



CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES VICTORIA

Annual Report 2023



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Catholic Social Services Victoria Staff

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Executive Director

Kate Stilwell
Office Manager

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Administration and Events Officer

Peter Diamond (February – May)
Project and Engagement Lead

Corina Crisan (from September)
Project and Engagement Lead

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Events and Office Support

Contractor Services

Fiona Basile: CSSV Secretariat Communications
Henning Kallies: CSSV Video and Media Support

Photography and Design

Photos: Fiona Basile, Henning Kallies and CSSV Team

Front Cover: CSSV Life Members, Sr Joan Healy RSJ AM and Sr Brigid Arthur CSB AO, with CSSV staff and committee members at the CSSV End of Year Celebration, December 2023. Photo by Henning Kallies.

Design: South Star Design.

Our Commitment to Reconciliation

The Council and Members of Catholic Social Services Victoria (CSSV) celebrate and acknowledge that our engagement throughout Victoria takes place on the sacred land and waterways of the many cultural groups of the Aboriginal Peoples of Victoria. CSSV is committed to listening and walking with them in the true spirit of Makarrata: coming together after this long painful struggle for recognition, true justice and full flourishing for all Australians.

CSSV is the peak body for 40+ social and community service member organisations that work throughout Victoria.

The work of our members, as they support over 300,000 people each year means that we hold deep concern for issues of Justice in our state and country.

The experiences of our members and those our members work to serve, as well as the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, lead us to a firm commitment to being an active part of a country and society that seeks Reconciliation.

CSSV acknowledge the Traditional Custodians and their Elders past, present and emerging of the Kulin Nations of Victoria.

Executive Director's Report

Joshua Lourensz

Executive Director



What can we do *better* together in this year, in this moment, rather than on our own? These are the questions that generally get to the heart of our reason for being a peak body and platform for collaboration and connection for Catholic social services here in Victoria. For 2023, this question grew serious

with renewed urgency, as we looked to increase our impact for positive change on areas of strategic concern: Housing and Homelessness, Domestic Violence, and Justice and Equity. The compounding effects of the housing crisis have begun to affect not only people that our member organisations work with, but also their staff. The 2023 referendum on the Voice held opportunity and deep challenge for all of us. Simultaneously, disturbing reports from our membership backed by other statistics told a story of increasing danger and complexity in the perpetration of domestic and family violence in our Australian setting. In this context, a global 'Synod on Synodality' took place, and local work was taken up by many elements of the Church in exploration of what it means to faithfully navigate a more engaged and dialogue-based way of being in a world fraught and divided on many basic social and economic principles.

These issues span sectors and communities, and CSSV, in addition to working closely with our member organisations, has strived to respond by reaching out to others of good will to work for change. Throughout 2023 we particularly connected and worked with the National Council of St Vincent de Paul Society, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC), Caritas and Catholic Social Services Australia on a range of federal issues. We have also continued to support broader sector campaigns and lead discussions and workshops on issues regarding housing, reconciliation, and prevention of domestic and family violence. We have backed up our positions based on good evidence – via discussion papers, evaluation reports and submissions, and drawn guidance in our approaches from consultation. We visited a large number of member organisations on site during 2023 to ensure a local dimension and knowledge is infused with our work. Our committees continue to have robust conversations, bringing knowledge from inside and outside our sector together; this sharpens our activities and policy positions.



Internally, the new CSSV Constitution came into effect at the 2023 AGM that saw the Bishops of the four dioceses of Victoria become members alongside our organisational members. Corresponding changes to our Council structure were enacted, with a vibrant, skilled and committed Council appointed and elected, and I have been grateful for their visionary leadership in 2023.

I must name Sherry Balcombe, who finished her term on Council when she retired from her role managing Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria at the end of 2023. We were reminded by Frank Brennan SJ when CSSV co-hosted the launch of his book *An Indigenous Voice to Parliament: Considering a constitutional bridge* with Garratt Publishing in early 2023, that unless we have broad community and bipartisan support, the referendum would likely fail – and the Church and her social services had a role to play, particularly a listening role, within this work. Sherry seemed everywhere at once to me in 2023, looking to garner that support. I met or spoke with her weekly, and relied on her wisdom, connections and experience as we navigated the intensity during what became a partisan stoush. While pleased with our contribution to education around the referendum and to CSSV's role in uniting a broad range of organisations from our sector and beyond in supporting NATSICC's *One Journey, Together* initiative, we bore witness to the widening of division, rather than our hoped-for bringing together of our country in a positive path forward along the lines of Voice, Truth-Telling and Treaty.

To be true to the 'Catholic' in CSSV's name means we must pursue justice alongside service and charity. People like Sherry embody this kind of dialectical work, and our efforts in 2023 would have been impossible without her leadership. Hope remains, but the reality that we need to move forward, together, is prominent. I am grateful that our diverse membership and many others of good will, are willing to continue to support and trust CSSV as one way of having a red hot go at positive, Gospel-inspired, change.

