



# Jesuit Social Services

Annual Report  
2021 – 2022



**Jesuit  
Social Services**  
Building a Just Society



The COVID-19 pandemic has brought many preexisting social and economic problems in Australia to the fore and disproportionately impacted already marginalised people and communities.

Responses to the pandemic proved that while these issues are complex, they are not beyond resolution.

A more just and humane society is possible – now we need ideas, policies, practices and resources to reduce inequality, prejudice and exclusion and which, ultimately, reflect and build a more compassionate and just Australia.

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Julie Edwards  
CEO, JESUIT SOCIAL SERVICES

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# About Jesuit Social Services

Jesuit Social Services is a social change organisation working to build a just society where all people can live to their full potential. We 'do' and we 'influence'. We accompany people and communities to foster and regenerate the web of relationships that sustain us all – across people, place and planet; and we work to change policies, practices, ideas and values that perpetuate inequality, prejudice and exclusion.

The work of Jesuit Social Services is informed by Catholic Social Teaching and our Jesuit tradition of respecting the preciousness of each human being, walking with the disregarded, and caring for the earth.



## Our Vision

Building a just society.

## Our Mission

Standing in solidarity with those in need while expressing a faith that promotes justice.

## Our Values

- **Welcoming:** forming strong, faithful relationships
- **Discerning:** being reflective and strategic in all we do
- **Courageous:** standing up boldly to effect change

## Underpinning Principle

Build and promote healthy relationships between the interconnected ecosystem of people, place and planet which, when damaged, lead to disadvantage, poverty, inequality, prejudice and exclusion.

## Our Five Priorities

1. Removing the barriers that keep extremely marginalised people from meaningful participation in the community.
2. Build communities of justice by engaging and activating people and communities to effect positive change.
3. Promote gender justice and provide leadership so boys and men can be their best selves.
4. Ensure our people, practices and organisation reflect the diverse communities we live and work in.
5. Measure and communicate our impact, ensure financial sustainability and improve execution against our plans.



## Our Way of Working

The practice approach at Jesuit Social Services has five key domains:

1. Value self, others and the environment
2. Affirm goals and aspirations
3. Link to supports
4. Use skills and build capacity
5. Enhance civic participation

Progress on these domains is measured across 10 indicators. An example of these is shown above.

## Our Way of Proceeding

The day-to-day life of Jesuit Social Services brings together three sets of energies and systems:

**The human spirit** of the people who make up the Jesuit Social Services community.

**The practice framework** that ensures services and advocacy are informed by our values and align with our purpose, are evidence-based and effective.

**The business processes** that ensure people and services are resourced, developed and accountable.

**We strive for integrity** across all the domains of our activity and draw from our heritage to inform and nurture who we are (human spirit), how we 'do' and 'influence' (practice framework), and how we organise ourselves (business processes).

## CEO's Message

As we draw towards the end of another year impacted by COVID-19 and subsequent restrictions, it is heartening to reflect on the way that Jesuit Social Services has continued to meet the needs of marginalised people and communities across the past 12 months.

While some of our long-standing programs, including Jesuit Community College, Support After Suicide and the Homework Club again demonstrated agility to deliver services remotely as needed, we were also able to work in line with our heritage of 'living with one foot raised', ready to respond to new and emerging challenges.

In early 2022 we celebrated the first anniversary of the Ignatius Learning Centre, a Specialist Catholic Secondary School that provides a safe, holistic and therapeutic learning environment for a small number of boys who have been excluded from education – sometimes, for years. While much of the Ignatius Learning Centre's first 12 months of operation took place during lockdowns and restrictions, the school has become a trusted learning environment and students have highlighted the critical role it has played in helping them to lead positive and productive lives.

Another initiative established as a direct COVID-19 response, the Maribyrnong Community Residential Facility, is now recognised as a crucial post-release program providing housing and wrap-around support to people who would otherwise be homeless after exiting prison. An evaluation conducted in 2021 found that 90 per cent of participants did not re-offend during their stay, and close to 60 per cent of people who exited the program did so into stable housing, such as public housing or a private rental. We were pleased to see this program funded for a further two years in the most recent Victorian State Budget.

Our ability to go where the need is greatest was also shown in Western Sydney, where we partnered with NSW Health to establish a COVID-19 vaccination clinic in early 2022. This service administered thousands of vaccine doses to adults and children, with our relationships in local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities vital in providing warm referrals and ensuring people felt comfortable and supported across all steps of the process.

**Julie Edwards**  
CEO, Jesuit Social  
Services



In Melbourne, our Ecological Justice Hub continued to provide weekly food relief to local people experiencing disadvantage throughout periods of lockdown, and expanded this work to deliver culturally appropriate hot meals and fresh groceries to dozens of Afghan families who fled crisis in search of a better life in Australia.

In addition to our 'doing' work on the ground with people and communities, which has been the backbone of Jesuit Social Services for 45 years, we continued our 'influencing' work to advocate for more humane systems and processes to reduce inequality and allow people to reach their potential.

In late 2021 we released *Dropping off the Edge 2021*, the latest in our series of landmark reports mapping locational disadvantage across every community in Australia. For the first time, the report included indicators relating to environmental disadvantage and generational disadvantage. The report ultimately demonstrated that a small number of communities continue to experience complex and entrenched disadvantage. This series of reports is a roadmap for governments and decision makers to ensure that solutions are tailored, long-term and developed in partnership with communities themselves.

We also partnered with NAAJA (North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency) to hold the fifth National Justice Symposium in Alice Springs and online in July 2021. The Men's Project delivered workshops about healthy masculinity to almost 4,000 school staff, students, and parents at primary and secondary schools, drawing on our Man Box research into the attitudes and behaviour of young Australian men.

I extend my deep gratitude to our donors and supporters who have continued to commit to our work during this challenging time. We thank you for your ongoing support and look forward to reconnecting in person in 2023. I also thank all our staff, volunteers and supporters. With your help, we can continue to strive towards our vision of building a just society.

## Chair's Message

This year marks the 45th anniversary of the establishment of Jesuit Social Services. Since the beginning, we have sought to meet the needs of people and communities living on the margins, starting with those involved in the criminal justice system who, in the words of Father Brosnan, need three things when they exit prison: 'a place to live that is decent, a job they can handle, and lastly, and most important of all, friendship.'

Jesuit Social Services has always been a solutions-finding organisation. Along the journey, we noticed the interconnected nature of many social justice issues. Many of the people we worked with who had contact with the justice system were also experiencing mental health problems, or barriers to education or employment, or were both perpetrators and victims of violence. That's why we have expanded our work over time to now span six separate but interrelated pillars.

Our innovation has never stopped. In early 2022 we celebrated the first anniversary of the Ignatius Learning Centre, a Specialist Catholic Secondary School that provides a safe, holistic and therapeutic learning environment for a small number of boys on community orders who have been excluded from education – sometimes for years. The school has become a trusted learning environment and students have highlighted the critical role it has played in helping them to lead positive and productive lives.

Through the recent COVID-19 period we, like all organisations, have been challenged to adapt and evolve the way we help people. As we continue in the Jesuit tradition of having 'one foot raised' ready to respond to new and emerging challenges, we were pleased to find new ways to support social inclusion at times of great isolation.

In Western Sydney, we partnered with NSW Health to establish a COVID-19 vaccination clinic in early 2022. This service administered thousands of vaccine doses to adults and children, with our relationships in local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities vital in providing warm referrals and ensuring people felt comfortable and supported across all steps of the process.

**Patricia Faulkner**  
Chair, Jesuit Social  
Services



In Melbourne, our Ecological Justice Hub continued to provide weekly food relief to local people experiencing disadvantage throughout periods of lockdown, and expanded this work to deliver culturally appropriate hot meals and fresh groceries to dozens of Afghan families who fled crisis in search of a better life in Australia.

We continue to draw on the lived experiences of those we work with on the margins to advocate for new services and approaches to those in need.

This includes our ongoing campaigns including Worth A Second Chance, in support of more humane approaches towards young people in trouble, and the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (which we co-convene with Jesuit Refugee Service Australia) to influence hearts and minds for compassion towards refugees and people seeking asylum.

In the last 12 months, we have also released the latest iteration of our landmark Dropping off the Edge research into locational disadvantage across Australia, which gives us our most comprehensive understanding to date of the factors that limit outcomes and opportunities for disadvantaged communities.

The support of Governments and donors has always been crucial in our work. In our 45th year we observe that needs continue to grow – increasingly people are needing help to deal with loneliness, trauma, secure housing and jobs.

I would like to thank our funders and donors for their continuing support of our work. My thanks to CEO Julie Edwards and the wonderful staff of Jesuit Social Services. In addition, my thanks go to the Board of Jesuit Social Services. One of our Board members, Margarita Frederico, retired from Jesuit Social Services this year after 16 years of service. We are grateful for all she gave to us.

## Provincial's Message

Once again, I would like to thank all at Jesuit Social Services for the manner in which you have accompanied people at a challenging time in their lives. Your advocacy for them, and the research on which it has been based, have been fruitful in illustrating better ways to respond to their needs. Your work and the Ignatian values that you espouse have been a source of pride for me and my brother Jesuits.

I know that the constraints imposed by COVID-19 in recent years have been demanding for you in your own lives. It has been difficult for you to work face to face with your colleagues, and also challenging to come together as a team. When you bear the pain and frustrations of those conditions, of course, you share more deeply in the hardships of the people whom you accompany. I thank you for the generous and creative manner in which you have met these challenges.

When we live in a time of pandemic, a time of war, of the breakdown of relationships between nations, together with the challenges of climate change, and the inadequacy our political systems – it is easy to succumb to darkness. I am delighted that you have embraced light over darkness, and that your work has shown what a difference that can make in our society.

I was struck by the growth in such testing times of your community programs, the happy beginnings of the Ignatius Learning Centre and the Centre for Just Places, and the expansion of The Men's Project, just a few of your works. They are also a tribute to the generosity and energy of your staff and to your well-grounded and respectful advocacy.

Fr Quyen Vu SJ  
Jesuit Provincial



In particular I have been pleased to see that your patient and persistent advocacy has borne fruit in the Maribyrnong Community Residential Facility program, which provides accommodation and support for men released from prison. It will help break the cycle in which people are imprisoned. They may lose contact with the people and places that gave them support and consequently reoffend, and again be imprisoned.

We Jesuits are grateful to you for walking with young people on the fringe of society. Their voices in this Annual Report speak powerfully about the urgency and attractiveness of the Apostolic Priorities that we espouse. You have also built into your working relationships and processes the reflectiveness that lies at the heart of Ignatian spirituality. I hope that you will find ways to share with other Jesuit ministries what you have discovered.

# Our Impact



A participant at our social enterprise, Ignite Cafe, in Melbourne.

# Where We Work

Jesuit Social Services acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands on which we operate, and pay our respects to their Elders, past and present. We express our gratitude for their love and care and the land and all life.



Jesuit Social Services works in communities across Australia, including in the following locations:

## Victoria



Brunswick	
Box Hill	
Camberwell	Wurundjeri country
Carlton	
Collingwood	
Dandenong	Bunurong country
Flemington	Wurundjeri country
Frankston	Bunurong country
Kew	
Preston	
Richmond	Wurundjeri country
St Albans	
Sunshine	

## Northern Territory



Alice Springs	Arrente country
Darwin	Larrakia country
Katherine	Jawoyn, Dagoman and Wardaman country
Palmerston	Larrakia country
Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)	Eastern Arrente country
Tennant Creek	Waramungu country
Wadeye	Kardu Diminin country

## New South Wales



Burwood	
Willmot	Dharug country
Emerton	

# Our Social Impact

As a social change organisation working to build a just society where all people can live to their full potential, we demonstrate our impact across three spheres.

