



Jesuit Social Services

Annual Report
2022 – 2023



**Jesuit
Social Services**
Building a Just Society

Jesuit Social Services acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands on which we work, and pays our respects to their Elders, past and present.

We express our gratitude for their love and care for 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.



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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.

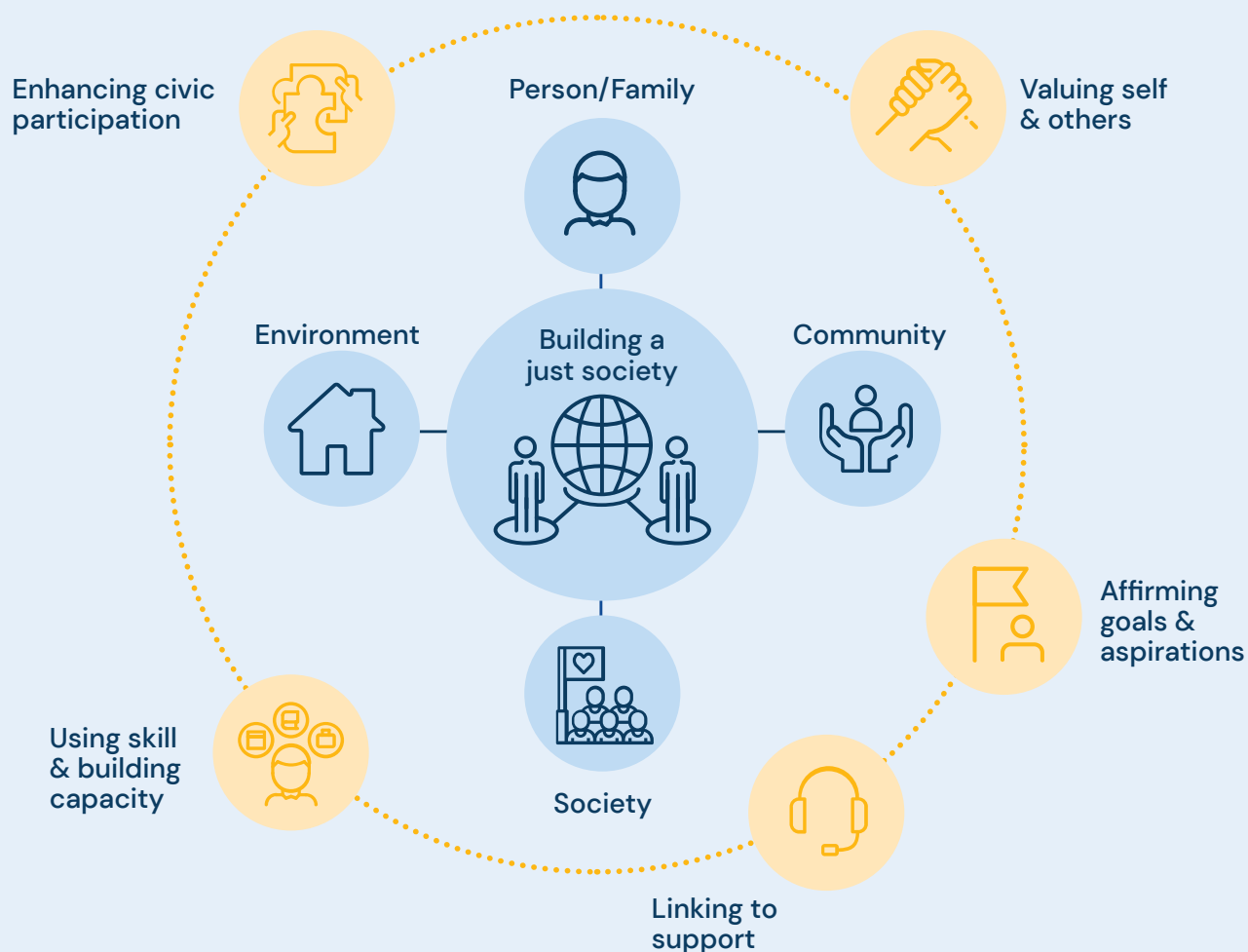
Practice approach and principles

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. Find solutions to remove barriers to inclusion and deliver meaningful social change.
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 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).

