What can we do about Reconciliation?

Healing broken relationships, making reparations for injustices, and coming together after divisions are principles of Catholic tradition.

Reconciliation with First Peoples is a shared responsibility that calls us to listen deeply and work together to honour truth and dignity while paving the way for a better future for all Victorians.

We need united support for Victoria's Treaty

We are asking the Victorian Parliament to return to bipartisan support for Treaty.

We need delivery of the Yoorook Justice Commission recommendations

We are asking the Victorian Parliament to implement recommendations from this truth-telling process about our past and present.

We need support for Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations

We are asking the Victorian Government to support First Peoples-led services and innovative service provision.

We want a more just and compassionate Victoria

'Just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' (Mt 25:40)

Catholic Social Services Victoria (CSSV) is the peak body for over 40 Catholic social service and community organisations. With our members, we stand with and serve disadvantaged and marginalised communities. More about us: css.org.au

Together, we can build a brighter future for all

Join with others of goodwill as we work together for a more just and compassionate Victoria.

For the 2026 election we are asking candidates and government to:

- put the common good at the centre of government decisions
- do something about the failures of current systems
- consider both the immediate needs of people and the deeper yearnings of all humanity.

What can you do?

You can talk to political leaders about the kind of society you want to live in, today and in the future.

You can:

- share this brochure with others
- meet with people in your parish or community to talk about the issues
- talk to your local member and candidates about the issues and what they will do. You might write to them, meet with them or go to 'Meet the candidate' sessions
- write to the newspaper about your views on these issues
- reflect, consider, discern and pray.

Consider the most vulnerable people in your community when casting your vote.

Authorised by CSSV, 383 Albert St, East Melbourne 3002

How can you advocate for dignity and hope?

Priorities from Catholic social services for the 2026 Victorian Election.

"God has a special place in his heart for those who are discriminated against and oppressed, and he asks us, his Church, to make a decisive and radical choice in favour of the weakest."

Pope Leo, *Dilexi Te*, 16

Catholic Social Services Victoria

...building a more just and compassionate society

How can we help families and communities flourish?

The Church's social teachings show us that every person is capable of growth and contribution, deserving the support they need to be part of family and community life.

By choosing early support, participation, and care for those most at risk, Victoria can be a safer, more hope-filled community for all.

We need to help young people on the margins

We are asking the Victorian Government to:

- raise the age of criminal responsibility to 14
- design juvenile detention for rehabilitation, reflection and healing
- do more early intervention and prevention.

We need more support for people with disability

We are asking the Victorian Government to fill the service gap for people impacted by federal NDIS changes, including community participation and psycho-social support.

We need to give children the best chance to thrive

We are asking the Victorian Government to make the most of Victoria's Maternal Child Health network to broaden childhood development assessments.

Screening for social needs along with health and wellbeing checks can help prevent entrenched disadvantage.

How can we help more people have homes?

A home is where a life is built, for good health, work, learning, family and belonging. Yet a home has become one of the hardest things for the poorest among us to hold onto.

More than 57,000 households are waiting on the Victorian Housing Register. Many are in the most urgent need: women and children fleeing violence, people sleeping in cars, families moving from one insecure rental to the next.

We need a government that:

- builds homes for those who need them most
- treats housing as the foundation of a flourishing life rather than a commodity
- works with every willing partner, including the faith sector to identify under-utilised land that can be used for homes.

We need more public and community housing

We are asking the Victorian Government to invest in 80,000 social homes over the next decade, including a 50% increase in social housing on public high-rise redevelopment sites.

We need genuinely affordable homes

We are asking the Victorian Government to define 'affordable housing' so it is affordable for people struggling in the private market, like low-paid essential workers.

Find out more
You can use this QR code to read *Dignity, hope and drawing closer to the margins: CSSV priorities for the 61st Parliament of Victoria*

How can we help women and children be free from violence?

Faith communities play a core part in the lives of Victorians, and are one place where we can work towards preventing gendered violence.

A Victoria free from violence is everyone's responsibility. It begins with funding services, and continues with work in communities to change attitudes and behaviours.

We need the whole community to be part of prevention

We are asking the Victorian Government to commit to coordinated prevention, recognising faith communities as integral to building a culture of peace and violence prevention.

We need respect in relationships

We are asking the Victorian Government to further develop the Respectful Relationships program. Families must part of the conversation so what is taught can be reinforced and relates to their cultural and faith settings.

We need support, protection and healing

We are asking the Victorian Government to:

- resource refuges for safety and healing for all who experience domestic and family violence, regardless of visa status
- increase investment to support victim survivors, including housing and programs that support people to stay safe in their home.

Front image: *Homeless Jesus* outside Newman College, Melbourne