## Individuals flourishing in a web of healthy relationships

We engage respectfully with individuals experiencing disadvantage and hardship in a way that gives them opportunity to harness their full potential – providing people with hands-on support to connect with community services; build skills and capacity to live independently; establish and affirm their goals and aspirations; participate in their community; and strengthen their view of themselves and others.

In 2021-22, **12,510 people** received direct support from us across Victoria, New South Wales and the Northern Territory.

Justice and Crime Prevention



Education, Training and Employment



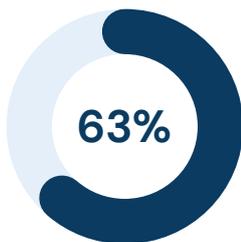
Settlement and Community Building



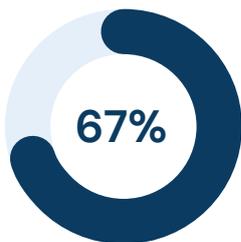
Mental Health and Wellbeing



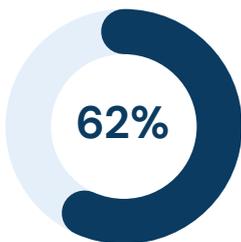
Positive change for participants who received individual support during their time with Jesuit Social Services were reported against the Our Way of Working practice framework, with participants reporting the following outcomes:



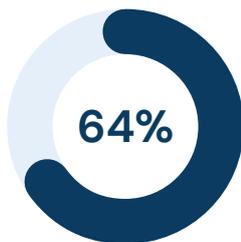
Improved view of the future



Improved use of supports



Improved view of self



Improved connection to family and significant people



Improved capacity to manage day-to-day

## Flourishing individuals



**12,510** people supported

**1,254** participants received **bereavement support after suicide** through counselling, regular follow-up or groupwork

**1,418** people supported through our **justice programs**

**2,137** people assisted to **access employment** through Jesuit Community College

**1,956** people **vaccinated against COVID-19** through our Western Sydney programs

**2,610** **Care Team Meeting** contacts between participants and staff recorded

**5,731** contacts recorded as **supporting family and community connectedness**

**90%** of students enrolled in Jesuit Community College **completed or are ongoing in their courses**

**75%** of participants assessed with **improved view of self after 12 months of support**

**75%** of people we worked with had an improved view of self after 12 months of support

## Communities empowered to participate and create positive change

We encourage and support local community members to participate, problem-solve, and have agency over their lives, through recreational, cultural, educational and entrepreneurial community development activities that provide new opportunities for community participation, strengthen people's skills, and facilitate community leadership and connection.

In 2021-22, **56,568 people** participated in community development activities across Victoria, New South Wales, the Northern Territory and online.

**19,574**

**patrons participated** in our social purpose enterprises through Ignite Café in Camberwell, The Store in Western Sydney, and Little Woods community art classes.

**10,322**

**people joined** us to promote gender justice through Unpacking The Man Box sessions and other presentations and events, including the National Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Symposium.

**14,216**

**people participated** in our community capacity building activities in Western Sydney community groups and schools, through Northern Territory remote outreach, Artful Dodgers Studios and Just Voices community engagement, and our suicide prevention activities.

**1,482**

**people contributed** to our social justice campaigns, the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA) and Worth A Second Chance, including Action for Afghanistan, youth justice webinars, and the National Justice Symposium.

**10,974**

**people participated** in Place and Ecology projects through participatory research, the launch of the Dropping Off The Edge 2021 report, the Ecological Justice Hub's distribution of food relief hampers to local community members, and more.

## Communities empowered to participate and create positive change

**10,322** people attended **gender justice presentations** convened by The Men's Project, including **4,673 participants in 70 Unpacking the Man Box sessions**

**5,994** **Dropping off the Edge 2021** report webinar **launch attendees**

**4,480** people heard participant **stories of resilience and survival** through the Just Voices speakers' program

**3,990** culturally appropriate **food hampers delivered** through the Ecological Justice Hub, **including 1,650 halal meals to Afghan refugees**

**3,775** participants from Western Sydney schools and communities **engaged in social justice activities**, learning and reflection

**1,500** drop-ins for **community connection and support** to the Hub at Mount DrUITt

**5,232** **purchases of affordable groceries** to support food security in Western Sydney

**4,673** participants in 70 Unpacking the Man Box sessions

**56,568** people empowered to participate



## Hearts, minds and systems changed towards love and justice

Through evidence-based direct advocacy to decision-makers and public-facing community engagement we address the policy and practice barriers that perpetuate inequality, prejudice and exclusion – encouraging and enabling governments to implement effective and humane policies and practices, so that all members of our community can flourish.

**328,207**

opportunities were created to influence social change by taking our advocacy to the community through media releases, digital communications channels, and website views.

**27,773**

views of our advocacy submissions, news stories, blogs and media releases through the Jesuit Social Services website and advocacy appeals.



## Changed hearts, minds and systems

**51,651** opportunities to engage with Worth A Second Chance online advocacy to promote a fairer youth justice system

**30,235** Facebook views of our social justice posts

**79,884** Google views of Ignite Café's social purpose: 'We don't employ people to make coffee, we make coffee to employ people'

**1,006** voices raised through CAPSA's Action for Afghanistan campaign



# What We Do





## Justice and Crime Prevention

Jesuit Social Services has been working for 45 years to help children, adults and families recover from trauma and disadvantage, develop their skills, strengthen their connections to community, and build their resilience so they can participate fully and flourish.

From the start, our work has had a particular focus on supporting people in contact with the criminal justice system, or those at risk of doing so.

As our work has expanded, so too have the opportunities to support people at a range of stages in their lives so they can engage with education, find work, have stable housing, connect with culture and be on a pathway to inclusion rather than marginalisation.

Increasingly, our work in justice is able to inform and to draw on our experience in other program areas including The Men's Project, our Centre for Just Places, and our well-established work in mental health, housing, settlement, education and employment. This reflects our understanding of the whole person, their connection to family and community and their various strengths and challenges.

## In 2021-2022 our work included:

- **ReConnect** – provided transitional support to high-risk and high-profile adults in the justice system.
- **Youth Justice Community Support Service** – operated seven days a week, every day of the year, providing intensive day and after-hours support to young people aged between 10 and 21 who intersect with the youth justice system.
- **Youth Justice Group Conferencing** – facilitated conversations based on restorative justice principles between people who have offended and others who have been impacted by the offending behaviour.
- **African Visitation and Mentoring Program** – worked with people of African Australian background involved with the criminal justice system, matching them with a mentor to support them through their sentence and post-release.
- **Maribyrnong Community Residential Facility Transitional Support Program** – provided case management support for men exiting prison who were residing at the facility.
- **Community Connections Mentoring** – matched volunteers from the community with young people involved in the child protection system, with the aim of creating lasting friendships and positive, stable role models for young people leaving care.
- **Crime Prevention Projects** – delivered intensive support to young people in contact with the justice system in the Melbourne areas of Dandenong, Broadmeadows and Wyndham.
- **Restorative Justice Programs** – our RESTORE and Engage programs worked with people, groups and communities, to reset relationships in order to address harm that has been caused and prevent further harm from taking place.
- **Northern Territory Youth Justice Programs** – our Back on Track, Youth Justice Group Conferencing and Alice Springs Youth Diversion Program worked to divert children and young people away from the criminal justice system.
- **Ignatius Learning Centre** – provided a safe, holistic and therapeutic learning environment for boys aged between 15 and 17 seeking to get their lives back on track.
- **Next Steps/Dillon House** – supported marginalised young people aged between 16 and 24 with multiple and complex needs, who intersect with the justice system and are experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness. The residential component of the program, Dillon House, provided 24-hour supported accommodation, in a safe and welcoming home environment.
- **Perry House** – provided stable housing to young people with multiple and complex needs, who are living with an intellectual disability, and who have involvement in the criminal justice system. Perry House offers a safe and welcoming home where young people are supported to develop independent living skills including cooking, meal planning, shopping, cleaning and budgeting. The aim is to get young people living independently in stable, long-term housing, and in a position to (re) engage with their community.
- **Navigator Program** – provided assertive outreach to young people disengaged from school to support their re-engagement with education, training and employment pathways.

## Highlights

### First anniversary of the Ignatius Learning Centre

The Ignatius Learning Centre commenced operation as a Specialist Catholic Secondary School in January 2021. In February 2022, the school celebrated its first anniversary. Many of the young people the school supports have previously been excluded from education – often, for years – and are at risk of future involvement in the criminal justice system.

Students work towards completing the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) (Foundation, Intermediate and Senior); a practical vocational option for students in Years 11 and 12 that provides work-related experience and a qualification, recognised by TAFE institutes and employers.

Throughout its first year, which included periods of COVID-related lockdowns, the Ignatius Learning Centre has become a safe and trusted learning environment. Students have provided positive feedback about the role the school has played in helping them to lead positive and productive lives, supporting them onto pathways to further education or employment, and contributing to the stability that enables young people to stay out of the justice system.

### Funding of Maribyrnong Community Residential Facility

The Maribyrnong Community Residential Facility, which Jesuit Social Services runs in partnership with Corrections Victoria, was funded for a further two years in the 2021-22 Victorian Budget. The program was initially established to help stop the spread of COVID-19 among people exiting prison in 2020, and is now recognised as a crucial part of the post-release service mix. The program provides short-term accommodation to men who would otherwise exit the prison system into homelessness.

More than 120 participants have been accommodated at the facility since it opened in June 2020. Residents have been supported to complete vocational training, obtain their driver's license, employment, private rental accommodation, and public housing. An evaluation conducted in 2021 found that residents who had exited the facility were successful in securing stable housing at a higher rate than prison leavers without access to the program.

### Pilot to lower the eligibility age for Navigator

Jesuit Social Services has helped to deliver the Navigator program since its inception in 2016. Navigator, which currently supports 12 to 17-year-olds, aims to increase the number of young people connected to school and engaged in learning, by providing individualised casework and support to students and their families. This includes the development of individualised learning and cultural plans, and restorative practice including therapeutic and practical support.

Funding was provided in the 2021-22 Victorian Budget for a pilot program to lower the age of eligibility for Navigator from 12 to 10 years. This will enable the program to intervene earlier in the critical transition period from primary to secondary school.



Jesuit Social Services staff at Maribyrnong Community Residential Facility.

## James' story

James participated in a Youth Justice Group Conference, which brought together a number of people impacted by his actions. Youth Justice Group Conferencing is a restorative justice process that supports young people to take accountability and make amends for their actions while connecting or reconnecting them with education, family and the community.



"Through this experience, I have learnt that my actions not only impact myself, but they also impact the lives of others. Going through this Group Conference has shown me what my actions have done and how they have affected the people that I have unwillingly involved. I have seen the trauma and the hardship I have put them through and I now have a better understanding of what my childish behaviours can do to other people. I have seen the distress and anxiety I have put these people through on a daily basis and I cannot take that back. Having gone through this Group Conference, I now know that no matter what situation I am in, I will not impose these actions onto others that I would not wish for others to impose on myself. The lessons I have taken from these experiences is that this is no way to go about my life. Those actions are intolerable and unacceptable in this society.

Having moved on from this way of life, I have learnt that there is a much more positive way to live life without causing harm to others. The positive changes I have now made include full-time work, and a newfound aspiration for education. I now have better family values and a great appreciation for my family having worked through the consequences of the decisions I made. In addition to this, I have begun to engage with my support workers to better work through mental health issues, drug and alcohol addiction and I have also started attending family therapy to work through some of the issues me and my family have."

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\*NAME AND IMAGE CHANGED TO PROTECT IDENTITY.

## Education, Training and Employment

Not everybody has the same access to education, training and employment opportunities – often because of circumstances beyond their control. For some people, mainstream education and employment services can be difficult to access or daunting to engage with.