From the Council

Chair's Report

Jenny Glare

Deputy Chair of Council

2023 was a year of transition for Catholic Social Services Victoria. The new CSSV constitution ratified during 2022, was implemented at the 2023 Annual General Meeting. Bernie Cronin, who had been the Chair of the CSSV Council for six years stepped down from the role. It was with much gratitude that Bernie's strong and generous contribution to Council and his leadership across the sector was acknowledged. Concerted efforts have been made to recruit a new Chair to Council. There have been many wonderful conversations with many suitable people and whilst it has not yet been possible to secure an appointment as Chair, this has led to engagement in other ways and has strengthened links with individuals and organisation who are committed to supporting the work of the Catholic Church through its social services in Victoria.

CSSV welcomed new Council members in 2023 – Mark Monahan (Edmund Rice Community Services Victoria), Paul Turton (St Vincent de Paul and VincentCare Group), Jacinta Wainwright (CatholicCare Victoria) and James Findlay (Good Shepherd Australia and New Zealand).

CSSV is always looking to recruit new member organisations to strengthen our capacity for advocacy, and increase our collective voice and network. This year, the Xavier Social Justice Network was welcomed as a new CSSV member organisation.



At the heart of our work to advocate for justice for the marginalised and disadvantaged is collaboration. CSSV recognises the importance of building collaborations both inside and outside the Catholic social services sector. In the months leading up to the 2023 Referendum, CSSV successfully collaborated with NATSICC and Caritas to lead a process across Catholic health, education and social services to consider the questions and issues around the Referendum in the light of what Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff, volunteers and service users across Australia were thinking, experiencing and saying and in the context of the framework of Catholic Social Teaching. A series of online workshops and gatherings were facilitated to explore the issues and to listen to voices from a range of academic, theological and community perspectives. Whilst the result of the Referendum was devastating, there were many learnings about collaboration, deep listening and the importance of opening up a process for dialogue and respectful discussions.

Running concurrent with the lead up to the Referendum was planning for the February 2024 Catholic Social Services Conference, a collaboration between CSSV and Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA). The theme of the Conference, *Commons, Commonality, Common Good* exemplified the concept of shared vision, cross-sector collaboration and learning from innovative practice.

I conclude this report by thanking all Council members, Committee Chairs and the many voluntary members who have assisted CSSV with a steadfast and generous commitment during the year. I would like to thank the Bishops of Victoria for their support of the work of CSSV and their engagement in meetings during the year. On behalf of Council, I thank Executive Director Josh Lourensz and the Secretariat staff, especially Kate Stilwell, interns on

placement and volunteers for their passion, commitment to the mission and hard work during 2023. The potential for future collaborations is great, the mission is compelling: '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.'



Council Members

From 2023 AGM and implementation of revised Constitution

Jenny Glare
Deputy Chair of Council

General Manager,
Heritage and Information Service,
MacKillop Family Services

Sherry Balcombe

Manager,
Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria

James Findlay
Treasurer

General Manager, Finance,
Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand

Deacon Mark Kelly

Bishop's Nominee, Diocese of Sale

Mark Monahan

Director, Community Services,
Edmund Rice Community Services

John Murphy

Bishop's Nominee, Diocese of Sandhurst

Felicity Rorke

Executive Director, Good Samaritan Inn

Sr Nicole Rotaru RSM

Catholic Religious Australia Nominee

Agnes Sheehan

Archbishop's Nominee,
Archdiocese of Melbourne
Chief Executive Officer,
CatholicCare Victoria

Paul Turton

Executive General Manager,
VincentCare

Jacinta Wainwright (from July)

Bishop's Nominee, Diocese of Ballarat
Manager, Victims Assistance Program,
CatholicCare Victoria

Ross Wheatland (until June)

Bishop's Nominee, Diocese of Ballarat
Group Director,
Performance & Enablement,
CatholicCare Victoria

Selection of reflections by some Council members

Council members were invited to share reflections on CSSV's work throughout 2023. The engagement with the referendum process and launch of the *Shining A Light* evaluation report were pointed to as highlights of the year:

Jenny Glare

The contribution in 2023 by CSSV was full of highlights. The Indigenous Voice to Parliament Webinar Series and *Shining A Light*, Sale Pilot Program Evaluation Report Launch showed what can be achieved with action grounded in deep listening, collaboration, good practice, and a commitment to engaging with the Church at all levels.

Mark Monahan

As a 'new person' on the CSSV Council, elected in 2023, I have particularly enjoyed the wrestle of considering many social issues through a systems-based response while also being grounded in the reality of our communities' lived experiences that Council members can represent.

Deacon Mark Kelly

Shining a Light: A pilot project in Sale Diocese responding to domestic and family violence.

Through my work, awareness grew over the years of the prevalence of domestic and family violence, but hearing harrowing accounts and the stark needs articulated on occasion at CSSV Council and a visit, with Joce Bignold to her amazing McCauley facility at Footscray a few years ago crystallized the issue for me. Since, I have been instrumental in bringing the wisdom of CSSV Domestic Violence Working Party to "how the Catholic community can play its part in standing in solidarity with victim/survivors, and simultaneously work to address the causes and impacts of domestic violence in our communities." I take some satisfaction that first the clergy of the diocese and in 2023, under the leadership of Sr Nicole Rotaru and the *Shining a Light* Pilot Project, a wide array of influential parishioners, have some preparedness to work in this demanding social space.