Our way of working

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

- **Value self, others and the environment**
- **Affirm goals and aspirations**
- **Link to supports**
- **Use skills and build capacity**
- **Enhance civic participation**

Where we work



Victoria

Brunswick
Camberwell
Carlton
Collingwood

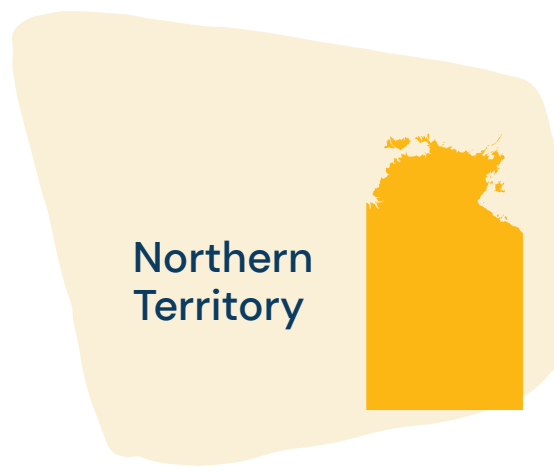
Wurundjeri country

Dandenong

Bunurong country

Flemington
Kew
Preston
Reservoir
Richmond
St Albans
Sunshine

Wurundjeri country



Northern Territory

Alice Springs

Arrernte country

Darwin

Larrakia country

Katherine

Jawoyn, Dagoman and
Wardaman country

Palmerston

Larrakia country

Santa Teresa
(Ltyentye Apurte)

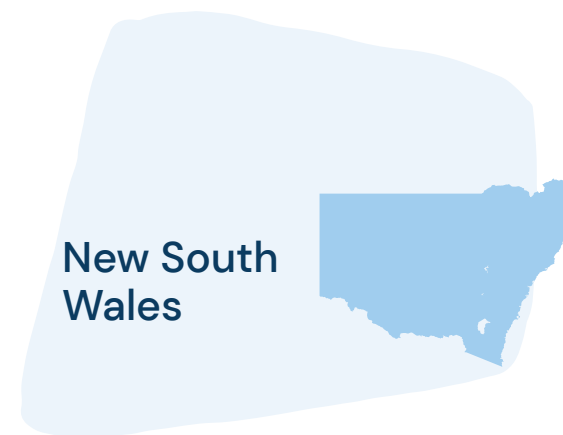
Eastern Arrernte country

Tennant Creek

Waramungu country

Wadeye

Kardu Diminin country



New South Wales

Burwood
Willmot
Emerton

Dharug country



CEO's message

Last year marked Jesuit Social Services' 45th anniversary. It was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our beginnings in 1977, as Four Flats – providing supported accommodation to young men exiting custody – and to celebrate the growth of the organisation, particularly over the past decade. Key milestones throughout this time have included significant expansion of our education, training and employment services, the establishment of The Men's Project, the Centre for Just Places and the Ignatius Learning Centre.

For many of our programs, last year also signified a return to 'normal' service operations after more than two years of disruption due to the pandemic. I am particularly proud of the way our staff responded with agility and commitment to develop new ways of working during these years in order to meet the needs of the people and communities we accompany, many of whom were significantly impacted during this time of upheaval.

I am pleased to share with you some of the year's highlights in our efforts to progress our vision of building a just society.

We remain committed to addressing unmet and often unpopular need. The impact of The Men's Project – which supports boys and men to live respectful, accountable and fulfilling lives free from violence and other harmful behaviours – continues to grow. Our team engaged dozens of schools, councils and other community groups, supporting their staff who work with boys and young men every day to be equipped with

the skills they need to make a positive difference in promoting gender justice.

In September 2022, The Men's Project launched Stop it Now! Australia – an anonymous service that aims to prevent child sexual abuse. Central to Stop it Now! Australia is a phone helpline and live chat service for people who are worried about their own or someone else's sexual thoughts and behaviours in relation to children. One year into delivering the service, Stop It Now! Australia has received more than 200 calls and live chats, and its website has been accessed by over 9,000 people. Each of these engagements is a valuable window for intervention to prevent harm to children. Research demonstrates that there is a 10-year window between someone first realising they have these thoughts and first coming to the attention of police – a crucial window to act.

Stop It Now! Australia is currently being evaluated by the University of Melbourne, and the preliminary findings indicate that the service is having its intended effect of reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors for people concerned about their own thoughts and behaviours.

Our Centre for Just Places launched two major reports in 2022–23. Jesuit Social Services established the Centre in 2021, to support and enable place-based approaches to social and ecological justice through research, collaboration, engagement and knowledge exchange. In November, the Centre published its Collaborative Action Plan, the result of a year-long project bringing more than 44 health and community service organisations

Julie Edwards
CEO, Jesuit Social
Services



and other stakeholders in Melbourne's west together to articulate a shared vision for climate justice in the region. In December, the Centre launched What works for place-based approaches in Victoria?, a research report and case studies examining what features enable the success of place-based approaches and how best to support them.

Amongst these new initiatives and important research projects, Jesuit Social Services has continued to successfully deliver long-standing services across a range of interconnected social justice areas including justice and crime prevention, education, training and employment, mental health and settlement.

We were honoured to welcome Senator Malarndirri McCarthy to deliver the Frank Costigan QC Address at our Annual Dinner. Senator McCarthy shared her hopes about how a Voice to Parliament would enhance the self-determination of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

I would like to thank our staff, volunteers, donors and supporters for their ongoing support as we strive together to build a just society.