Our education, training and employment programs help people who have had limited access to learn, study and work. We support them so they can reach their potential by equipping them with the fundamental skills and pathways they need to ultimately thrive.



A participant at our social enterprise, Ignite Cafe, in Melbourne.

## In 2021-2022 our work included:

- **Jesuit Community College training programs** – provided accredited and pre-accredited training to people with barriers to mainstream education through Jesuit Community College, a Registered Training Organisation and a Learn Local organisation. The College has adapted its course offerings during the pandemic, delivering courses online, or via a hybrid of online and face-to-face modes. We designed new programs in response to community needs including financial literacy, the payment of fines, how to set up a Worker Cooperative, and zero-waste and low-cost cooking. Other courses continued to be provided as COVID-19 restrictions permitted, including at our social enterprise café, Ignite Café Camberwell.
- **Skills First Reconnect 2021** – identified, engaged and supported Victorians aged 17 to 64 years of age who are not engaged in an education or training pathway, and who are experiencing barriers to their participation. Since its commencement in 2016, the program has supported more than 700 participants into further study and/or employment pathways.
- **Employment programs**
  - **Jobs Victoria Employment Service** – Jesuit Social Services is a key provider of the Victorian Government’s Jobs Victoria Employment Service, delivering four different employment services. The main service targets all people experiencing significant barriers to employment in the Melbourne area. The other three services include an employment service targeted to people who have been engaged with the justice system; a service focused on assisting employers in the construction industry meet their staffing needs; and a service for professionally qualified culturally and linguistically diverse jobseekers who are experiencing barriers to securing employment in their professional field. The services have assisted more than 2,000 people with employment support, and helped place nearly 1,000 people into employment.
  - **Transition to Work program** – supported young people to find training and employment.
  - **Step into Employment** – helped young people in North Richmond in their final years of secondary education to find and be placed into work experience opportunities.
- **Supporting New Futures program** – since its commencement has supported over 175 women leaving the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre.
- **Te Ara** – an employment pathways program funded through the Scanlon Foundation, helping Maori and Pacific Island jobseekers to become work-ready.
- **Corporate Diversity Partnerships** – delivered tailor-designed partnerships to support organisations achieve their diversity and inclusion objectives. These included the Melbourne Water Pathways Program, which assists overseas qualified applicants with engineering and water sector skills with local work experience. It also included a pilot program with Victoria University and Greater Western Water to create a pathway to employment for students from asylum seeking backgrounds into employment.
- **Victoria Police Diversity Recruitment Program** – based on the success of the pilot initiative led by Jesuit Social Services to support members of the African-Australian community to navigate the Victoria Police recruitment process, the program was expanded in 2021-22 to include all culturally and linguistically diverse applicants, and also Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants. Further funding from the Victorian Government will see the delivery of another seven intakes into the program (including four regional rounds) through to the end of 2023.
- **The Jobs Victoria Advocates Program** – assisted more than 2,400 people living within the Northern Metro and South Eastern suburbs of Melbourne, providing them with information and support, and links to other support services including housing, mental health, careers counselling, skills development and training, and financial and wellbeing support – all designed to enable people to find and maintain work.
- **Navigator Program** – provided assertive outreach to young people disengaged from school to support their re-engagement with education, training and employment pathways.

## Highlights

### Jobs Victoria Employment Service program

Our four Jobs Victoria Employment Service (JVES) programs provide pathways to employment for a broad range of participants from across the Melbourne region, including people with previous involvement in the justice system as well as professionally qualified participants from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The four programs provide intensive support to participants to build employment skills and work-readiness, as well as providing them with long-term assistance once they have successfully entered the workplace – supporting both the employer and the new employee to navigate any challenges that may arise. Over the past year, the JVES programs have helped nearly 1,000 people into employment. Jesuit Social Services continues to expand our connections with employers and jobseekers, to ensure that anyone seeking to reengage with the workforce is provided with the skills, support and care to help them succeed.

### Jesuit Community College

Our Jesuit Community College continued to adapt to the rapidly evolving business environment created by changing COVID-19 restrictions. During the second half of 2021, we were restricted from face-to-face service delivery by continued lockdowns and density limits. Despite these challenges, the College developed a hybrid model of online and face-to-face course delivery which proved successful. The flexibility of this approach allowed us to provide much-needed support to our participants, program partners, staff and venues, and to deliver training to more than 600 students through our pre-accredited and accredited courses. With the support of the Victorian Government, the College was also able to commence the development of an online learning management system to support the ongoing hybrid delivery of courses into the future.



## Celeste's story

Jesuit Community College student Celeste was involved with the justice system, and was enrolled in a course as part of her Community Corrections Order. She wrote to College staff to thank them for their support as she built self-esteem and pride through her experience of studying.



When you first came along, I'm sorry to say that I was one of the people that hated the idea and gave you such a hard time. Even though we were pretty nasty, you were so calm and kind, and never stopped explaining why you and the Jesuit College believe that learning is so important for everyone.

I am so happy that you didn't give up on me and I'm telling you this so you know that what you do is really important. I want to thank you for your persistence, kindness, intelligence and understanding.

As you know, I never finished school, and when you met me I couldn't stop talking, interrupting, arguing and creating drama and chaos in the class. I hated classes when I was a kid, so I sure didn't want to have to do any more as a grown up. These were all bad habits I'd used at school many years ago and also in the prison system. I've started now to understand many of the things we discussed in your class such as to 'pick my battles' and... I've learnt to try new things without arguing before I try it. I'm still fiery, but I have learnt to use strategies and think my reactions through before going off.

I loved the start of class: 'check your baggage', and the end of session reflections activity we did every week. It took a while for me to stop complaining and 'go with the process' but now I've left and I'm keeping a gratitude journal as well as taking time at the end of each day to think of my "apples" and "onions" for the day. I get the kids to do this at the dinner table too and it's become a way that we have started talking more positive together. Other things I really enjoyed the most were that you made maths fun (!! ) and that I actually loved doing all those 'increase your vocabulary' activities. You are surely one of the most creative teachers I have ever had and it is because of you that I am confident for the very first time ever to help my children with their homework.

I don't feel like an idiot anymore when my kids are doing their maths or English or whatever homework, I just take a deep breath and act confident and give it a go and I know they are so happy to have me helping them now. I don't feel stupid and I don't feel like they think I'm stupid. Like you said, there's nothing wrong with not knowing an answer, but just being there to help find it. It is the best feeling, being respected by my children and feeling useful and making them happy all rolled together – so good.

So, before I get too emotional, I will say that I'll never forget you and, though I'm sad to not see you again, I'll always remember how you farewelled us when we finished, saying "I'll miss seeing you in the class but I hope I never see you again"!

When you said this we know that you care and you truly want us not to break the law again and end up back in your class (or prison) and you honestly want us to move, as you say, "inwards and outwards, onwards and upwards".

I followed some more of your advice and 'kept the ball rolling' ASAP by enrolling in the Jesuit Community College course you told me about – the Animal Studies course, and I've been going from the Mornington all the way to Brunswick and I'm loving it! Who would have thought when we first met that I could or would choose to study more? YOU – probably!

I'm leaving this program so grateful to you and the Jesuit Community College – for having the faith in me to see that I could change and for helping me to believe that I could become three things I had long ago given up on being – a good mother, a good student and a good person.

Love and gratitude from Celeste

NAME AND IMAGE CHANGED TO PROTECT IDENTITY.

A photograph of two young women with long dark hair, smiling and looking at each other in an outdoor setting with blurred greenery in the background. The woman on the left is wearing a dark jacket over a green shirt, and the woman on the right is wearing a light-colored sweater. A dark blue, irregularly shaped graphic element is overlaid on the bottom left of the image, containing the section header text.

## Disability, Mental Health and Wellbeing

Our mental health and wellbeing programs assist people through significant and challenging periods of their lives, to strengthen and deepen their relationships to others and to community, and to assist them to live to their full potential. Our holistic support spans youth and adult services, and provides a range of programs that address severe and enduring mental illness, misuse of alcohol and other drugs, homelessness, and bereavement following suicide.

## In 2021-2022 our work included:

- **Connexions** – established in 1996, Connexions was Victoria’s first dual diagnosis service, providing integrated case work, counselling and advocacy support to young people with co-occurring mental health and substance use challenges, who experience multiple barriers to accessing mainstream services.
- **Individual Support Program** – provided individually tailored support packages to young people with highly complex needs including mental health concerns, problematic substance use, homelessness, disability, a history of trauma, family breakdown, and involvement with the justice system.
- **Psychosocial Support Service** – in partnership with cohealth, supported individuals aged between 16 and 65 living or working in Melbourne’s west, who experience severe mental health challenges and are not eligible for NDIS support. Psychosocial support assists individuals to develop their own capacity to improve wellbeing and manage independently.
- **Artful Dodgers Studios** – established in 1996, our flexible, welcoming and fully equipped art and music studio is one of Victoria’s longest-running community cultural development programs and supports young people to increase their social connectedness, self-esteem and employability.
- **The Outdoor Experience** – supported young people to manage substance misuse and mental health concerns through therapeutic outdoor practices that provide access to positive and life-affirming experiences, and allowed young people to connect with themselves, other people, and explore their relationship with nature.
- **Supported housing programs** – Perry House, Dillon House and the Link Youth Justice Housing Program provided 24/7 residential support to young people with multiple and complex needs in the justice system who were experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, to build independent living skills and a stable base for a new beginning.
  - **Dillon House and Next Steps:** supports marginalised young people in the justice system who present with multiple and complex needs and who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Dillon House, the residential component of program, is a safe, affordable and welcoming home environment providing up to 12 months of 24-hour supported accommodation, with a focus on developing residents’ independent living skills and addressing offending behaviours to reduce their risk of reoffending. Next Steps, the outreach component of program, provides up to 24 months of intensive outreach support to young people in the community, enabling them to address issues including housing instability, mental health, substance use, offending behaviour, family reunification, education, and employment.
  - **Perry House:** a safe, affordable and welcoming home environment providing support to participants who have complex mental health and neurological needs and involvement with the criminal justice system. The program provides up to 24 months of 24-hour supported accommodation to four young men of neurodiversity who live with an intellectual disability, who present with multiple and complex needs, intersect with the criminal justice system and who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The program supports participants to develop their independent living skills, addressing offending behaviours, and transitioning to long-term housing.
  - **Link Youth Justice Housing Program:** provides critical after-hours support for up to 15 young people who intersect the homelessness service system and criminal justice system, to enter into the private rental market under a subsidised head leasing scheme for up to 24 months. The program is complimentary to a young person’s existing supports and focuses on developing independent living skills, maintaining and sustaining a private rental, reducing risk of reoffending in the after-hours space, and transitioning into long-term housing.
- **Support After Suicide** – provided counselling, support groups, activities and online resources to practically and emotionally support people bereaved by suicide.
- **Standby Support After Suicide** – our new postvention suicide support service provided a 24-hour phone line, referrals to local services, and workshops to increase a community’s capacity to support people bereaved by suicide.

## Highlights

### NDIS support coordination launched

In October we commenced our NDIS Specialist Support Coordination program, following the successful conclusion of the rigorous accreditation process mentioned in our 2020-21 annual report. We now support 24 participants, including young people and adults with cognitive impairments who are involved in the justice system, child protection and homelessness service systems, to make and set goals, increase their independence, and make the best use of the services and resources available. Support coordination will continue to develop and grow.

### The Outdoor Experience continued despite lockdown restrictions

While COVID-19 restrictions meant The Outdoor Experience couldn't run its normal therapeutic outdoor program for young people with substance abuse problems and complex mental health needs, the limitation allowed new creative thinking to deliver effective hybrid programs in collaboration with YSAS Birribi residential service and the Self Help Addiction Resource Centre. Our team designed a series of programs called Urban Adventures, delivered online to meet the specific needs of young people in lockdown. These programs involved exploring local green spaces and learning about fauna/flora close to their homes. It provided a much-needed opportunity to share fun and engaging activities, with peers and support staff.