John Murphy

I am very conscious that the 2023 story of CSSV is predominantly the story of its member organisations that do the broad range of heavy lifting in support of those in need across the Victorian community. Connection with that effort continues to inspire. The work and contribution of my fellow councillors in the work of critical projects such as the Sale Diocese 'Shine a Light' pilot on Family Violence and in listening, exploring, supporting and standing up for an Indigenous Voice was also heartening. As a councillor, I am most heartened by the skill, passion, effectiveness and resilience of the tiny operational team that achieves heroic outcomes on the smell of a rag that has vanishingly small amounts of residual oil associated with it. Your efforts in pulling projects, services and conferences together, supporting each other as priorities and capacity collide, is inspirational.

Sr Nicole Rotaru RSM

In November 2023 Vicky Ward, Minister for Prevention of Family Violence launched the Report of *Shining A Light*. She stressed that 'the prevention of domestic and family violence is contingent on strong, local communities'. She noted, 'This is a conversation that has to happen across communities and the work that you have done, with your 127 participants and conversations is really important, because those conversations will ripple out and will lead to other conversations. Every home should be safe, and these conversations are part of the way of delivering that.'

As a way of continuing to deliver those conversations the Sale Diocese *Shining A Light* Committee is in the process of exploring ways of 'Spreading the Light' including offering workshops throughout the diocese for all community members. In his video pastoral message to the Sale Diocese Community in November, Bishop Greg Bennett said, "Let us build places that are safe. Let us be mindful of places where women and children live in harm. May we work together to build the reign of God which is love." The CSSV and Sale Diocese partnership demonstrates a rock solid commitment to the ongoing awareness raising and the prevention of Domestic and Family Violence.

Felicity Rorke

Whilst there were many significant moments from the 2023 year with the CSSV Council the most memorable to me were the Indigenous Voice to Parliament webinar series and the long-awaited launch of the *Shining a Light, Sale Pilot Program Evaluation Report Launch*.

The powerful Voice webinar series was consistently insightful, informative and challenging. Whilst the outcome of the Voice referendum was incredibly disappointing, the solidarity amongst the presenters and the attendees gave us hope that there is a way forward that will see at least some of the hoped-for outcomes for our First Nations people. If our governments are brave enough, I commend the continued work that CSSV undertake in this area and as a Catholic organisation the Good Samaritan Inn will do all we can, within our capacity, to support the intent of the Voice.

The other 'moment' was the launch of the *Shining A Light* program launch. To have the wise and caring Bishop Greg and the very newly appointed Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence, Vicki Ward launch this program was particularly reassuring. I was proud to be able to attend and help facilitate the launch and support Nicole's work and the commitment from the Sale diocese to address family violence and begin working on prevention strategies. I continue to be heartened by the fact that we have a robust group of CSSV members attending the Domestic (& Family) Violence Working Group and hope that this continues to garner interest and inspiration with more parishes across Victoria.

I am inspired by CSSV's small team's ability to produce high quality and far-reaching advocacy work in such critical areas across Victoria's social and community services system.

Who We Are

As the peak body for Catholic community service organisations in Victoria, Catholic Social Services Victoria (CSSV) works to support its members in fulfilling the Gospel imperatives to stand with and serve those who are disadvantaged, marginalised and vulnerable. CSSV also aims to advance the ministry of Catholic charitable and social services through promoting a contemporary vision of the Church's social mission within the Church and its agencies and ministries.

CSSV draws on the rich heritage of Catholic Social Teaching and the experience of our member organisations as we shape our response to issues facing Victorians. This places the principles of human dignity, the common good, solidarity and subsidiarity as foundational to a truly good society, approach to policy and advocacy. Through paying attention to the pressures and causes of injustice and inequality, CSSV aims to give voice to the experiences and struggles of people living on the margins and understand the most suitable approaches to service delivery and advocacy.

Coordination, collaboration, and cooperation are core to CSSV's approach. By convening regular working groups and committees and consulting widely, we are able to gather and harness the collective wisdom and experiences of our members and others for positive social impact. This could be in the form of partnership for funding or service delivery, a united voice on a campaign, or facilitating direct conversation with government and other decision-makers. Or it could be indirectly, by nurturing inter-organisational relationships through providing opportunity for connection at a range of platforms and hosted events. CSSV provides meaningful opportunities to reflect critically on the 'why' of social service, exploring contemporary Catholic responses to social issues, drawing on the deep wisdom of past work. Our projects, programs and platforms aim to inspire the mission of our members and others as they undertake their own work of ministry and service, and create avenues for coordinated action which strengthens the ability of Catholic social services to collectively make a positive contribution to society. Our dream is a compassionate and just society, transformed by love.

CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF VICTORIA

4 dioceses with 300 parishes
Serving 1.3 million Catholics

Catholic Social Services Victoria



CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES VICTORIA COUNCIL

6 elected by members
4 appointed by the Bishops of Victoria
1 appointed by Catholic Religious Australia
Chair appointed by Council

22 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Individuals and organisations sharing in our vision and mission.

