

17 September 2023

Social Services Sunday

What is Social Services Sunday?

Sunday 17 September 2023 marks Social Services Sunday within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. On this day, we give thanks for the dedicated work of the thousands of staff and volunteers who stand with and serve the poor, disadvantaged and marginalised, and to reflect on how you might be more involved in work to achieve to justice in your own community.

What have we achieved together?

Catholic Social Service Victoria's (CSSV) **40** member organisations provide critical services ranging from early intervention and prevention work to crisis response — across every age.

Preliminary findings from a report to be released later this year show that their **8,000** staff and **17,000** volunteers are building a more just and compassionate society by supporting at least **211,000** people in need.

They serve communities at over **150 sites** in Victoria, plus more nation-wide and overseas.



How can you help to achieve justice?

- The Bishops and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) have identified reconciliation as a core moral issue facing our society. You can help to achieve justice for First Nations people by:
 - Reading & reflecting on the Bishops' 2023 Social Justice Statement, *Listen, Learn, Love*.
 - Using the Kitchen Table conversation guide available at <https://indigenousvoice.church/>
 - Following and supporting the work of Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria.
- Find out more about the Catholic social services operating in your area and how you can get involved. Every contribution, big or small, makes a difference.
- Sign up to our newsletter using the QR code below to keep updated and find out when the report on the work of our members is released.



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"We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love. Be poor among the poor. We need to include the excluded and preach peace." - Pope Francis