Chair's message

I am proud to be reporting to you after another productive year at Jesuit Social Services, in which the organisation has continued to support people and communities on the margins, constantly working towards our vision of building a just society.

Over the past year, we have continued to deliver a diverse range of innovative programs to support people and communities in need across Victoria, Western Sydney and the Northern Territory. More than 12,300 people received direct support from us across the past 12 months, across a range of interconnected social justice areas.

Our commitment to 'doing' and 'influencing' means our direct service delivery always informs our advocacy work – spanning policy and research, media, communications, events and campaigns to change systemic inequalities and injustices.

Across 2022, the organisation had more than 240,000 opportunities to influence the community through our advocacy and strategic communications work, including views of our advocacy submissions published on Jesuit Social Services' website, engagement with social media and through our two campaigns, Worth A Second Chance and the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (which we co-convene with Jesuit Refugee Service Australia).

We are committed to standing up for what we believe in, which has led to the organisation advocating strongly for a First Nations Voice to Parliament. While we know there are differing views about the Voice among the

community, we stand behind a strong belief that the Voice would be a stepping stone towards a society where Indigenous and non-Indigenous people can walk together, acknowledging the past and working towards a more positive future.

The tangible success that our advocacy, undertaken in collaboration with our colleagues, can have in transforming systems has been demonstrated over the past year, as we have seen a number of states and territories commit to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 years. Jesuit Social Services has lobbied for the age of criminal responsibility to be raised for a decade, since we released our Thinking Outside research in 2013.

In the past year, Victoria and the Northern Territory have committed to raising the age from 10 to 12 while the Australian Capital Territory will raise the age of criminal responsibility to 14 by 2025. While we will continue to advocate for the age to be raised to 14, without exceptions in every state and territory, we also acknowledge and welcome the positive progress that has been made.

Another significant highlight over the past year was Jesuit Social Services being awarded funding by the Victorian Government to plan and implement the new Mental Health & Wellbeing Connect Centre for families, carers and supporters of people with mental health or substance use problems in Melbourne's western metropolitan region. The establishment of a number of Centres across the state is an outcome of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System,

Patricia Faulkner
Chair, Jesuit Social Services



which highlighted the important role played by families, carers and supporters in contributing to the wellbeing of people experiencing mental health challenges, psychological distress, mental illness, or substance use problems.

We also welcome the news that we will deliver a pilot of the existing Navigator program, extending support to children as young as 10 to engage or re-engage with education. We have delivered Navigator since its inception, supporting participants aged 12 to 17 and their families, and are excited that we can now intervene even earlier to help marginalised children towards brighter futures.

I would like to thank Inala Cooper, who retired from our Board last year, and extend my gratitude to our current board members, staff, volunteers and supporters for their commitment to the vision, values, and purpose of Jesuit Social Services.

Provincial's message

Once again, I would like to congratulate you at Jesuit Social Services on your selfless and creative work this year with people who are experiencing disadvantage.

As the Jesuit Provincial, it is my responsibility to align our efforts with our Universal Apostolic Preferences, which include: Showing the Way to God; Walking with the Excluded; Journeying with Young People; and Caring for Our Common Home. These preferences should not be isolated categories, but rather passions that infuse life into all our endeavours.

I am delighted to see how this restless movement of the heart flows into your programs. Your concern for the excluded, for example, has found recent expression in the Ignatius Learning Centre that reconnects boys in the criminal justice system to society through learning, and also invites them to seek something more in life.

Your research into the ways in which people in prisons suffer from the effects of climate change, too, led you to focus your concern for environmental justice in the Ecological Justice Hub and in the activities of the Centre for Just Places.

This year, your expansion has not simply involved doing different things, but it has deepened the network of relationships fostered through your works.

You also express the dynamism of the Apostolic Preferences in building connections between different programs. The Outdoor Experience program, for example, ran bush therapy sessions for the young students in the Navigator program.

You show the same expansive and hospitable spirit in the way you build connections with other organisations in order to strengthen local communities. The Centre for Just Places' collaboration within the community sector and the networks of the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum which you co-chair are notable examples.

In addition to these visible endeavours, I am consistently impressed by your tireless advocacy for a more just society. This arduous and often thankless work is rooted in rigorous research. I am delighted to see that your persistent advocacy for raising the age of criminal responsibility has yielded tentative progress in Victoria and the Northern Territory.

Your inclination to broaden horizons, forge connections, and extend support to new areas of need echoes the call of Pope Francis to the Catholic Church and the universal Society of Jesus, including our individual Provinces and works.

I express my gratitude for your contributions to our Conference of Asia Pacific and the Universal Society. I also appreciate your invitation to staff members from our Province, Jesuit Mission, Jesuit Communications, and Jesuit Refugee Service to participate in your Retreats at the local level.