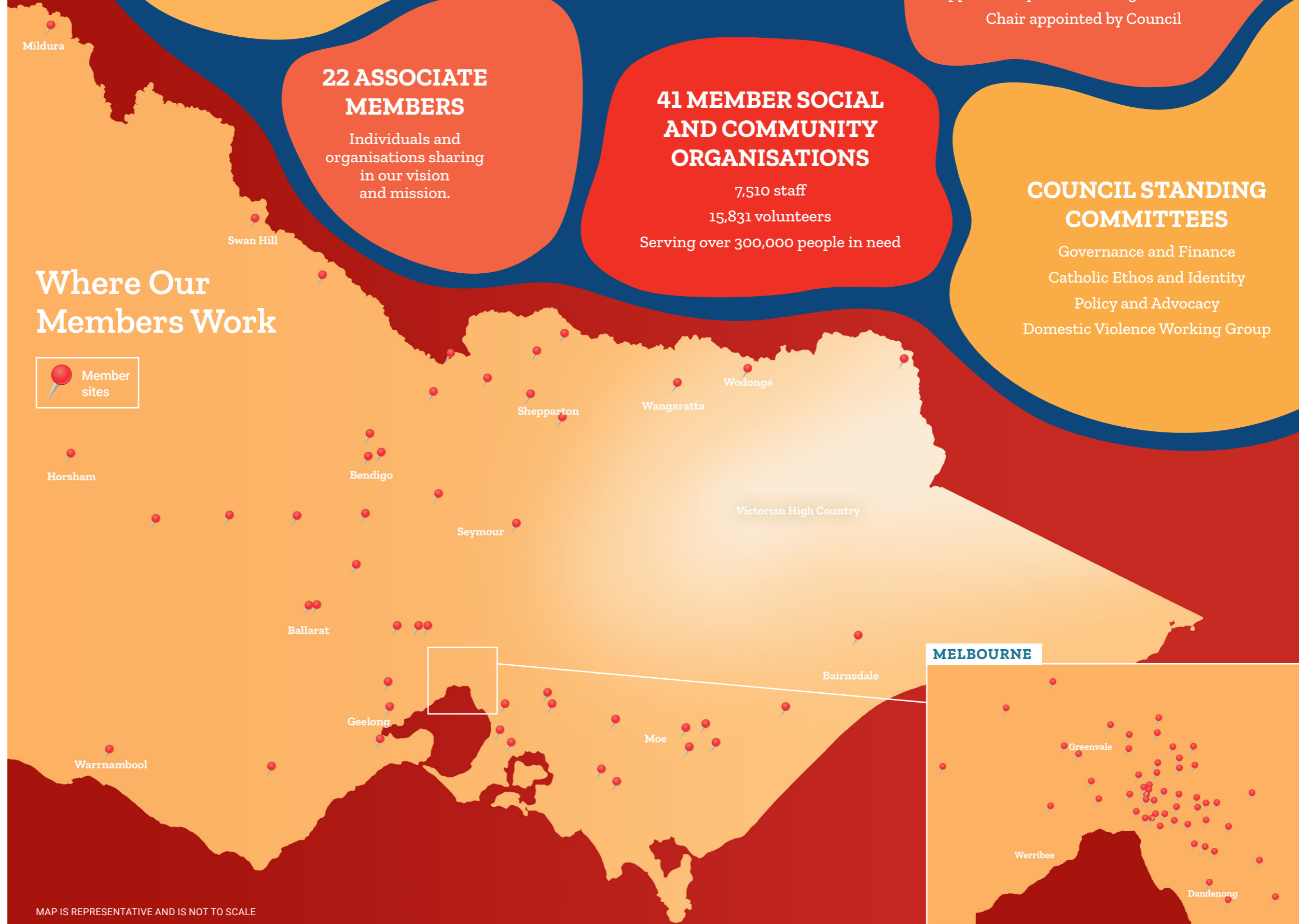
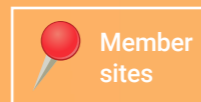
41 MEMBER SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

7,510 staff
15,831 volunteers
Serving over 300,000 people in need

COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES

Governance and Finance
Catholic Ethos and Identity
Policy and Advocacy
Domestic Violence Working Group

