resources to assist those most in need.
- Rights and responsibilities
Our participation in community brings with it both a range of rights and protections and a range of duties and obligations.

Organisational Values

- Collaboration
Building partnerships and alliances on common concerns within the Church and the wider community, locally, nationally and internationally.
- Excellence
Pursuing best practice and continuous improvement in all aspects of our work including professional and compassionate assistance to clients.
- Accountability
Focusing on delivering outcomes and operating in a manner that is both transparent and efficient.
- Innovation
Being prepared to take risks in pursuit of our objectives and encouraging passion and integrity.

Strategic Priorities

In order to pursue its mission, the Board of Catholic Social Services Australia has identified three strategic priorities:

- 1. To advocate for people who are poor, vulnerable and marginalised (recognising the particular circumstances of many Indigenous people), with an emphasis on:**
 - 1.1. Income security, employment, social participation and inclusion
 - 1.2. Housing and homelessness
 - 1.3. Mental health
 - 1.4. Locational disadvantage

- 2. To develop and strengthen the Catholic social services sector in Australia in order to improve the provision of social services to all Australians who are poor, vulnerable and marginalised by:**
 - 2.1. Promoting the Catholic social services sector as an integral ministry of the Catholic church
 - 2.2. Fostering and further developing Catholic identity among member organisations
 - 2.3. Assisting Catholic Social Services Australia's members to extend and diversify their funding base.

- 3. To ensure the capacity and sustainability of Catholic Social Services Australia to deliver the strategic priorities**
 - 3.1. Establish a secure and diverse funding base to support its activities.
 - 3.2. Align staff skills and organisational capacity with the strategic intent and organisational values
 - 3.3. Develop a formal succession plan for key staff and Board