I am confident that you will respond with equal generosity to requests for sharing your expertise with Jesuit works in our neighbouring Provinces and Regions.

Fr Quyen Vu SJ
Jesuit Provincial





Our 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

Communities empowered to participate and create positive change

Hearts, minds and systems changed towards love and justice

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 2022-23, **12,326 people** received direct support from us across Victoria, New South Wales and the Northern Territory.

Justice and reconciliation

1,518

people supported

Education, training and employment

7,240

people supported

Community and connection

603

people supported

Disability, mental health and wellbeing

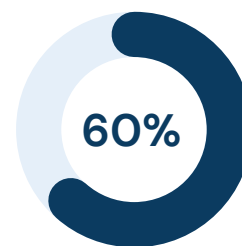
2,965

people supported

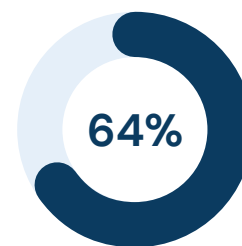
Positive change for participants who received individual support during their time with Jesuit Social Services was reported against the Our Way of Working practice framework, with participants reporting the following outcomes:



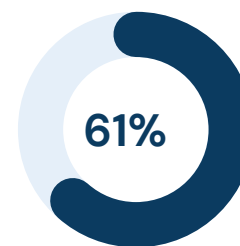
improvement in view of self



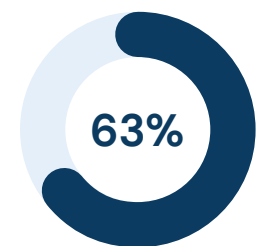
improvement in family/significant connection



improvement in view of the future



improvement in capacity to set goals



improvement in use of supports



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 2022-23, **77,617 people** participated in community development activities across Victoria, New South Wales, the Northern Territory and online.

32,770

patrons or volunteers participated in our social purpose enterprises through Ignite Café in Victoria, and The Store, Opportunity Shop and catering businesses in Western Sydney.

10,599

people participated in our community groupwork activities in Western Sydney, Artful Dodgers Studios and Settlement Services, as well as through our suicide prevention activities.

13,013

people participated in our community education and social justice events through our Western Sydney schools and community engagement and Just Voices programs.

4,891

people participated in place-based and ecological justice-related projects through participatory research and other Centre for Just Places projects, the Ecological Justice Hub, and capacity building activities in Northern Territory and Western Sydney.

14,895

people joined us to promote gender justice through The Men's Project presentations and events or Stop It Now! helpline calls and website visits

1,449

people contributed to our social justice campaigns, including by the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA) and Worth A Second Chance.



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.

In 2022-23, we generated **367,415 opportunities** for driving social change by extending our advocacy to the community through avenues such as media releases, digital communication channels, and website views.

Examples of this work included:

57,161

opportunities to engage with our Worth A Second Chance online advocacy campaign to promote a fairer youth justice system

83,834

combined social media views of our social justice posts

6,063

people reached to promote harm reduction and mental health and wellbeing, and encourage community engagement

2,195

people reached to foster place-based approaches to both social and ecological justice

4,074

people reached with our Raise the Age of criminal responsibility email campaign

161,735

exposures to Ignite Café's social purpose via in-store patrons and online searches

25,252

reached by Advocacy and Strategic Communications through the Jesuit Social Services website views, appeals or other events and campaigns

23,095

opportunities to engage with place-based and ecological justice-related advocacy and resources.

10,275

views of the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA) advocacy



Flourishing individuals

12,326

participants

1,270

participants received bereavement support after suicide through counselling, regular follow-up or group work

1,470

people supported through our justice programs

1,598

mental health or drug and alcohol contacts recorded by Connexions dual diagnosis service

897

referrals were made to housing or homelessness services

846

young people were referred to Navigator for support to reengage with education

75%

of participants report improved view of future after 12 months of support

3,760

people assisted to access employment through Jesuit Community College



Empowered communities

77,617

engagements

3,374

people participated in gender justice, Modelling Respect and Equality (MoRE) Schools Pilot workshops

9,521

unique website visits to Stop It Now's dedicated website for child sexual abuse prevention

6,186

people heard participant stories of resilience and survival through the Just Voices speakers' program

1,733

people were reached by Centre for Just Places ecological justice and community action projects

3,000

drop-ins for community connection and support to the Hub at Mount Druitt

21,418

children and families benefited from healthy and affordable foods through our new catering social enterprises in Western Sydney

74%

community empowering activities resulted in emerging or strong engagement in community skills, knowledge or behaviours



Changed hearts, minds and systems

367,415

opportunities
to influence

5,825

views of Advocacy and Strategic Communications our advocacy submissions, news stories, blogs and media releases through the **Jesuit Social Services website**