Where Our Members Work

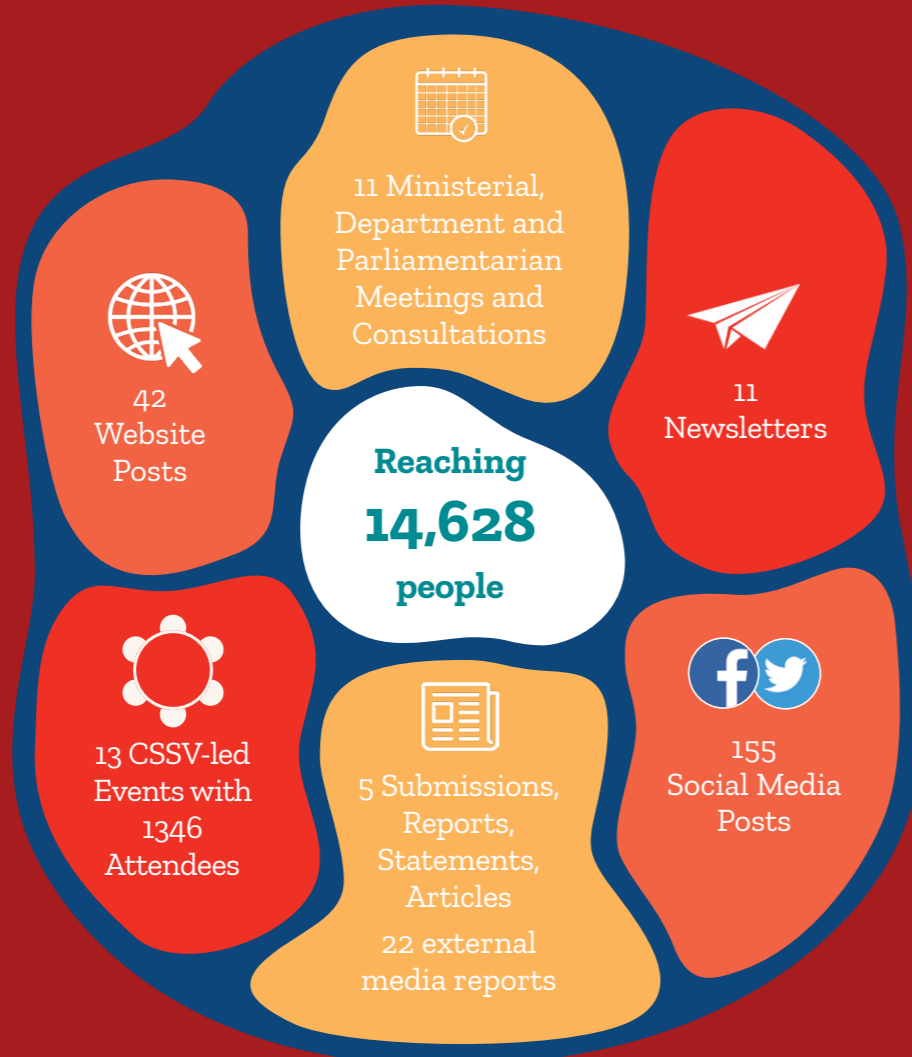


MAP IS REPRESENTATIVE AND IS NOT TO SCALE

What We Did

CSSV focusses its efforts across three broad area streams: Policy and advocacy, Catholic formation and leadership, and network development and member support. Within each of these areas, CSSV either leads collaborative projects and advocacy among its members and the broader social services sector and Victorian parishes, or joins with others to lend its capacity, knowledge and expertise to important issues that fall within its scope of work. Some key events and outputs in these areas in 2023 include:

2023: Our Output



CATHOLIC FORMATION & LEADERSHIP

- Hosted 4 Emerging Young Leaders Gatherings
- Released public statement *Relentlessly Pursuing Reconciliation*
- Online prayer and discussion gathering for the referendum on Constitutional recognition of First's Peoples of Australia through a Voice to Parliament
- Published and launched the evaluation report *Shining A Light* on domestic and family violence
- Hosted the National Catholic social services conference steering committee



POLICY & ADVOCACY PUBLICATIONS

- *Relentlessly Pursuing Reconciliation*
- Yoorrook Justice Commission submission regarding youth detention
- CSSV Victorian Budget Submission 2023
- Houses as Homes: Immediate responses to the housing crisis Discussion Paper
- *Shining A Light* Pilot Program Evaluation Report

Featured Work

While working across a broad range of projects, service development, events and social issues throughout the year, these below pieces of work exemplify CSSV's activity in support of making positive change across our strategic policy and advocacy focus areas of justice and equity, domestic violence as well as homelessness and housing.

Working for Reconciliation

With CSSV's Council seeing justice for First Nations Peoples as core to a just and compassionate society, CSSV committed considerable resources into meaningful engagement in the lead up to the referendum on constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples through a Voice to Parliament. CSSV sought to deeply consider and engage with the proposal put forward and collaborate with a broad variety of organisations in order to have wide-ranging conversations throughout the Catholic community – to provide opportunity for education and discernment. In conjunction with a variety of groups, CSSV held several events to provide learning and discussion opportunities that concentrated on listening to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices, in line with the Bishops' Social Justice Statement *Listen, Learn, Love*.

CSSV was involved in the weekly *One Journey, Together* working group meetings along with Caritas Australia in support of NATSICC as they developed a new website and range of resources for discernment on reconciliation and the referendum question in light of Catholic faith and tradition. This work included gathering supportive statements from 28 Catholic organisations.

While the referendum outcome left many greatly disappointed and all of us with much to reflect on, the cross-sector support and cooperation that was galvanised during this time has created a platform for further engagement, conversation and action into the future. CSSV remains committed to the Uluru Statement, deep listening, to truth-telling and to working towards justice and reconciliation so that all might flourish in Australia.



- Developed and promoted our position statement *Relentlessly Pursuing Reconciliation*.
- Letters written and position statement sent to every Victorian MP in Federal Parliament, urging principled and respectful debate during the Voice Referendum.
- Attracted 400 registrations for webinar series from across Catholic social services, engaged leading Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal thinkers on the referendum and over 300 attendees to other events or forums organised.
- Co-hosted the launch of Fr Frank Brennan SJ's book *An Indigenous Voice to Parliament: Considering a constitutional bridge* at the Cardinal Knox Centre.
- Attended weekly meetings with NATSICC and Caritas Australia.
- Contributed to the development and promotion of the website indigenousvoice.church and related resources including supported Conversation Guide and prayers.
- Joined and supported the Allies for Uluru Coalition.
- Made a Submission to the Yoorrook Justice Commission.