### Stronger cross-program collaboration a pandemic silver lining

Remote work continuing in 2021-22 enabled teams across our various program areas to more strongly integrate their services. This created new opportunities for our program participants to explore art and nature, allowed the delivery of more coordinated and consistent support intervention to participants with multiple workers, and has strengthened the skillset of team members across various programs, who have learnt from each other's practice approaches, including when responding to drug overdoses or other crisis situations. The deepening of peer relationships supported staff members across programs when working from home to remain more connected to each other at a time when the Victorian community was feeling particularly isolated.

The Outdoor Experience held experiential scavenger hunts for students in our Settlement Program's Homework Club – many of whom spent long hours in lockdown living in the high-rise public housing estate where Homework Club is located, with one participant telling us they hadn't been outside for a month. The hunt allowed children to explore their neighbourhoods, share new green spaces with the important people in their lives, and unlock the myriad physical and psychological benefits of spending time outdoors. In June, The Outdoor Experience repeated this collaboration with our Navigator program, which supports young people disengaged from education, providing four adventure-based, therapeutic education sessions at our Bush Hut in Melbourne's inner east.



**“The Outdoor Experience provides such significant opportunities to develop healthy relationships with self, others and the environment.”**

**Brendan**

**SELF HELP ADDICTION RESOURCE CENTRE**

## Deepening cultural safety capacity project

Our Connexions program engaged in a 12-month project with North West Metro Primary Health Network during strict lockdown and restrictions, forming an online working group which also included team members from our Settlement Program. The project aimed to build our capacity as a more culturally safe and responsible organisation, and improve our service delivery to culturally and linguistically diverse communities. We applied a culturally responsive assessment tool (CRAT) to identify areas of development across the organisation, and achieved a number of positive outcomes, including conducting cross-program staff training, the translation of

documents and forms, a website redevelopment to improve its accessibility, and work to strengthen relationships with other service providers working with diverse communities, to further inform our response.

The CRAT has also been applied by the working group established following our 2020 consultation with members of LGBTIQ+ communities and their support networks regarding what makes a mental health service of choice, which was led by our Connexions and Support After Suicide programs. This working group lead a range of service strengthening activities to create an even greater sense of welcome, safety and belonging for members of the LGBTIQ+ community seeking support from our mental health and wellbeing programs.

## Amy's story



Amy is 18 and recently exited out-of-home care. She has faced significant challenges in her young life: she entered the child protection system at 12 due to family violence and abuse, and has a significant history of trauma and mental health issues, which manifest in a range of behavioural issues. Amy has used a range of substances in order to self-medicate and has often prioritised buying alcohol over food and other basic essentials.

Amy exited the out-of-home care system into the care of a family member, however due to her complex and overlapping needs, this accommodation broke down within only a few weeks. Amy initially had a roof over her head with crisis accommodation, but because of the severe lack of long-term housing options available, she found herself couch-surfing to avoid sleeping rough after her temporary accommodation ran out.

Amy's complex mental health needs and behavioural issues made living alone the most appropriate and tenable option for her. However she needed intensive support not only to navigate the housing system, but also to develop her independent living skills and manage a tenancy.

Fortunately, Amy had the ongoing support of Jesuit Social Services' Individual Support Program. Amy's support worker took the time to build a relationship of respect and rapport – working alongside Amy to build trust, and establish the connection needed to assist Amy to navigate complex support systems. The outreach support provided through this program can scale up or down, depending on Amy's needs, and she can also receive support on weekends and in the evenings, if needed.

Amy is now engaged with her worker, who supports Amy as she progresses her recovery, sets herself goals, and strengthens the skills she needs to live independently in the community.

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\*NAME AND IMAGE CHANGED TO PROTECT IDENTITY.

## Settlement and Community Building

We work with communities we are invited into, strengthening the web of relationships that surround and sustain people. Our support enables people and communities to build capacity and self-determination – to have agency over their lives and the resilience to overcome personal and systemic challenges.



## In 2021-2022 our work included:

- **Settlement Program** – supported newly arrived refugees and migrants to integrate into mainstream Australian society in Melbourne’s west, while remaining connected with their cultural backgrounds. Through casework support, group work, referrals, information sessions and community development initiatives, we work alongside people and families to increase their independence, social participation and community connectedness.
- **Western Sydney program** – since 2008 we have partnered with communities to deliver local initiatives throughout Western Sydney. We accompany communities in breaking cycles of disadvantage by developing local answers to local problems, including high unemployment rates and limited access to affordable, healthy food, through our Ignite Food Store and Op Shop, Willmot Community Hub, and youth, holiday and family programs.
- **Northern Territory program** – at the request of Aboriginal community controlled organisations, we deliver culturally appropriate capacity building initiatives and other programs that strengthen and sustain communities in Northern Australia. This work supports communities to establish and strengthen governance structures, enables autonomy, and identifies opportunities for corporate, government and philanthropic engagement. Turn to page 19 to learn more about our restorative Youth Justice Group Conferencing program and justice diversion work in Darwin, Palmerston, Katherine, Alice Springs and Tennant Creek.
- **Just Voices speakers program** – supported 30 social justice advocates from diverse backgrounds, communities and cultures to share their motivating stories of courage and resilience with 4,480 attendees across schools, community groups and workplaces. This work continued online during COVID-19 restrictions.



## Highlights

### Homework Club on-site and outdoors

After two years of tutoring entirely online, our long-running Homework Club returned on-site two nights per week in May – with 10 new students signing up within the hour, with 55 participants now enrolled. We’re retaining one night online to the end of 2022 to ensure we meet all participants’ needs: during the pandemic, our tutors found some students learn better in the one-on-one online environment – and while redevelopment is occurring at the Flemington public housing estate where Homework Club takes place, the online sessions provide an important connection back home for young residents who have temporarily relocated elsewhere.

Our homework support sees better outcomes for participants at school, enables students and their families to overcome barriers to education, and is an important early intervention for young people who potentially disengage from school – which can often be a risk factor for involvement with the criminal justice system. That support also extends beyond books – after receiving feedback from some students who weren’t interested in more online study at the end of a long day of remote learning, the Homework Club paired with our experiential outdoor therapy program, The Outdoor Experience, to create alternative learning scavenger hunts for students during school holidays. During Melbourne’s lockdowns, students made the most of their allowed two hours outside, and explored places in their neighbourhoods they’d never seen before. Turn to page 27 to learn more about The Outdoor Experience.

### New partnership to address family violence in culturally diverse communities

We received an additional grant from the Commonwealth Government to better identify and support women in situations of domestic and family violence. As part of this work, we partnered with the Australian Muslim Women’s Centre for Human Rights (AMWCHR) to strengthen the support we offer to refugee and migrant women from culturally diverse backgrounds who are experiencing family violence. In November and December, AMWCHR delivered training to staff in Jesuit Social Services’ settlement, housing and justice programs to increase understanding of the barriers, biases, types of abuse and risks that may be faced by newly arrived and culturally diverse women who experience family violence.

In March, we partnered with AMWCHR to deliver a comprehensive six-week healthy relationship program to our settlement participants, in English and Arabic, with an overwhelmingly positive response: women told us no one had ever talked with them about this before, and they will pass the information onto their children. We know it’s predominantly women in the community who experience family violence, and training our staff and participants ensures the impact of these programs extends deep into our community.



**“Family violence occurs in all cultures, however the conditions that allow violence to flourish, the barriers to disclosure and help-seeking, and the effectiveness of the service response, differ between communities.”**

**Kimberley Malone**  
SETTLEMENT COORDINATOR

### Western Sydney COVID-19 vaccination clinic success

In partnership with New South Wales Health, our Western Sydney COVID-19 clinic administered thousands of vaccine doses in communities that have historically had limited contact with health services, including some community members who had never before been vaccinated. Our culturally safe clinic staff received warm referrals from partners who are known and trusted in Western Sydney Aboriginal communities, and worked slowly alongside people entering the clinic to ensure they felt comfortable and supported during their experience. This foundation of trust saw people become strong advocates within their communities for vaccination – and allowed our staff to open conversations with community members about other needs, including access to the social connection, healthy food, and low-cost groceries offered by our other Western Sydney services.

## Mariam's story

Mariam and her two children arrived in Australia on refugee visas three years ago. Mariam has had a difficult life: she fled a conflict zone and spent years in a refugee camp. She has a history of post-traumatic stress disorder and now experiences a range of chronic health conditions. She finds that retelling her story only exacerbates her trauma, and she becomes heightened easily – which in the past had made it difficult for Mariam to communicate her support needs to the various services available to help.



Despite the challenges she's faced, Mariam arrived in Melbourne determined to build a new life. She speaks very little English, so enrolled in the Adult Migrant Education Program shortly after arriving. She applied for parenting payments to support her children. With the help of a service provider, she leased a one bedroom unit. It is too small for the family of three and Mariam spends nearly half of her payment on rent. Mariam wants to transfer her overseas qualifications so she can start work in her chosen industry and move into a bigger house, but she can't do that without more fluent English.

When the pandemic hit, Mariam stopped attending English classes because she didn't have access to the technology needed to attend online sessions. Her children also struggled to engage with remote learning. Her eldest carries a high level of responsibility within the family because of her strong English – she worries about her mum's health and her younger sibling's school attendance. Neither child's school knew about the challenges the family were facing in their settlement journey.

But Mariam and her children had support from Jesuit Social Services' Settlement Program.

Mariam's worker spent six months carefully building a relationship of safety and trust. She made the time to regularly and consistently engage with Mariam, and was conscious of and sensitive to her history of trauma. Previously, Mariam had retreated from other workers and services, and had withdrawn her consent for referrals to other services – but because of the trust built between Mariam and her support worker, we were able to provide Mariam with the tailored assistance and support she needed.

Since this work began, Mariam has received a social housing offer, and has resumed her English classes. She's made appointments with doctors and specialists for herself and her girls, and has discussed the family's situation with wellbeing staff at her children's schools, to learn what support the schools can provide. Our Jobs Advocates program is now working with Mariam to locate a suitable training course, at the English level that suits her needs (learn more about this program on page 23).

It will take Mariam time to build more connections to other services and the broader community, and to address the family's underlying mental health and wellbeing needs. Mariam and her children have ongoing support from Jesuit Social Services as they build their life together in Melbourne, and forge the connections they need to thrive.

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\*NAME AND IMAGE CHANGED TO PROTECT IDENTITY.

A photograph of two men standing on a soccer field. The man on the left is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt and is holding a soccer ball. The man on the right is wearing a light blue t-shirt and has his arm around the other man's shoulder. They are both smiling. In the background, there is a soccer goal net. A dark blue graphic shape is overlaid on the bottom left of the image, containing the text 'Gender and Culture'.

## Gender and Culture

The Men's Project supports boys and men to live respectful, accountable and fulfilling lives free from violence and other harmful behaviour. The Men's Project leads development of prevention initiatives and interventions that work to address these complex challenges, which improve the boys' and men's wellbeing and keep families and communities safe. A major component of this work is to engage role models – teachers, social workers and sports coaches – to be agents of positive change.