4,074

people reached with the **Worth a Second Chance** Raise the Age email campaign

18,857

reached by **Advocacy and Strategic Communications** advocacy and fundraising appeals

20,900

views of the
Dropping Off The Edge (DOTE) website

11,131

average monthly google views of **Ignite Café's** search page

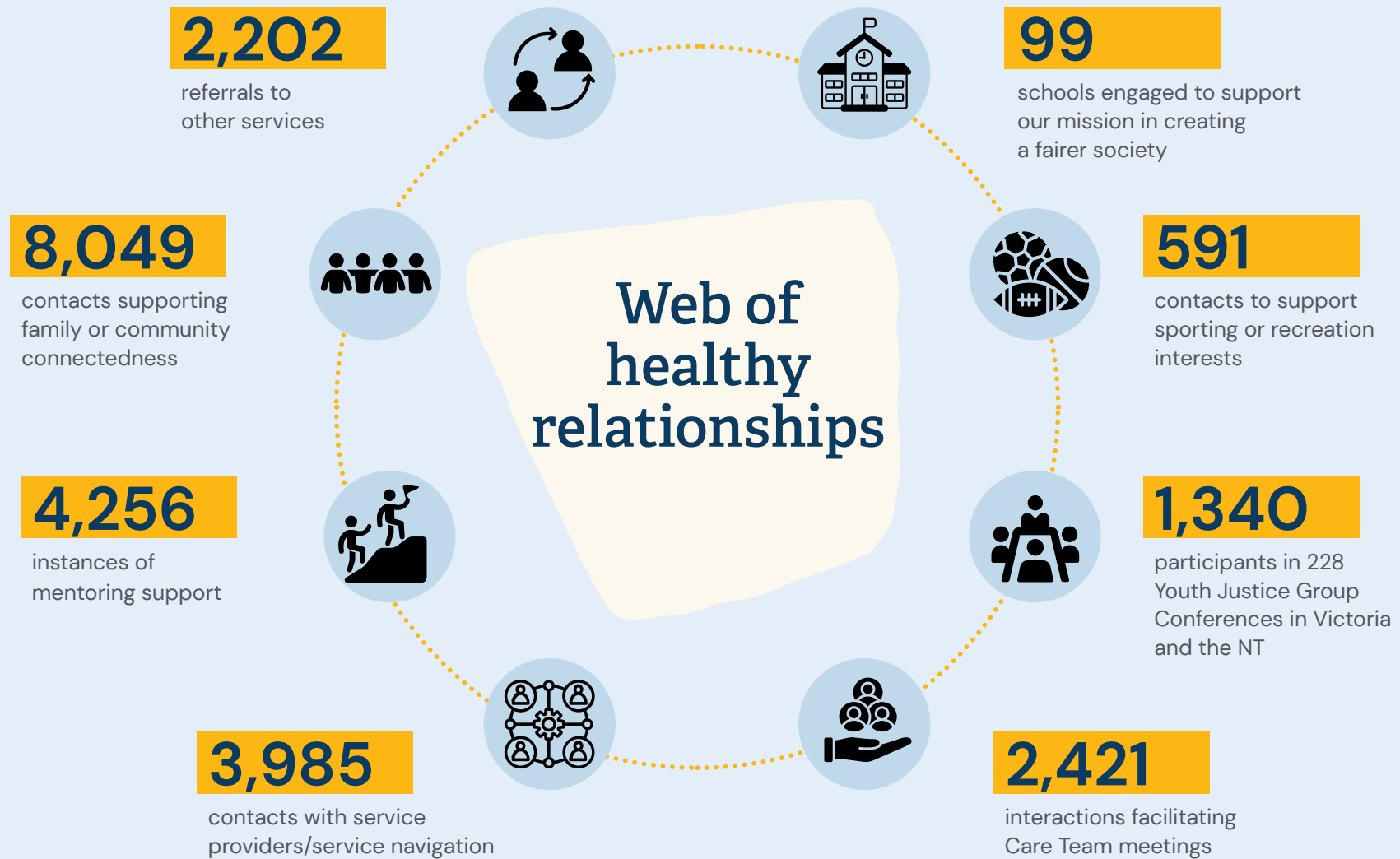
10,190

views of the **Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA)** website

1,616

monthly average engagements with **Jesuit Social Services** **Facebook** posts





Flourishing individuals

We engage respectfully with individuals experiencing disadvantage and hardship in ways that give them opportunities 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.



Ignatius Learning Centre supports students to express themselves through the arts

The Ignatius Learning Centre is a small independent Catholic school for boys aged 15 to 17 who are in contact with the criminal justice system. The school provides an inclusive, therapeutic educational environment to re-engage young people with education pathways to further learning and employment. The school worked closely with the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) staff to provide opportunities for students to visit the gallery in December 2022.