CSSV closely collaborated and partnered with a wide variety of organisations in this work including:

- Australian Jesuits
- Caritas Australia
- Catholic Health Australia
- Catholic Social Services Australia
- Edmund Rice Centre
- Garratt Publishing
- Jesuit Social Services
- Mercy Health
- Naarm Law Students on the Voice
- National Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council
- St Vincent de Paul Society National Council

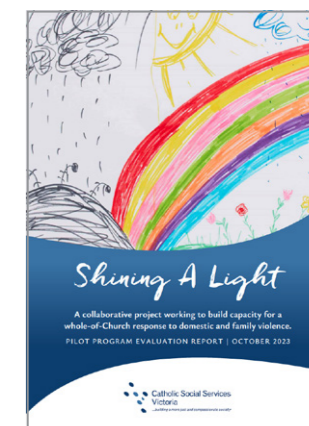
Shining A Light in the Diocese of Sale – Building capacity for domestic violence prevention and response

Evaluation and Report Launch

2022 saw the completion of the 'Shining A Light' pilot program conducted in the Catholic Diocese of Sale as the beginnings of a Church-wide response to the prevalence of family and domestic violence. In 2023, the data collection that was built into this work was analysed through the development of an evaluation report that was launched in Warragul in November.

The launch coincided with a weekend of special liturgies and activities throughout the Diocese of Sale aimed at working towards ensuring the entire Church community is equipped to respond to and, ultimately, to prevent family and domestic violence. Minister Vicki Ward, the Victorian Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence, was present to launch the report alongside Bishop of Sale, Most Rev. Greg Bennet.

The evaluation report showed that the program was successful in its ability to garner support at various levels, including the contributions of sector experts, Church clergy and leadership engagement, as well as local organising and attendance. Through analysis of participant evaluations, the program was found to be effective in achieving its goals of increasing awareness of the causes and impacts of family and domestic violence as well as appropriate community-context responses. The report also made a number of recommendations aimed at cementing and broadening the program's impacts, both in the Diocese of Sale and beyond. Through the Domestic Violence Working Group, CSSV will continue to support the Diocese of Sale as the program moves into its second phase and will actively promote the possibilities of the program elsewhere. The evaluation report was sent to every Diocese across Australia, as we look to encourage and support a whole-of-Church approach to this issue.



Outcomes of the 2022 Shining A Light Workshops

- 7 workshops held
- 127 participants
- Participants included Sale Diocese clergy, parish council members, educators, safeguarding officers, St Vincent de Paul Society members, nurses and others.

Addressing the Housing Crisis

The current crisis in housing and homelessness is an overwhelming concern in Australia, with many who are most impacted by the chronic lack of public and affordable housing being supported by several CSSV member organisations. CSSV made contributions to this critical area in 2023 in the following ways:

- Released *Houses as Homes: Immediate responses to the housing crisis* centred on ways that under-utilised housing stock may be made available to those struggling to secure a home, along with recommendations related to the inclusion of community support initiatives in new housing developments, and the provision of additional funding and temporary housing in regional and rural areas.
- CSSV attended several meetings with Victorian Government personnel, including with relevant ministers and parliamentary secretaries following the release of the paper. Shortly after, the Victorian Government announced the introduction of a short stay accommodation levy in its housing statement, and later, the extension of taxes on under-utilised premises – both being key recommendations from the discussion paper.
- Held a panel discussion at our Annual Dinner in August. This panel discussion featured the Hon. Bronwyn Pike AM (CEO of Uniting Vic.Tas), Sonya Smart (CEO of VMCH), and Zach Smith (National Secretary of the CFMEU – Construction). Core features of the discussion were the need for investment in social and affordable housing, the role of the construction sector in the housing crisis, an update on a broad ranging new campaign promoting a new way of gaining revenue for housing, and how to ensure accessible housing meets the needs of the whole person. The conversation sparked creative avenues for policy advocacy and innovative possibilities for social services that work towards a housing stock that is accessible to all Victorians.



Housing policy developments, as advocated by CSSV:

- Expansion of the Vacant Residential Land Tax from selected LGA's in metropolitan Melbourne to apply throughout Victoria:
 - An increased progressive tax rate; 1% of capital improved value in first year of vacancy, 2% in the second year, and 3% in the third and following years
 - Unimproved/undeveloped land included under the tax
- Short Stay Levy:
 - A rate of 7.5 per cent of short stay accommodation platforms' revenue
 - Revenue from the levy will be put towards social and affordable housing

CSSV Committees

Governance and Finance Committee

Anne Astin, Outgoing Chair (until April)
Board Chair, Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand

John Murphy, Chair (after April)
Bishop Nominee, Diocese of Sandhurst

James Findlay, Treasurer
General Manager, Finance, Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand

Tony Fitzgerald

Peter J Hudson
Company Secretary, Eye & Ear Hospital Melbourne

Catholic Ethos & Identity Committee

Cath Garner, Outgoing Chair (until April)
Chair, MSC International Health Commission

Deacon Mark Kelly, Incoming Chair
Bishop Nominee, Diocese of Sale

Robina Bradley
CEO and Company Secretary, St Mary's House of Welcome

Jenny Glare
General Manager, Heritage and Information Service, MacKillop Family Services

