

Catholic Social Services Victoria – Strategy and Operations 2008/09

The **mission** of Catholic Social Services Victoria (CSSV) is to assist the Catholic Church in Victoria to fulfil the gospel imperatives to:

- Stand with and serve the poor, disadvantaged and marginalised; and
- Work for a just, equitable and compassionate society.

In supporting and enhancing the work of its members CSSV seeks to serve the poor, the marginalised and the disadvantaged by drawing upon **the gospel values enshrined in Catholic Social Teaching**.

CSSV is tasked to **act as a peak body for Catholic community service works in Victoria** by:

- Discerning and promoting within the Church and its agencies and ministries a contemporary vision and focus of the Church's social mission
- Representing its members and the Church in responding to social welfare issues so as to bring about social change in accordance with Catholic Social Teaching
- Resourcing the Bishops, Religious Institutes, Church agencies, ministries and other Church-based groups with regard to their social welfare pastoral responsibilities and ministries
- Encouraging collaboration in the promotion of opportunities for service delivery and mission development
- Giving effective voice to the experiences and struggles of people who are disadvantaged and marginalised through researching, publishing and speaking on issues of justice and equity.

This mission will be pursued in 2008/09 through the following **strategic objectives** and **key activities**:

Strategic Objectives	Key activities
Advocacy on behalf of disadvantaged people and member agencies with government bodies and the media, including relationships and collaboration as appropriate with other peak bodies so as to magnify the Church's voice and influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish relations with MP's and decision makers, with the media, and with others working in the same area. ▪ Advocate systematically and as issues arise on behalf of members and of the vulnerable and marginalised.
Member services including the fostering of networks for mutual cooperation and advantage, education and professional standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish good, supportive relations with all members and with others working in Catholic social services ▪ Deliver a program of seminars, etc that advances the work of members and builds a community of cooperation and support
Fostering a Catholic ethos identity and profile among our agencies, unpacking and articulating Catholic social justice doctrine, and communicating effectively with the Archbishop and Regional Bishops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Articulate and apply Catholic social teaching to current issues ▪ Work with agencies in reflecting and acting on their Catholic ethos, as part of the broader church ▪ Maintain effective communication with Bishops and Congregational leaders
Research both as a necessary basis for policy formulation and preparation of submissions in consultation with member agencies and others as regards government enquiries, proposals or requests; and to identify gaps in service to disadvantaged people and communicate these to our member agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with members to deliver a program of policy analysis that is effective in advocacy ▪ Identify and respond to research needs of the sector where CSSV is best placed to participate in a response ▪ Identify and respond to service gaps
Governance and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure effective CSSV governance, and management to deliver agreed program.