Lead Teacher, John Pritchard, said, “giving students this experience might unlock something – help them understand themselves a little more, identify something they’re interested in, or even open up a career path.”

At the gallery, one student, Adam*, was enthralled by the stained-glass ceiling in the Great Hall and keenly interested in the stories behind various pieces of art. “Adam asked really insightful questions,” John said.

Due to a high level of student interest, the school has added a Certificate II in Visual Arts to the curriculum, allowing students to explore a variety of visual arts skills, from drawing to painting, digital media and clothing design.

The school continues to work with the NGV to plan future excursions.

A pathway into the trades for women and gender diverse people

Following a break due to the pandemic, Jesuit Community College’s introduction to woodworking course, Hammertime, returned to the Ecological Justice Hub in 2022.

Trainer Anj Hansen – a former teacher and social worker, and a qualified carpenter – said the course is aimed at women and welcomes trans and gender diverse people.

“Hammertime aims to provide a welcoming environment for people interested in exploring a trade as a career path, or just wanting to learn about using hand and power tools.”

She runs the courses with a focus on sustainability. Across five workshops per course, participants use a recycled timber pallet to build a bench seat, with opportunities to discuss career pathways in the trades.

“There are no dumb questions in this class,” said Anj.



“I have lots and lots of patience and everyone takes home something they have made with their own hands.”

Anj Hansen

TRAINER

Confidence and connection for young people disengaged from education

Navigator supports young people in Victoria aged 12 to 17 who have attended 30 per cent or less of the previous school term, or are not in education at all, to re-engage with education or training opportunities.

By providing case management and intensive outreach to participants, the program addresses barriers underlying school non-attendance, supports students to set and achieve learning goals, and works with families, carers, schools and communities to expand and coordinate the network of people who support a young person.

“Our goal is always to get the young person to school, but it takes so much to help them get there,” said Navigator Case Manager Jasmine Kokonis.

“For these young people, even leaving their home can be such a big deal.”

While every young person we support through Navigator is unique, many experience common challenges, such as social anxiety, mental health concerns, intellectual disabilities and tough financial circumstances. This makes attending school, and accessing its accompanying excursions, activities and connections, all the more difficult.

That’s why each school holidays, Navigator case managers organise activities for the program participants who would otherwise miss out – including a city-based scavenger hunt in January, and in April, an outdoor Easter celebration incorporating games, socialising, and an egg hunt.

Participants said the activities were the first time they had socialised without feeling awkward, and enjoyed meeting other young people who share similar feelings and experiences.

“School is so important for learning, but also for social connection,” Jasmine said.



“The program helped our participants build resilience, and meet other young people who feel the same way they do. Participants were like, ‘I was able to cope in a social situation – I did it!’”

Emily Moustafa,

– NAVIGATOR CASE MANAGER



“They helped me go back into school. I didn’t go to school much, and since having them in my life I’ve started going every day.”

Navigator participant



Bush adventure therapy brings students out of their shells

A new collaboration between two Jesuit Social Services programs has brought disengaged learners “out of their shells”, overcoming anxieties in the serenity of Melbourne’s riverside bushland.

The Outdoor Experience is a bush adventure therapy program that works primarily with young people with substance misuse problems.

In early 2023, it collaborated with staff from the Navigator program to design and deliver a transformative five-week program for Navigator participants based in inner east Melbourne.

“The program’s goal was to assist participants to overcome anxieties, build confidence, and foster social connections, all while being supported in the great outdoors,” said The Outdoor Experience’s Coordinator Jenny Vran.

Participants engaged in activities including therapeutic nature walks, team building exercises, climbing activities, group cooking, and orienteering.

Navigator staff observed participants “coming out of their shells,” “communicating more actively in group settings,” and “displaying high energy levels throughout the entire day”.

At the program’s conclusion, 80 per cent of participants reported feeling more connected to others, and all participants identified a sense of achievement and increased motivation.



“This program has made such a significant impact on my confidence to connect with people”

THE OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE PARTICIPANT

Stop it Now! Australia works to prevent child sexual abuse

In September 2022, Jesuit Social Services' The Men's Project launched Stop it Now! Australia, an anonymous service for people worried about their own or someone else's sexual thoughts and behaviours in relation to children, which works to keep children safe and free from harm.

The service includes a phone helpline and live chat, as well as a website with self-help resources.

Stop it Now! Australia is modelled on similar services in other countries, where the intervention has demonstrated it is effective in enabling people to manage their thoughts and behaviours.

The pilot Stop it Now! Australia service is funded by a Westpac grant and is being evaluated by the University of Melbourne.

9,521

Website Visits

185

Helpline Calls

90

Helpline Visitors



"I was provided the helpline number by an officer, and I have to admit... I started crying. I've never had the courage to reach out and discuss these things before. It gave me a huge sense of relief... it was a beginning of a very harrowing, necessary, healthy change in my life."