Bridget O'Shannassy
General Manager, VMCH

Neal Murphy
Director of Mission Integration, St John of God Accord

Policy and Advocacy Committee

Nick Halfpenny, Chair
General Manager Policy and Innovation, MacKillop Family Services

Nick Collins
Group Director, Client Services, CatholicCare Victoria

Rahel Den Elzen
Research Policy and Advocacy Officer, Jesuit Social Services

Gavin Dufty
Manager - Policy and Research, St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria

Suralini Fernando
Senior Policy and Advocacy Advisor, Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand

Olivia Killeen
Communications and Social Policy Officer, Sacred Heart Mission

Vin Martin

David Murray
General Manager, Policy and Advocacy Jesuit Social Services

Emma O'Neill
Senior Policy and Advocacy Advisor, Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand

Domestic Violence Working Group

Felicity Rorke, Chair
Executive Director, Good Samaritan Inn

Sherry Balcombe
Manager, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria

Deanna Davis
General Manager, Children's Contact Service, CatholicCare Victoria

Sue Dornom
Southern Central Council President, St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria

Melissa Halliday
Community Development Team, ACRATH

Deacon Mark Kelly
Catholic Diocese of Sale

Brooke Kilborn
Education Officer, Child Safety, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools

Marisa Lo Bartolo
Policy and Advocacy Advisor, Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand

Fr Peter Matheson
Retired Priest, Archdiocese of Melbourne

Sr Nicole Rotaru RSM
Sister of Mercy

Sharon Sherwood
Chief of Mental Health and Cabrini Outreach, Cabrini Health

Dalal Smiley
Chief Executive Office, Wellsprings for Women

Rachel Thomson
General Manager, The Men's Project, Jesuit Social Services

Matt Tyler
Executive Director, Community and Systems Impact, Jesuit Social Services

Rachel Williams
Program Manager, Specialist Family Violence Services, VincentCare

Acknowledging Contribution

It is with gratitude that we acknowledge the contributions of many people from across our Catholic community and beyond, who have generously shared their deep expertise and passion to support the work we do in striving for a more just and compassionate society. The following list contains the names of many of those people who have contributed to our Council, working groups, committees, events and research projects throughout 2023. We very much appreciate all your time and efforts.

Emerging Leaders Network Organising Committee

Tiffany Davis
Phillipa McIlroy
Mark Monahan

Research Assistance

Sanne Oostermeijer
Stefan Gigacz

Event Speakers, Partners, Co-convenors and Volunteers

Bishop Greg Bennet	Sr Joan Healy RSJ AM	The Hon. Bronwyn Pike AM
Bishop Paul Bird CSsR	Deacon Mark Kelly	Felicity Rorke
Fr Joe Caddy AM	Justin Lachal	Sr Nicole Rotaru RSM
Bernie Cronin	Kerryn Lewis	Sonya Smart
Margaret Cronin	Michael McGirr	Zach Smith
Siji Dominic	Phillipa McIlroy	Samuel Tyrer
Jenny Glare	Teresa Paulet	Vicki Ward MP
		John Wiseman

The following particularly contributed to referendum-related events:

- Craig Arthur, National Administrator, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC)
- Sherry Balcombe, Manager, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria and NATSICC member
- Fr Frank Brennan SJ, Australian Jesuit priest, human rights lawyer and academic
- Uncle Ron Briggs, Senior Aboriginal Cultural Advisor, Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand
- Virginia Bourke, Chair, Mercy Health Boards, also Pro-Chancellor ACU, Director at Catholic Health Australia (CHA) & Director at Caritas Australia
- Melissa Castan, Director of the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law, Monash University
- Vicki Clark OAM, CSSV Life Member
- Helen Christensen, Aboriginal Education Officer, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools
- Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli, Archdiocese of Melbourne
- Anne Dennis, Councillor, New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC)
- Nicolas Emili, a Kokatha man, law student, Edmund Rice Camps volunteer
- Mark Gaetani, President, National Council, St Vincent de Paul Society
- Bishop Charles Gauci, Diocese of Darwin & NT
- David Hughan, Garratt Publishing
- Jason Kara, CEO, Catholic Health Australia
- John Lochowiak, Chair, NATSICC
- Esmail Manahan, Director, Aboriginal Service Development, MacKillop Family Services
- Daniel Pritchard, Social Justice and Youth Advocacy Officer, Edmund Rice Centre
- Francis Sullivan, Chair, Catholic Social Services Australia
- Sabrina Stevens, Youth Participation Coordinator, Caritas Australia and NATSICC member
- Moira Negline and the Naarm Law Students on the Voice

Tribute to Sr Toni Matha ibvm AM

2023 saw the passing of Sr Toni Matha ibvm AM. Sr Toni, a Loreto Sister who contributed greatly throughout her life in the areas of education and social services, was instrumental in the early years of CSSV, being invited by Fr Kevin Mogg to help build a cohesive Catholic social services sector. She became the inaugural Executive Officer of Catholic Social Services Melbourne (as CSSV was then known) and held this role from 1980 to 1986.