## In 2021-2022 our work included:

- **Adolescent Man Box survey** – the first study to focus on the attitudes to manhood and the association between these attitudes and the mental health, self-concept, use of violence, bullying, sexual harassment, risk-taking behaviours and sexist attitudes and behaviours of adolescents aged 11 to 18 years old. Findings from the survey can be used to inform the design of curriculum and serve as an important evaluation tool to track progress over time.
- **Modelling Respect and Equality** – an innovative program for adults in roles that can positively influence boys and men, including teachers, social workers, sports coaches, leaders in workplaces, and leaders in faith communities. The program builds the skills and knowledge of participants to help them create change in their community around issues of respect and equality as well as challenging stereotypical ideas of what it means to be a man – an important part of violence prevention efforts.
- **Unpacking The Man Box** – highlighted the harmful impacts on a young person’s behaviour and mental health if they adhere to rigid Man Box rules. To assist schools in addressing these complex challenges, the sessions encourage conversations among students, teaching staff, and their wider school communities about how to move beyond gender stereotypes, foster respectful relationships, and promote positive wellbeing. The Men’s Project has also adapted these sessions to other contexts including workplaces, early childhood education, justice, and maternal and child health settings.
- **Worried about sex and pornography project (WASAPP)** – in collaboration with the University of Melbourne, The Men’s Project is engaged in a research project for young people worried about their sexual thoughts or behaviours. Funded by a Learning System Grant through the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare, WASAPP seeks to understand the developmental trajectories of children and young people to inform the contents of an effective online help tool. The next stage is to secure funding to build and trial a WASAPP online help tool.
- **Responding to adolescent family violence** – existing family violence responses primarily target family violence perpetrated by adults, but we know that around 10 per cent of police call outs for family violence incidents are responding to adolescent family violence. In partnership with Victoria Police, we have designed and are seeking funding to pilot a new intervention with adolescents using family violence, in the 72 hours after police call out. Through a co-response with police and follow-up support, the project seeks to prevent adolescents becoming homeless or involved with the criminal justice system. In partnership with the Melbourne Children’s Court, we are also piloting RESTORE – a restorative justice approach to adolescent family violence.
- **Before it Starts** – an early intervention program for primary school students aged between eight and 12, to address the causes of challenging behaviours through a range of program elements and taking a whole of school community approach towards behavioural challenges. The program aims to reduce challenging behaviours, both at school and in the home, and to foster healthier and more positive relationships in students’ lives. It provides training, coaching, modelling, and observation opportunities to augment the understanding and skills of school staff in restorative practices and healthy masculinities, to ensure the approaches are sustained following completion of the program.
- **Jack’s Hut** – a program based on proven approaches to support adolescent boys who present with challenging behaviours and are at-risk of disengaging from education and becoming involved in the criminal justice system. The program aims to build social and emotional self-regulation, strengthen communications skills, improve understanding of self-care and stress management, and increase understanding of masculinities and how they are enacted in boys and men and re-enforced in systems and institutions.

# Highlights

## Contributor workforce project

Funded by the Victorian Government’s Office for the Prevention of Family Violence, this project aimed to equip the staff of several organisations working with boys and men with the knowledge, skills and capacity to promote and adopt healthier masculinities among their colleagues and during engagements with participants. Our evaluation found that the project met this aim, with increases of up to 33 per cent in self-reported knowledge of the potential consequences of rigid adherence to stereotypical masculine norms and a range of other encouraging outcomes.

## Expanding our reach with adolescents

The Men’s Project was engaged by the Victorian Government’s Department of Education and Training to deliver both Unpacking the Man Box and Modelling Respect and Equality workshops to 100 Victorian schools in 2022 and 2023. The pilot aims to deepen schools’ understanding of the link between supporting healthy masculinities and the prevention of violence against women, and further embed a whole-of-school approach to respectful relationships. Separately, The Men’s Project continues to engage students, teachers, and parents in Unpacking the Man Box workshops, to positively shift cultures and attitudes about what it means to be a man in the 21st century. Across 2021-22, The Men’s Project worked with almost 4,000 school staff, students, and parents at both primary and secondary schools.



“It was great. We are leaders for young men and knowing this stuff is incredibly important.”

MELBOURNE POLYTECHNIC  
TRADE SKILLS TEACHER

## Stop It Now!

In collaboration with the University of Melbourne, The Men’s Project is building the foundations of a **Stop It Now! service** in Australia, which will launch in August 2022. Stop It Now! seeks to prevent child sexual abuse and offending involving child abuse material. The program’s key feature is an anonymous phone helpline for people who are worried about their sexual thoughts and behaviours in relation to children, as well as for parents, family members, and professionals who come across child sexual abuse. Stop It Now! operates successfully overseas, having been first established in 1992 by a victim-survivor of child sexual abuse in the US. The Men’s Project’s work to prevent child sexual abuse aligns with recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, which identified the need for preventative interventions for potential perpetrators of child sexual abuse and noted an anonymous helpline as a potential solution.



“It’s really made me think about the impact I can make on my own boys (13 and 10 year olds) and to start now in changing the conversation.”

SCHOOL TEACHER



In 2021-22

The Men's Project delivered

**79**

programs or  
sessions  
to almost

**7,500**

young people, community sector  
professionals, educators and  
individuals.

## Case Study

– Padua College



Staff at Padua College in Victoria participated in our Modelling Respect and Equality (MoRE) workshops.

“A big takeaway from the workshop was the correlation between being stuck in the ‘Man Box’ and greater likelihood of negative outcomes such as challenging behaviour and poor wellbeing. We started looking at our own data and found that correlation as well. Our boys were demonstrating challenging behaviours at higher rates than our girls, yet also demonstrating lower levels of help-seeking behaviour and participation in positive connection and engagement opportunities. The MoRE project is giving us a new lens to think about how we encourage boys who are misbehaving to reflect and articulate themselves, how we model respect and equality, and how our existing and new school wellbeing and engagement programs support boys. With three campuses and almost 2,600 students, change is slow, but important. One simple example of change is that we’ve noticed teachers checking their biases around gendered language and masculine stereotypes.”

**SAM, VICE PRINCIPAL – STUDENTS**

“The MoRE program encourages a restorative approach, which means that we focus on building and maintaining relationships and fostering accountability. As an example, recently I caught a group of boys mucking around in the locker bays. After several attempts to address this behaviour, it didn't stop, so I put their energy to use in a more constructive way by having them pick up rubbish while I did yard duty. I walked alongside them as they completed this activity – chatting and opening up with me – which enabled them to reflect and start telling me why their behaviour wasn't acceptable. The next day the boys came to me and told me they wouldn't behave like that again, and they haven't. Through the new lens of approaching behaviour change and fostering relationships with these young men, I was able to highlight how I felt about their behaviour and the impact of their actions. Because of this positive and respectful relationship with them, I could say, from a position of care, that ‘you're actually better than this,’ and they could believe it. There was no angst or anger, it was all very positive.”

**SUZI, LEADER OF STUDENT WELLBEING PROGRAMS**

# Ecological Justice

Communities and individuals already experiencing social and economic disadvantage often also face environmental challenges too. This may include lack of access to green space or exposure to extreme heat, pollution and the effects of climate change. The combination of social and environmental challenges can only be addressed through an ecological justice lens – recognising all elements are interrelated.

Jesuit Social Services is committed to prioritising ecological justice and working to repair relationships with self, with community and with the earth.



# Highlights

## Ecological Justice Strategy

Jesuit Social Services finalised our first comprehensive Ecological Justice Strategy. It begins by telling the story of ten years of work to embed ecological justice in all we do and is an aspirational document that articulates our vision and guides our actions over the next three years across the three domains of Ecological Business Processes, Practice Ecology, and Human Spirit.

## Advocacy for climate justice

Jesuit Social Services and our Centre for Just Places continue to call for strong climate action. In 2021–22, the Centre for Just Places signed on to the Australian Council of Social Services’ community sector climate declaration, calling on the Federal Government to commit to stronger targets and fair and inclusive policies to cut climate pollution this decade, and guarantee the public resources the community sector needs to deliver services and respond to climate change. Jesuit Social Services’ 2022 Federal Election platform, *A blueprint for a just recovery*, advocated for a renewables-led recovery and greater funding for initiatives that enable place-based climate change adaptation and resilience.

## Food relief and support for Afghan refugees

Across six Melbourne lockdowns, fresh produce harvested from Jesuit Social Services’ Ecological Justice Hub permaculture garden provided weekly food relief with groceries to local people experiencing disadvantage. And when hundreds of Afghan families began to arrive in Melbourne in September 2021 following the fall of Kabul, Nasser Yawari – a trusted and well-connected member of the Afghan diaspora community in Melbourne, and a member of the Jesuit Social Services’ Jobs Advocates Program team – contacted the Ecological Justice Hub to help members of his community.

Within 24 hours the Hub expanded its existing fresh food relief program, in collaboration with AMES’ Humanitarian Settlement Program, to deliver culturally appropriate hot meals, groceries and fresh greens to between 30 and 90 families per week, or 250 individuals quarantining – demonstrating what a true welcome can look like.

From late December to late March, the Hub ramped up support for local Melbourne food relief agencies, including the Uniting Church Olive Way and Anglican Christ Church. With funding from the Victorian Government, the Hub now supports more than 65 families and 109 individuals through our farm gate and grocery pack outreach, including people sleeping rough and newly arrived families. Jesuit Social Services’ Jobs Victoria Advocates attend the food relief days, providing a much-needed support network for people looking for mental health support, housing, social worker support, education support, English translation, financial literacy programs for a pathway to inclusion and employment.

## Support for the Earthworker Smart Energy Cooperative Program

In the past year, Jesuit Social Services’ Ecological Justice Hub has supported the Earthworker Smart Energy Cooperative Program to provide training for program staff to conduct energy audits and retrofit low-income households to improve energy efficiency, making homes more comfortable and cheaper to heat and cool. A number of participants of the Jesuit Community College Hammertime course in carpentry for women have gained paid work experience through the program.



## Cath's story

When governance consultant Cath Bates moved to a mostly online new job, she knew she needed a regular activity that would give her a reason to leave the house, get her hands dirty, and keep connected with people.



“I like how hands-on it is – just knowing I could do something that had such an immediate impact.”

Cath

ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE HUB VOLUNTEER



She found all three at our Ecological Justice Hub – a food security garden and education site in the inner-north Melbourne suburb of Brunswick, which teaches volunteers like Cath permaculture gardening skills.

“In my work, I don’t see my colleagues very often as we don’t have a central office,” she said.

“Although I chat to people on the phone, it’s not that face-to-face connection. This is the bit I get out of volunteering: they’re my people I see from week to week. That’s the bit that I love.”

Joining the Hub in March 2021, Cath had tended her own garden, but never before raised a plant from anything other than a seedling. Now, she’s been described as the Hub’s resident ‘seed expert’, collecting and sowing seeds in the Hub’s greenhouses for crops that are harvested, packaged, and donated to food relief groups.

“You’re feeding local people,” Cath said. “I like how hands-on it is – just knowing I could do something that had such an immediate impact.”

Cath will sometimes cut fresh flowers from the Hub’s garden to send along with food parcels, which are packaged weekly by volunteers and distributed to people in need – including families who arrived in hotel quarantine from Afghanistan after the fall of Kabul in September.

Cath said volunteering at the Hub reminds her of her own good fortune and reconnects her with her professional roots.

“Having been in large organisations in more recent years, when I get back to the garden it reminds me of my time in local government – you work with lots of different people, you have direct interactions with the community,” she said.

“It puts you in a different perspective – you go, ‘oh, God, what’s important! It reminds me of that.’”



## Centre for Just Places

Jesuit Social Services established the Centre for Just Places in 2021 with seed funding from Gandel Foundation and the Victorian Government.

The Centre's purpose is to enable resilient, inclusive and regenerative communities and to support place-based approaches nationally through research, collaboration, engagement and knowledge exchange.