STOP IT NOW! HELPLINE USER

Wrap-around employment support helps Caleb find his way

Graduating with two degrees while incarcerated is “no easy feat”, according to Caleb*.

Having spent the last ten years in prison, Caleb dedicated himself to completing a Bachelor of Arts and a degree in project management. He said that accessing online resources required meticulous planning, given the time constraints on his computer use.

Prison is where Caleb met his mentor, Jesuit Social Services staff member Lan, while attending the ‘Centre of Excellence’ expo – which offered participants the opportunity to meet prospective employers and service providers who support people who have spent time in prison.

At the conference, participants learn about job opportunities and how wraparound support services – such as Jesuit Social Services’ Jobs Victoria Employment Services program – support participants exiting the justice system.

After Caleb was moved to a transition centre as part of his path towards parole, he was connected with an employer to undertake two-day structured work experience.

Lan attests that Caleb’s commitment and professionalism has resulted in him being offered employment the moment he will be released.

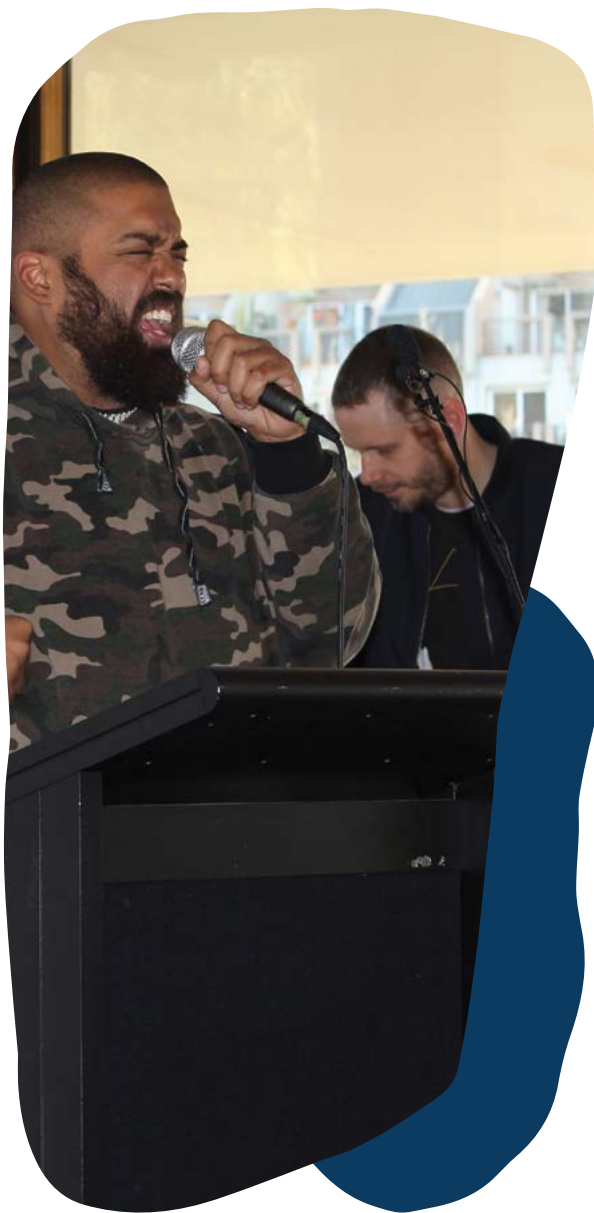
Lan’s support went beyond helping Caleb find a job. Caleb’s relationship with his father was badly damaged when he was convicted, and Lan provided support to repair the relationship. Lan has also supported Caleb to get parole, and will continue to support Caleb post-release.



“As long as participants are willing to engage with our program and work with us to tackle their barriers to employment, we’ll do our best to support them in any way we can. From the beginning, Caleb has shown himself to be honest and dedicated ”

Lan





Music workshops encourage self-expression in Alice Springs school

Students at Yipirinya School have workshoped songs and laid down beats with ARIA Award-winning musician Adrian Eagle, under a new relationship between the school and Jesuit Social Services that will provide opportunities for performance, self-expression, and new narratives for First Nations children and young people in Mparntwe/Alice Springs.

Adrian had previously given talks and workshops at schools around Melbourne with our Artful Dodgers Studios, which engages young people through music and art. He delivered three separate workshop series in 2023.

Adrian said he felt “lucky and blessed” to help Yipirinya students express themselves.

“They came out the gate with these amazing poems.

“They’re little bubs, five years old up to 13, all of them love music, dancing, coming out of their shells to share their stories. They were filled with lots to say,” he said.

There has been national attention on children in Alice Springs who have contact with the youth justice system.

Sally Gray, a convener on the Jesuit Social Services’ Youth Justice Group Conferencing program in the Northern Territory, said initiatives such as the music

workshops are an opportunity to provide children and young people facing challenges with more language to express their strengths and experiences.