These early years saw Fr Kevin and Sr Toni exploring opportunities for partnerships, auspicing, sharing knowledge and mentoring in order to build a supportive base where all agencies could learn from one another, fostering a more unified Catholic community sector. This gave rise to a strong platform from which to speak out on issues of disadvantage. Sr Toni's collaborative style and relational abilities contributed tremendously to the building of this network which became an important support to many Catholic social services organisations in the 1990s era of government rationalisation of community and Church services. Her legacy endures to the present as CSSV continues to seek to create opportunities for collaboration and cooperation across Catholic community services, and to advocate for sector-wide concerns. Sr Toni Matha was recognised as a CSSV Life Member in 2009 for her work linking education and service, her work for the St Vincent de Paul Society, and her contribution to the development of Catholic social services through CSSV.

Her warmth, energy and mission-focus continue to inspire us today.



Finance Report

Catholic Social Services Victoria: Finances from 2023 and previous periods

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Income					
Membership fees	\$171,232	\$150,016	\$140,968	\$116,641	\$91,255
Grants from regional dioceses	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$102,000	\$72,873
Support from Archdiocese of Melbourne	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$150,000	\$200,000	\$299,900
Other	\$43,081	\$35,466	\$6,807	\$201,541	\$74,201
Total Income	\$429,313	\$400,481	\$387,775	\$620,182	\$538,229
Expenditure					
Staff and related costs	\$292,873	\$267,367	\$290,670	\$334,186	\$403,569
Other operating costs	\$90,078	\$110,931	\$95,691	\$162,918	\$134,660
Total expenditure	\$382,951	\$378,298	\$386,461	\$497,105	\$538,229
Net result	\$46,362	\$22,183	\$1,314	\$123,077	-

Notes

Financial contributions from all Dioceses, member organisations fees and other stakeholders towards the ongoing operations of Catholic Social Services Victoria (CSSV) are very much appreciated.

CSSV generated an operating surplus of \$46,362 for the 2023 year. This was largely due to staff budget underspend due to delays in recruitment and limited capacity of appropriate consultants to fill gaps as the broader workforce environment remains challenging. This, along with decreases in costs associated with accommodation and systems management and continued conscientious and carefully regulated spending meant for a modest surplus for 2023. CSSV as at year end 2023 holds \$194,289 in net assets. This figure includes \$58,556 specifically available for use in future Catholic social service joint conferences.

Revenue

Membership fee revenue increased primarily due to overall budget growth of a number of member organisations in the network, moving member fee levels accordingly. Membership fees made up 40% of revenue for CSSV.

The Regional Victorian Dioceses contribution (21% revenue) and Archdiocese of Melbourne (29%) held steady their contribution to CSSV as per previous agreement. CSSV activities that generated revenue (10% revenue) was mostly through ticket sales and sponsorships related to the annual dinner, events and the 2024 national conference.

Expenditure

Total expenditure for 2023 was \$382,951, which was an increase of \$4,653 (1.2% increase) on 2022. Changes in expenditure are largely due to staff changes and the different program and project needs year on year.

A copy of the full financial statement for CSSV will be made available via contacting office@css.org.au.

Donations are gratefully received to the organisation. Please don't hesitate to contact the CSSV office via office@css.org.au

Our Members

Bishop Members of Catholic Social Services Victoria

Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli, Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne
 Bishop Paul Bird CSsR, Catholic Diocese of Ballarat
 Bishop Shane Mackinlay, Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst
 Bishop Greg Bennet, Catholic Diocese of Sale

Organisation Members of Catholic Social Services Victoria

Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria
 Assisi Centre
 ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans)
 Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project
 Cabrini Outreach
 CatholicCare Victoria
 Catholic Women's League Victoria and Wagga Wagga (CWLWVV)
 Corazon
 Corpus Christi Community Greenvale
 Don Bosco Youth Centre and Hostel
 Edmund Rice Camps Victoria
 Edmund Rice Community and Refugee Services
 Edmund Rice Services – Mt Atkinson
 Good Samaritan Inn
 Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand
 House of Welcome Ballarat
 Jesuit Social Services
 JoCare
 John Pierce Centre
 Joseph's Corner
 Kewn Kreestha
 Keysborough Learning Centre
 Links and Consolidation Network (LinCoN)
 MacKillop Family Services
 Mary Aikenhead Ministries
 Missionary Sisters of Service
 Nazareth House – Sisters of Nazareth
 Order of Malta Hospice Home Care Victoria
 Pregnancy Assistance Frankston
 Rosies Oblate Youth Mission
 Sacred Heart Mission
 St John of God ACCORD
 St Joseph's Flexible Learning Centre
 St Joseph's Home for the Aged, Little Sisters of the Poor
 St Mary's House of Welcome
 St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria
 Vietnamese Catholic Family Mutual Assistance Network
 VincentCare Victoria
 VMCH
 Wellsprings for Women Inc
 Xavier Social Justice Network

Life Members of Catholic Social Services Victoria

Fr Kevin Mogg AM PE (Rest in Peace)
 Sr Toni Matha IBVM AM (Rest in Peace)
 Mr Bernie Geary OAM
 Ms Vicki Clark OAM
 Sr Joan Healy RSJ AM
 Mr David Beaver
 Sr Brigid Arthur CSB AO





**Catholic Social Services
Victoria**

...building a more just and compassionate society

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Our Auspicing Dioceses



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE



CATHOLIC DIOCESE
OF SANDHURST



CATHOLIC DIOCESE
OF BALLARAT



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
OF SALE