

Our mission

The mission of Catholic Social Services Victoria is to assist the Catholic Church in Victoria to fulfil the gospel imperatives to stand with and serve those who are poor, disadvantaged and marginalised; and work for a just, equitable and compassionate society.

We act as a peak body for Catholic community service works in Victoria, drawing upon the gospel values enshrined in Catholic Social Teaching:

Key strategic objectives, 2017 - 2019

1. Better outcomes for people who are disadvantaged and vulnerable
 - To improve policy settings and provision of services by the Catholic community
2. A resilient Catholic Social Services sector that responds effectively to its changing environment
 - To foster collaboration between member organisations
 - To build the capacity and capability of the sector
3. Catholic Social Teaching making a difference
 - To engage members in how Catholic Social Teaching impacts what we do and how we do it.
4. Prevent and respond to child sexual abuse within the Catholic Church and organisations.
 - To achieve best practice in member organisations and the broader church
5. Effective communication and engagement with Church and community

1. Better outcomes for people who are disadvantaged and vulnerable

- 1.1. Develop policy and advocacy programs on 5 priority areas:
 - 1.1.1. Family Violence
 - 1.1.2. Social housing and homelessness
 - 1.1.3. Criminal and Youth Justice
 - 1.1.4. Impacting on state and federal budgets
 - 1.1.5. Influencing the structure of social policy and services to better meets the needs of people who are vulnerable
- 1.2. Engage the Catholic community through our policy and advocacy program in building a safer and more just society
 - 1.2.1. Family Violence prevention and response
 - 1.2.2. Amplify the work of our members across the Catholic community
- 1.3. Facilitate the engagement of parishes and members to contribute to the economic and social wellbeing of people who are disadvantaged, including through:
 - 1.3.1. Social Services Sunday
 - 1.3.2. Welcome the Stranger Program
 - 1.3.3. Parishes as centres of service
- 1.4. Maintain a watching brief on developments in other social policy areas including:
 - 1.4.1. Child and Family
 - 1.4.2. Disability
 - 1.4.3. Indigenous
 - 1.4.4. Human Rights



2. A resilient Catholic Social Services sector that responds effectively to its changing environment

- 2.1. Measure the size and contribution of the sector, and quantify the impact of the difference that member organisations make.
- 2.2. Encourage development of sustainable organisations and relationships
- 2.3. Activate cooperation with the Catholic Health sector.
- 2.4. Build networks of Board, management and Trustees to be engaged in CSSV Strategies and actions.
- 2.5. Encourage a 'place-based' coordinated initiative to achieve better service response in areas of significant need

3. Catholic Social Teaching Making a Difference

- 3.1. Develop leadership for Boards and management on understanding of Catholic identity
 - 3.1.1. Continue 'Mission Inspired Leadership' Program
- 3.2. Enable increased learning and sharing between member organisations about the role of Catholic Social Teaching.
- 3.3. Deepen our network's shared understanding of Catholic social teaching, including:
 - 3.3.1. Implications for what member organisations do and how they do it
 - 3.3.2. Explore the implications of Pope Francis teaching on the economy and environment
 - 3.3.3. Monitor, understand and assess the impact of globalisation on those who are vulnerable or marginalised in Victoria.

4. Prevent and respond to child sexual abuse within the Catholic Church and organisations.

- 4.1. Promote best practice in child safety in member organisations
- 4.2. Build on member expertise to influence response to victims
- 4.3. Support members to respond fully to the final recommendations of the Royal Commission.

5. Effective communication and engagement with Church and community

- 5.1. Implement and periodically review communications strategy in relation to
 - 5.1.1. Members
 - 5.1.2. Bishops, Dioceses and other Catholic organisations
 - 5.1.3. The Catholic community and the public
 - 5.1.4. Social services sector
 - 5.1.5. State and Local Government, and other elected representatives
- 5.2. Continue to deepen links with other parts of Catholic Church, including active cooperation and partnership with Catholic Social Services Australia
- 5.3. Continue to deepen links with other faith-based bodies and other parts of the policy and service sectors, including representative bodies.
- 5.4. Network Development and expansion
 - 5.4.1. Member and stakeholder liaison
 - 5.4.2. Continue member Forums, Breakfasts and Briefings
 - 5.4.3. Plan and develop 2018 National Conference, with CSSA
 - 5.4.4. Continue annual Commissioning Mass and Annual Dinner
 - 5.4.5. Elicit, evaluate, and respond to feedback from members
- 5.5. Council and Committee meetings and administrative support