## In 2021-2022 our work included:

- **'What works for place-based approaches in Victoria?' research project** – identifies features essential to effective place-based approaches through a meta-synthesis of existing research and an analysis of case studies.
- **Client workforce and capacity building pilot project** – aims to increase the participation of community members with lived experience in shaping social, health and justice system design, delivery and integration in their local area.
- **Co-leading the Real Deal Project's nationwide Place-Based Action Research Community of Practice** – a community of practice for practitioners and researchers, co-led by the Centre alongside the Sydney Policy Lab, the Centre for People, Place and Planet at Edith Cowan University, and Australia Together.
- **Climate justice project** – engaging three priority communities in Darebin: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members, culturally and linguistically diverse community members, and people aged 65 years and over, to identify their needs and priorities in understanding and adapting to the impacts of climate change. The stories gathered through this work will inform the focus of future adaptation programs by Darebin City Council in Melbourne's north, and its next Climate Emergency Strategy.
- **Co-designing a climate action and resilience framework for neighbourhood houses project** – supporting a network of six neighbourhood houses to develop a climate action and resilience plan, while co-creating a framework to guide strategic action planning and advocacy for networks of neighbourhood houses across Victoria and nationally. This project is supported by funds from Darebin Council and the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water, and Planning (DELWP).

Our work also included a number of community and resilience and climate adaptation projects:

- **Understanding and planning for the health and wellbeing impacts of climate change in the City of Greater Dandenong and the Mornington Peninsula Shire project** – brought together researchers and practitioners planning for equitable health and wellbeing outcomes in the context of a changing climate. The project's approach drew on diverse expertise from public health, urban planning and climate change adaptation to generate new insights. The work will inform ongoing municipal public health and wellbeing planning in the area.
- **Mobilising climate just and resilient communities in Melbourne's west project** – working with the health and community services sector in the west of Melbourne to strengthen their understanding of key health, service, and climate change networks, and shared climate change risks, vulnerabilities, strengths, and needs. Funded by the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, the project will help identify shared priorities and opportunities to collaborate and mobilise climate justice and community resilience in Melbourne's west.
- **Building climate resilience in the community sector project** – delivering climate resilience workshops with community organisations and local government across Melbourne.
- **Resilience Community of Practice** – aims to address the inequitable drivers that create vulnerability to climate change, and includes more than 20 representatives from community health, health promotion and healthcare, community service organisations, local government, state government, peak bodies, academic, and philanthropy organisations. The community of practice is being developed by the Centre in collaboration with Victorian Council Of Social Service (VCOSS) and the Victorian Department for Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

## Highlights

### Research and action on place-based disadvantage

Jesuit Social Services' *Dropping off the Edge* research identifies areas of disadvantage in every Australian state and territory and uncovers the web of factors that must be solved for these communities to thrive. Since the launch of *Dropping off the Edge 2021*, the Centre for Just Places has worked with community-based organisations, statutory authorities, and state and local government to communicate the report's findings, collaborated with local and international experts to connect findings to other aligned research, and has begun to explore how current data from the research can be used to understand community strengths and resilience. The Centre has also been contracted to develop tailored *Dropping off the Edge* reports for different organisations, including VicHealth. To learn more about *Dropping off the Edge 2021*, please turn to page 47.

### Building an evidence base of effective place-based approaches

There is much to learn about how place-based approaches can address the social, economic and environmental challenges communities are facing across Australia. In 2021–22, the Centre for Just Places led the 'What works for place-based approaches in Victoria?' project in collaboration with RMIT University, the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, and the University of Queensland, together with a range of key advisors. The research project, commissioned by the Victorian Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions, identifies essential features of effective place-based approaches through a meta-synthesis of existing research, and highlights key enablers and barriers from practice through an analysis of Victorian case studies. Reports and key findings will be released in the second half of 2022. This research contributes to ongoing discussions among place-based stakeholders (community, government, service providers and philanthropy) on effective place-based approaches, and will influence future policies developed by the Victorian Government.

### Embedding lived experience to improve place-based service design, integration and delivery

People who come into contact with social, health and justice services have important knowledge about each system's ability to meet their needs. In 2021–22, with support from the Victorian Government's Department of Justice and Community Safety, the Centre for Just Places initiated the **Client voice and workforce capacity project** as part of the government's Better Connected Care initiative. The pilot project aims to increase the participation of community members with lived experience in shaping social, health and justice system service design, delivery and integration in their local area. The overall aim is to contribute to policy reform to build a service system that better meets the needs of participants. The pilot began in the West-Metro and Goulburn regions in Victoria and will expand to other areas over the next few years.



“Having the opportunity to reflect together on the practicalities of climate change on our work and communities has really got me thinking in the here and now about these impacts.”

DAREBIN WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT



“There is such a rich understanding of our community [here]... We can work together in really practical ways.”

YARRA WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT

## Building climate resilience in the community sector

People already experiencing marginalisation and disadvantage are often impacted by extreme weather – such as more frequent and intense heatwaves, bushfires and smoke, floods, storms and drought – first and hardest, with fewer resources to adapt. Community service organisations work on the frontline supporting those most at-risk to extreme weather events caused by climate change, and are uniquely placed to build community resilience through the deep knowledge and relationships that they hold in their communities.

In recognising the urgent need to adapt to climate change, the Centre for Just Places has been delivering place-based climate change adaptation and resilience workshops that bring community service organisations and local governments together across Melbourne.

For the most part, community service organisations are not prepared for the impact of ongoing and worsening disruptions to their services, particularly during periods of heightened need under a changing climate. One participant said the workshops highlighted the impacts of climate change on both community services and community members, bringing to light “how unprepared we really are in emergency management.” Another described the workshop as “a reawakening... of the urgency and immediacy of the need to think ahead and act accordingly.”

The workshops build community resilience by encouraging ongoing collaboration across diverse local sectors including health, emergency services, education, and gender justice. Workshop participants often see great potential in bringing together local people to talk about these issues, make connections, and find a way forward. One participant reflected: “The connections we can make here are so incredibly valuable, and it’s these networks and nudges that can really shift the system.”

## Building Communities of Justice

For 45 years, Jesuit Social Services has engaged in 'doing' and 'influencing.' These two functions operate not in silos but hand-in-hand – with the lived experiences of our program participants and frontline staff directly informing our advocacy work. Our policy submissions, campaigns, events, media and storytelling contribute to changing policies, practices, ideas and values that perpetuate inequality, prejudice and exclusion – and enable governments to implement effective and humane policies and practices so that all members of our community can flourish.



# Policy and Advocacy



The two pillars of Jesuit Social Services' work are to 'do' and to 'influence'. Over the past 12 months, this powerful combination of direct service and system change was applied to issues spanning criminal justice and crime prevention; mental health; refugee and asylum seeker issues; gender justice; ecological justice; housing; and education and employment pathways.

## Highlights

### Building an evidence base of effective place-based approaches

Our wide-ranging submission to the [Inquiry into Victoria's Criminal Justice System](#) in September expressed our concern at rising prison populations and recidivism rates, and articulated the need for reform toward a criminal justice system underpinned by principles of prevention, early intervention, and restorative justice, which could harness the opportunity COVID-19 presented regarding alternative ways of operating the justice system.

We expanded on these solutions in our December submission to the [Cultural Review of the Adult Custodial System](#), which called on the Victorian Government to reduce the prison population, cease building new detention facilities, invest in keeping people out of custody, and embed a restorative approach in the limited circumstances where

imprisonment is necessary – providing practical ideas to tackle the underlying factors leading to involvement in the justice system.

Similarly, our contribution to the [National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and Children](#) consultation and subsequent feedback on the published draft plan called for a response to family violence that tackles its root causes – supporting men and boys to live respectful, accountable and fulfilling lives, by addressing the entrenched disadvantage and underlying attitudes that contribute to violence.

And in the lead-up to the Federal Election in May we published our [Federal Election Platform](#) and a corresponding series of six blog posts, building the case for policies, practices and ideas that reduce inequality, prejudice and exclusion, and which ultimately reflect a more just and compassionate Australia.

We also contributed submissions to the [National Disability Insurance Agency's Home and Living Policy](#), the [Inquiry into the Protections within the Victorian Planning Framework](#), the [Social Housing Regulation Review](#), the [National Mental Health Workforce Strategy](#), the consultation on [Addressing Sexual Harassment in Victorian Workplaces](#), a response to [VAGO's audit of the Navigator program](#), and submissions to both the Victorian Pre-Budget and Federal Pre-Budget. In total, we made 32 submissions in 2021-22.

# Dropping off the Edge 2021



**In November 2021, Jesuit Social Services launched the latest instalment of our leading research into complex and entrenched place-based disadvantage.**

For more than 20 years Jesuit Social Services has collaborated with researchers to examine complex disadvantage in communities around Australia, releasing a series of reports known since 2007 as *Dropping off the Edge*. On 18 November we launched *Dropping off the Edge 2021*, the fifth edition in the series, to a webinar audience of nearly 400 people representing government, civil society, academia and local communities across Australia.

For the first time in the series' history, *Dropping off the Edge 2021* includes environmental indicators of disadvantage, alongside indicators for health, housing, education, crime, and social wellbeing. Conducted by the University of Canberra, the research assesses 37 indicators of disadvantage in more than 2,200 communities across each state and territory, providing the most detailed picture yet of where and how multilayered disadvantage is concentrated in Australia – offering important data to communities advocating for the resources they need to thrive.



## Findings and impact

*Dropping off the Edge 2021* demonstrates complex and entrenched disadvantage is experienced by a small but persistent number of locations in each state and territory across Australia. It provides an unparalleled picture of how various forms of disadvantage overlap and interact, and shows how disadvantage becomes entrenched and difficult to escape. Find the full report and all findings at [www.dote.org.au](http://www.dote.org.au)

Prior to the report's launch, Jesuit Social Services briefed government departments across the country, engaged with peak associations, and presented preliminary findings at the Australian Social Justice Conference. Upon launch, *Dropping off the Edge 2021* received significant national television, radio and print media coverage, generating more than 350 media mentions and over a dozen collaboration enquiries from not-for-profits, government departments and community leaders.

*Dropping off the Edge* research has previously contributed to the establishment of a national Social Inclusion Board, informed policy development by state and territory governments, and supported local community members to advocate for the resources and programs their towns and regions need to flourish.

**3,399**

website visits in first week

**1,210**

report downloads in first week

**345**

media mentions

**10+**

briefings delivered

**500+**

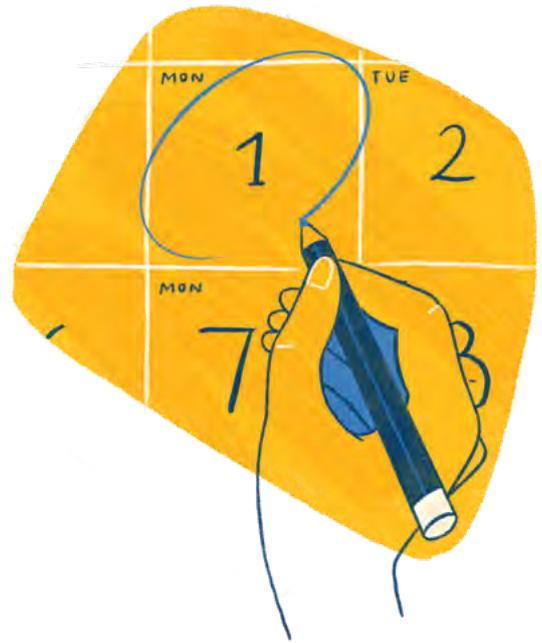
number of times the *Dropping off the Edge* series has been cited in other research publications



“The [Dropping off the Edge] work and report is absolutely amazing and invaluable to us in the work we are currently doing, which is to develop a social advocacy agenda [for our city council]. We currently have no generalised crisis or short-term accommodation in the City and no local homelessness support services so this data [is] building our arguments for these services being a key priority for the area.”

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGER

# Campaigns and Events



We bring people together to share stories, explore solutions, and imagine a new way forward.

