

## RECONCILIATION VISION

The Council and Members of Catholic Social Services Victoria acknowledge and celebrate that our engagement throughout Victoria takes place on the sacred land and waterways of the many cultural groups of the Aboriginal Peoples of Victoria.

For over tens of thousands of years these lands and waterways have been cared for under cultural lore and customs. Australia's First Peoples have never ceded sovereignty and are the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent.

We acknowledge that the Aboriginal People have suffered personal harm, cultural dislocation and dispossession since colonisation. This past has resulted in Aboriginal People becoming one of the most disadvantaged peoples within our society and we are committed to action to close this gap.

Righting the wrongs of dispossession requires a commitment to truth telling about the past so justice, equity and reconciliation can be experienced by all peoples of Victoria.

We commit ourselves to listen and walk with the First Peoples in the true spirit of *makarrata*: coming together after this long painful struggle for recognition, true justice and full flourishing for all Australians.

...the Church herself in Australia will not be fully the Church that Jesus wants her to be  
until you have made your contribution to her life and until that contribution  
has been joyfully received by others.

Pope St John Paul II, Alice Springs 29 November 1986

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