## Highlights

Thirty years on from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, First Nations young people remain overrepresented at all points in the Australian justice system. Our fifth **National Justice Symposium**, delivered in partnership with the North Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA), explored the ingredients needed for grassroots and systemic change. Held in Mparntwe / Alice Springs and online on 28 July 2021, the event centred the voices and stories of First Nations youth and their communities, featuring keynote speeches and panel discussions focused on system reform, examples of good practice, and the power of storytelling and community action. Attendees heard from speakers including the Strong Grandmothers Group of the Central Desert Region (NT), Cheryl Axleby (Change the Record, SA) and Mililma May and Sharna Alley (Uprising of the People, NT), as well as international speakers Judge Tony Fitzgerald (New Zealand), Candice C Jones (USA) and Clinton Lacey (USA).

We continued to centre the voices of those most affected in our 2022 symposium, the **National Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Symposium**, which was delivered online and in partnership with victim-survivors to consider perpetrator-focused insights and opportunities to prevent child sexual abuse. Held on 9 June, the event comprised keynotes and

panel discussions drawing on local and international expertise, featuring speakers including Stop It Now! UK and Ireland director Donald Findlater, Moore Centre for Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse director Dr Elizabeth Letourneau (USA), National Office for Child Safety head Rebekah Kilpatrick, detective Jon Rouse, and University of New South Wales professor Emma Jane. The free event was delivered in collaboration with the University of Melbourne, the University of New South Wales, the University of the Sunshine Coast, Griffith University and advocate Sally Treeby, and attracted over 450 registrations from across Australia and internationally.



“[It] was a great conference, one of the best I have been to that was clearly in true partnership and centring the voices of first nation communities. Too often we talk about key issues in youth justice without centring the voices of aboriginal organisations and people.”

NATIONAL JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM  
ATTENDEE, JULY 2021

## Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA)

CAPSA is a unified national network campaigning for the just and humane treatment of people seeking asylum in Australia. Founded in 2013, it is co-convened by Jesuit Social Services and Jesuit Refugee Service Australia. CAPSA's key advocacy priority in 2021 was the Action for Afghanistan campaign, which calls for a more compassionate response to people fleeing Afghanistan. In support of this campaign, CAPSA wrote to and met with members of parliament, collected more than 600 petition signatures of support, held an action-based webinar that reached more than 200 people, and worked in close collaboration with the Afghanistan diaspora in Australia to elevate and strengthen the community's calls. CAPSA additionally advocated on the issue of indefinite immigration detention, providing a submission to the Federal Government's Inquiry into the *Ending Indefinite and Arbitrary Immigration Detention Bill 2021*.

## Worth A Second Chance

Worth A Second Chance engages the public to advocate for a fairer and more effective youth justice system, in which young people receive the support they need to be accountable for their actions and get their lives back on track. In 2021, Worth A Second Chance hosted a nationally attended webinar on the role education can play in a young person's journey away from the justice system. Building on successful online community engagement in 2020 through the Community Check-In video interview series and Worth A Second Chance podcast, the campaign launched a second season of podcast interviews and published eight monthly supporter bulletins. Worth A Second Chance continued to advocate for an increased age of criminal responsibility, with Jesuit Social Services signing the national Raise the Age campaign's open letter and sitting on the Raise the Age Victorian working group.

## Campaign webinars

While COVID-19 again sent the majority of our events online, delivering webinars allowed our advocacy to have a national reach, engage more diverse audiences, and explore issues and solutions with new supporters.

In September, CAPSA's online Action for Afghanistan webinar allowed attendees to take specific actions, including sharing the campaigns' calls on social media and emailing members of parliament, which was made newly accessible with the webinar's online format. And in March, Worth A Second Chance's School Not Prison webinar similarly called on attendees – based across Australia – to share social media posts and join the campaign for a more effective youth justice system.

As Australia emerges from lockdowns and remote work, the lessons learnt from delivering events online persist. Webinars will remain a part of Jesuit Social Services' advocacy and engagement, as we continually seek to bring diverse groups together to build a just society.

85%

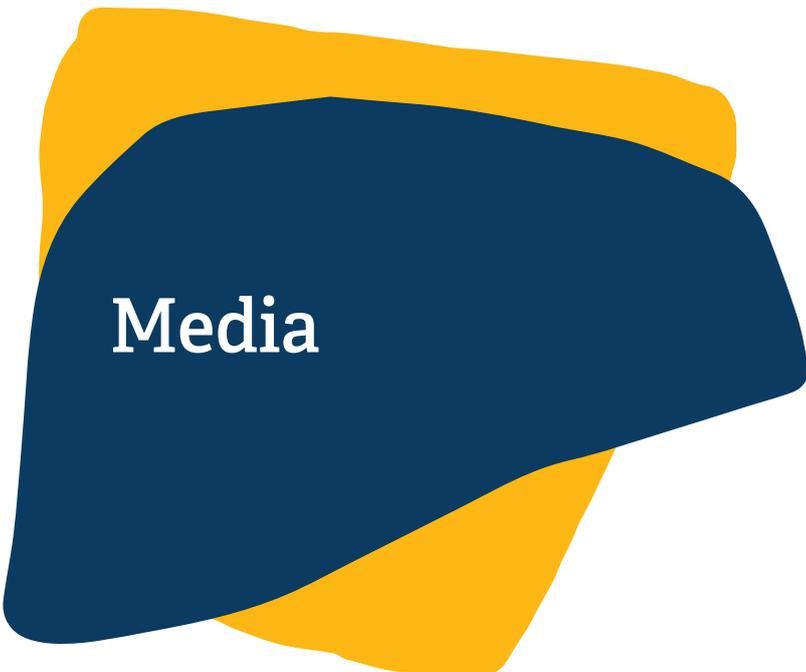
CAPSA webinar attendees surveyed felt equipped to take further action after the event

143

people attended a WASC webinar

1,245

event attendees



# Media

Engagement with the media continues to be a key way in which we can advocate for change, place important social justice issues on the public agenda, and provide a platform for our participants to share their stories.

## Highlights

- **More than 400 unique media hits relating to our Dropping off the Edge 2021 report**, including exclusive national coverage across ABC TV, radio and online, and hundreds of media hits at local and community outlets allowing them to unpack the findings applicable to their regions;
- **Media coverage of our fifth National Justice Symposium**, held in partnership with the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA) in Mparntwe / Alice Springs and online. The Symposium, held five years since the announcement of the *Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory*, was covered by national TV and radio as well as local outlets in the Territory;
- **Radio and online coverage about the National Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Symposium**, which we facilitated ahead of launching a Stop it Now! Australia helpline for adults worried about their thoughts and behaviours in relation to children;
- **National TV coverage about the success of our Victoria Police Diversity Recruitment Program**, featuring interviews with several graduates of the program including the first female Ethiopian to serve as a Victoria Police officer;
- **Print media coverage about the Maribyrnong Community Residential Facility**, which provides transitional support and housing for men exiting prison who would otherwise be at high risk of homelessness. Jesuit Social Services delivers transitional support to participants as part of the program, which was funded for a further two years in the 2021/22 Victorian Budget;
- **Media coverage of our responses to the 2022 Federal Election, 2022–23 Federal Budget and 2022–23 Victorian Budget**, in which we welcomed key funding announcements and initiatives and reiterated advocacy asks.

# Fundraising



## Appeals

In 2021–2022 our donors generously supported us with \$331,570 by donating to our quarterly appeals. Outside of these appeals we received a further \$887,750 in donations.

## Philanthropic support

We are very grateful for the significant support we have received from philanthropic organisations, which collectively donated \$1,191,998 towards our work including The Men’s Project, Artful Dodgers Studios, Jesuit Community College, the Centre for Just Places, Ignatius Learning Centre, and our work in Western Sydney and the Northern Territory.

## Community Partners and workplace giving

Jesuit Social Services’ Community Partners are donors who commit to a monthly contribution. This guaranteed source of income gives us the confidence to commit to new initiatives and stick with existing projects, knowing we have the resources to see our plans through. Our Community Partners donated a generous \$94,512 this financial year. We received an additional \$4,349 through our workplace giving program.

## Bequests

Making a Will may be one of the most important things you do during your lifetime. It gives you an opportunity to safeguard the future of those you care about – your family, friends, communities and organisations like Jesuit Social Services. The generosity of bequestors will allow Jesuit Social Services to keep responding to the unmet needs of disadvantaged young people, families and communities. Jesuit Social Services can use these funds to bring our programs to more people, to expand our work into new areas and to build the capacity of the organisation to continue its work. If you would like to know more about leaving a gift to Jesuit Social Services in your Will, please contact us on (03) 9421 7600.

# Thanking our Supporters

In addition to being supported by hundreds of individual donors, to whom we are so grateful, Jesuit Social Services is supported by government, business, philanthropic bodies and community organisations with funding or pro bono services. This includes multiple departments within the Victorian Government.

We're grateful to every organisation on this list for their partnership and trust.

ANZ Community Foundation  
Australian Province of the Society of Jesus  
Banyule Community Health  
Bob Stewart Pty Ltd  
Caritas Australia  
Commonwealth Government of Australia  
Creswick Foundation  
Darebin City Council  
Gandel Foundation  
Gill Family Foundation  
Jenkins Foundation  
Knox City Council  
Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation  
McClintock Family Fund  
Melbourne City Council  
Moreland City Council  
Mornington Peninsula Shire  
Noel and Carmel O'Brien Family Foundation  
Norman, Mavis & Graeme Waters Perpetual Charitable Trust  
Northern Territory Government  
New South Wales State Government  
Old Ignatians' Union

Our Lady of the Way Parish, North Sydney  
PAR Leasing Pty Ltd  
Peter Griffin and Terry Swan Foundation  
Primary Health Network – Gippsland (Gippsland PHN)  
Primary Health Network – North Western Melbourne (NWVPHN)  
Primary Health Network – South Eastern Melbourne (SEMPHN)  
Primary Health Network – Western Victoria (WVPHN)  
QMV Solutions Pty Ltd  
Sisters of Charity of Australia  
Superior Strategy Pty Ltd  
Sustainability Victoria  
The City of Greater Dandenong and Community Support Grants Program  
The Lichtenberg Foundation  
VicHealth  
Victorian State Government  
Westpac  
Whittlesea City Council  
Yarra City Council



# Leadership

# Governance

Jesuit Social Services Ltd is a work of the Australian Jesuit Province, operating as an incorporated organisation under an independent and voluntary Board of Directors.

## Legal status

Jesuit Social Services' legal status is defined as:

- A company limited by guarantee;
- A registered charity holding an endorsement for charity tax;
- Holding Deductible Gift Recipient Level 1;
- With Concessions and Public Benevolent Institution status, allowing tax deductions for donations; and
- Fringe Benefit Tax exempt.

## Governance structure

Ten non-executive Directors make up the Jesuit Social Services Board, comprising six Provincial Appointees, including the Chair, and four Board-appointed Directors.

Directors receive no remuneration for their role on the Board, and accept full responsibility for the governance of the organisation, in accordance with Australian corporations law, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit legislation, and community standards. You can meet our Board overleaf.

The Board sets the strategic direction and oversees the performance of the organisation. Good corporate governance is a fundamental part of the culture and business practices of Jesuit Social Services, and the Board has adopted formal governance practices and processes. The Board Committee structure is an integral part of this practice, and includes the:

- Strategic Planning and Fundraising Committee
- Governance Committee
- Risk and Finance Committee
- Education Committee
- People, Practice and Quality Committee
- Property Committee.



These Committees are comprised of both representatives from the Board and other individuals with expertise in their respective fields.

## Effective and transparent governance

The Board's composition and performance are reviewed regularly to ensure it has the appropriate mix of skills and experience and is operating in an effective manner.

New Directors receive an induction into the organisation, and all Directors participate in an ongoing development program concerning their role, responsibilities, our Ignatian heritage, and the work of Jesuit Social Services.

An individual Director will not participate in decision-making processes if any potential conflict of interest is likely to arise. The Board supports open and transparent communication with stakeholders, while maintaining as imperative the confidentiality of program participants.



**“Our dedicated and passionate Board enables Jesuit Social Services to operate strategically to effectively deliver on our vision of building a just society.”**

**JULIE EDWARDS, JESUIT SOCIAL SERVICES CEO**

# Board

Jesuit Social Services is led by an independent Board of volunteers whose governance provides accountability and oversight.



## Patricia Faulkner AO, Chair of the Board

Patricia Faulkner AO chairs the Boards of Jesuit Social Services and the Commonwealth Bank of Australia CEO Advisory Panel, is Chair of the Melbourne Academic Centre for Health Council, Deputy Chair of the Melbourne Theatre Company Board of Management, and is a member of AWARE Super Board, the Melbourne Racing Club Committee, and Caritas.

Patricia was awarded an Order of Australia in 2008 for service to the community through the development and implementation of public policy relating to health, aged care, children's services, disability services and housing.

Patricia has held a diverse range of senior leadership positions, including serving as a Deputy Commissioner to the 2016 Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence, Director of Consumer Affairs Victoria, Director of Occupational Health and Safety, and Secretary of the Department of Human Services. She previously held senior health leadership roles at KPMG, and is a Fellow of the Australian College of Health Services Executives and a National Fellow of IPAA.



## Professor Margarita Frederico

Professor Margarita Frederico is Graduate Research Coordinator, Social Work and Social Policy at La Trobe University. Margarita has extensive local and international experience in social

work and social policy teaching, research and evaluation, with a particular emphasis on family and child welfare, trauma and child wellbeing. She is a life member of both the Australian Association of Social Workers and of Berry Street, and is a Director of Odyssey House Victoria and Board Member of YSAS. Margarita concluded her 16-year term on the Jesuit Social Services Board in May 2022.



## Inala Cooper

Inala Cooper is a Yawuru woman from Western Australia's Kimberley region who grew up in south-west Victoria on Gunditjmarra country. She is employed at The University of Melbourne as the Director of Murrup Barak, Melbourne

Institute for Indigenous Development, and is a Director on the Board of a number of not-for-profits including Culture Is Life, the Adam Briggs Foundation, and State Library Victoria. Inala holds a Masters in Human Rights Law and is a passionate advocate for Indigenous rights and social justice.



### **Christiana McCudden**

Christiana McCudden has practised in commercial litigation and payments law for more than 15 years. Formerly a special counsel with Corrs Chambers Westgarth, Christiana joined Gilbert + Tobin Lawyers in

2014. In addition to her private practice, Christiana has worked as the Deputy CEO of the Hope Vale Aboriginal Council in the Cape York region of Queensland and was part of the Victorian Law Reform Commission team that worked on the Civil Justice Review.



### **Justin Lachal**

Justin Lachal has more than 20 years' experience in the accounting and finance sector, including roles with KPMG and the ANZ Banking Group. Justin is a fellow of the Chartered Accountants and holds Masters

degrees in Business Information Technology, Applied Finance and Business Administration. Justin is currently on the Board of the Sunraysia Institute of Technical and Further Education (SuniTAFE), and is General Manager at the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne.



### **Patrick Allen**

Patrick Allen is a criminal defence lawyer and qualified social worker. His law firm, Patrick Allen Law, predominantly represents children and young adults. Prior to being a lawyer, Patrick worked for a decade in various fields including child

protection, youth justice, community development and homelessness. Patrick was also previously an employee of Jesuit Social Services and he was educated by the Jesuits for eight years at Xavier College in Melbourne.



### **Sr Libby Rogerson IBVM**

Sister Libby Rogerson IBVM is a Loreto sister with extensive involvement in refugee advocacy. Between 1999 and 2009 Sr Libby was Coordinator of Social Justice and Director of Caritas in the Diocese of

Parramatta, where she helped found the House of Welcome refugee and asylum seeker service. She is a member of the Loreto Sisters' Province Council, the St Francis Social Services Board, the Loreto Justice Network Committee, Jesuit Social Services' New South Wales Advisory Group, and recently retired from chairing Mary Ward International Australia, and remains on its Board.



### **Julian Butler SJ**

Julian Butler SJ joined the Jesuits in 2017 and works as chaplain to senior students and recent graduates at Xavier College. Julian is a contributor and editorial consultant at Jesuit Communications Australia, chairs the Australian Jesuit

Province's Governance, Risk & Compliance Policy Reference Group, and until December 2021 was a member of the Pastoral Council at Richmond Catholic Parish. Prior to joining the Jesuits, Julian practiced law, specialising in child protection and youth criminal defence.



### **Fr Frank Brennan SJ AO**

Father Frank Brennan SJ is a Jesuit priest and the current Rector of Newman College within The University of Melbourne. He has worked variously as a Jesuit priest within the Catholic Church, a human rights lawyer,

a professor of law at Australian Catholic University, and CEO of Catholic Social Services Australia. He is widely known to the Australian public through his long career of leadership and advocacy on a range of human rights and social justice issues relating to asylum seekers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and the poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged both in Australia and abroad.



### **Julia Griffith PSM**

Julia Griffith PSM has more than 30 years' experience in the Victorian public service, spanning senior and executive leadership roles across a range of justice portfolios including youth justice, policing, corrections, crime

prevention, victim services and the infringements system. Julia was notably responsible for leading the Victorian Government's employment programs for disadvantaged jobseekers and redeveloping its child protection placement and support services. She retired from the role of Deputy Commissioner of the Victorian Public Sector Commission in January 2022.



### **Dr Chris Hayes**

Dr Chris Hayes is a highly respected and experienced Catholic educational leader who worked previously as Principal of Xavier College in Melbourne, St Edmund's College in Canberra and St Joseph's College in Sydney. Chris

completed his Doctoral studies with the Australian Catholic University, exploring how Christian values can be authentically incorporated in pedagogy and daily interactions between teachers and students in the classroom. His leadership is characterised by prayer, generosity, and a determined commitment to creative learning and improved academic outcomes for all students.

# Human Resources and Volunteers

Our passionate and experienced staff and volunteers are at the heart of our work with people and communities.

## Human Resources

In 2021-22, Jesuit Social Services filled more than 148 roles across Victoria, New South Wales and the Northern Territory, for a total of approximately 381 staff.

Jesuit Social Services is a values-based organisation. We ensure all new staff members and volunteers have a strong understanding of our vision, mission and values, and how these relate to our work on a daily basis. Induction and orientation programs are a critical way of welcoming new staff and building strong foundations from which they can develop and grow. Over the financial year we delivered 20 induction and orientation programs.

## Volunteers

Jesuit Social Services' volunteers are a fundamental and highly valued part of what we do.

While COVID-19 continued to impact our service delivery this year, as not all programs were easily adapted to online delivery, we were able to maintain connections with 200 volunteers, who contributed a combined 9,920 hours of support to Jesuit Social Services and our participants.

These dedicated and spirited volunteers contributed to programs in areas spanning homework tutoring, policy research, online counselling, community gardening, resume writing workshops, op shop work, food distribution, mentoring, refugee rights advocacy, and more.

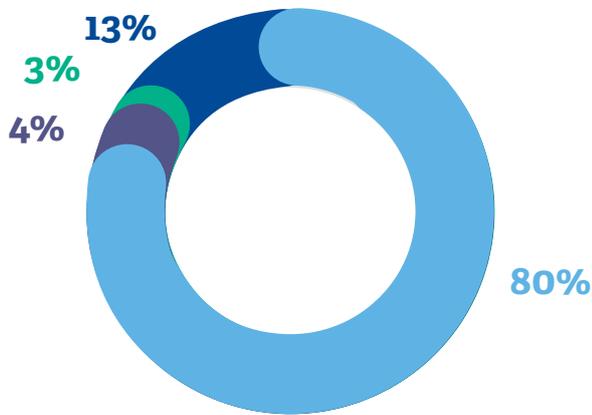


**“Volunteering at Jesuit Social Services for me means belonging to a community of people who care about justice, people who work strategically, collaboratively and thoroughly. I am very glad to work for justice as part of this community.”**

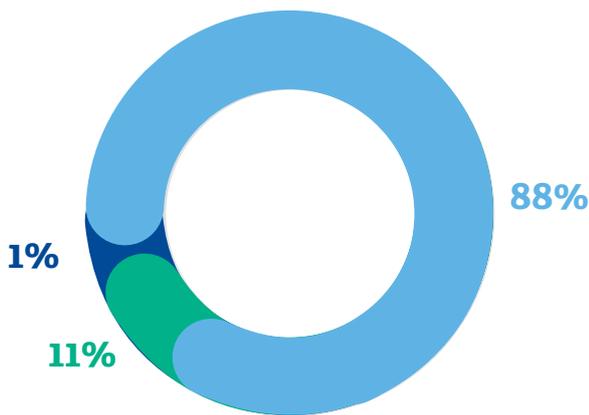
**FRAN, VOLUNTEER**



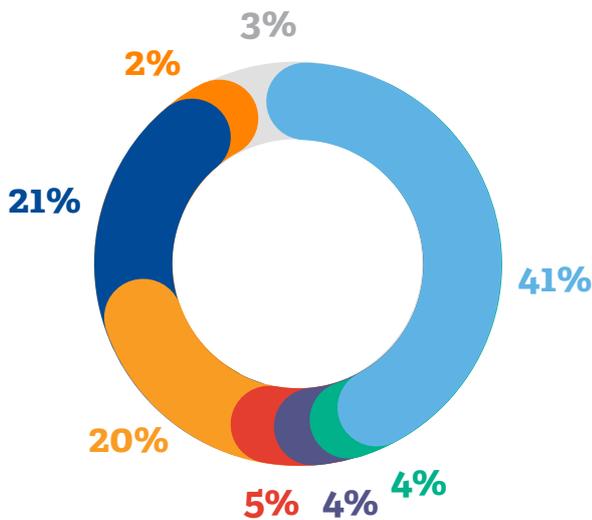
# Financial Summary



Revenue	Percentage
Government Income and Grants	80%
All Other	4%
Trust and Philanthropic Grants	3%
Fundraising	13%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>100%</b>



Expenditure	Percentage
Direct Program Expenditure	88%
Administration Expenditure	11%
Fundraising Expenditure	1%
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>100%</b>



Direct Program Expenditure	Percentage
Justice and crime prevention	41%
Ignatius Learning Centre	4%
Centre for Just Places	4%
Mental health and wellbeing	5%
Settlement and community building	20%
Education, training and employment	21%
Research, policy and advocacy	2%
Gender and culture	3%
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>100%</b>

# Acknowledgement



Jesuit Social Services acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands on which we operate, and pay our respects to their Elders, past and present. We express our gratitude for their love and care and the land and all life, and value and celebrate their cultures that derive spiritual strength from relationships with land, family and community connections, and the storylines of proud and resilient peoples.

Our vision for reconciliation is for an Australia of equality where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians can walk side-by-side, acknowledging the past, but looking to the future. To realise this vision, we're using a framework guided by Reconciliation Victoria and Reconciliation Australia. This framework includes:

- **A Reconciliation Action Plan** – a practical action plan built on meaningful relationships, enhanced respect and sustainable opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- **An Aboriginal Advisory Group** – a group that oversees the development and implementation of a Reconciliation Action Plan.



# Build a just society with us

There are many ways to support and be involved with Jesuit Social Services' work.

## Make a donation

Give hope to someone in need by making a tax-deductible donation at [jss.org.au](http://jss.org.au)

## Volunteer

Contribute your time and skills to supporting people on the edges of society.

## Make a bequest

Build a legacy that helps us fulfil our vision of a just society.

## Advocate for justice

Join our campaigns and speak to your friends and family about our work – learn more about the issues we care about at [jss.org.au](http://jss.org.au)







[www.jss.org.au](http://www.jss.org.au)



[jss@jss.org.au](mailto:jss@jss.org.au)



03 9421 7600



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