“One thing about this work is the importance of restoring relationships,” she said.

“The things the kids were singing about – emphasising the importance of kinship relationships; brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers – strong relationships mean everything.”

Jesuit Social Services delivers school-based early intervention programs in Victoria, but Sally said they “didn’t want to pick up those programs and plonk them on a school in Alice”.

“It could have been a one-off thing, but we’re very big on relational working, developing good relationships with our partners, and we wanted to build on that.”

“We’re making sure we’re working in a place-based way and developing our own, integrated approach towards working with the school, extending and strengthening the relationship, and working in a therapeutic and restorative way.



Michael's transformation through post-prison supported housing

Michael* was eight when his parents moved from overseas to the north-eastern suburbs of Melbourne, where they ran a small grocery store. Five years later, his father died unexpectedly, which meant his mother was forced to work seven days.

Michael's father's death had a profound impact. He first turned to cannabis for comfort and release, then later methamphetamines, which caused him to develop hallucinations, delusions and psychosis. Michael's drug use and poor mental health contributed to him breaking the law and eventually going to prison, which devastated the family's finances, led to the loss of their home and business, and ruptured Michael's relationship with his mother and brother.

Isolated, ashamed, and enmeshed in the prison system, Michael continued to have contact with the justice system on and off throughout adulthood.

He was referred to the Maribyrnong Community Residential Facility as he prepared to be released after spending five years in prison. The program provides stable short-term accommodation and wraparound support for men leaving prison who would otherwise be homeless.

Michael first saw the facility only as a way to secure parole, but found the support he received from his case manager so helpful he now says without it he would have ended up back in prison. His case manager met him multiple times before his release, working with him

to identify goals like reconnecting with family, improving his health, seeking work and housing, getting a driver's license, applying for the Disability Support Pension, and completing his parole.

His worker also helped him set up a mobile phone, register for Centrelink, enrol in Alcohol and Other Drug counselling and connect with a GP who reviewed and refined his medication.

However, Michael was hard to get in contact with and would become frustrated and aggressive when last-minute support wasn't available. Michael's worker supported him to set boundaries to foster his self-reliance, establish strategies for seeking support, and connect with a psychologist.

This led to him re-engaging with his case manager, and expressing a willingness to seek further support. He thanked staff for being persistent, and highlighted the importance of giving people opportunities to engage and accept support.

Today, Michael is committed to improving his mental health, maintaining his sobriety, and understanding the factors underlying his offending, and hopes to one day return to his family and lead the positive life in the community he wants.



New skills for a pathway back to employment

Natasha undertook the Certificate I in General Education for Adults at our Jesuit Community College. The course aims to enhance students' language, literacy, numeracy, problem-solving, time management and communication skills, and supports them to build confidence and motivation to find work.

At first, "I didn't think it was for me," Natasha said – but after completing the course she's now recommending it to her friends.

Natasha said the course was a useful refresher that helped prepare her for job interviews and future training, and an opportunity to connect with new people and have a good time.

"The classes are really fun and tailored to each person and [the trainer] always treats you like an equal. I've recommended the course to friends."

86%

of respondents felt Support After Suicide had a 'very good' or 'excellent' effect on their hopefulness for the future, as well as supporting them through difficult times.

Support After Suicide offers hope in "darkest times"

Over 92 per cent of respondents rated our Support After Suicide program as 'good' or 'excellent' in a Your Experience of Service (YES) survey in September 2022.

"I feel so supported, unconditionally," one respondent said. Another said they don't know how they would have survived their bereavement without Support After Suicide.

Respondents had experienced the loss of a loved one to suicide more than six months prior and had at least three contacts with the program in the previous year.

The survey provided quantitative and qualitative feedback on the program's counselling service and facilitated support groups.

Eighty-six per cent of respondents felt the program had a 'very good' or 'excellent' effect on their hopefulness for the future, as well as supporting them through difficult times.



"The compassion and empathy shown to me in such a sensitive time and the positive conversations on a traumatic subject helped me through the darkest time of my life,"

SUPPORT AFTER SUICIDE PARTICIPANT





Collaborative disability support helps Jake navigate new challenges

When 17-year-old Jake* came to Jesuit Social Services, he was preparing to leave out-of-home care, feeling apprehensive and unsure about what would come next.

Jake has an intellectual disability and mental health problems, which present barriers to his independent living, communication, and ability to maintain relationships – and which make him eligible for a government-funded support package from the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

“When I met Jake, he was isolated and withdrawn, and hadn’t been told much about the supports and services available to him,” said David Gourdis, a Jesuit Social Services NDIS Specialist Support Coordinator who began working with Jake in March.

“His NDIS support package meant we could work alongside Jake to identify his goals and needs, and connect him with the services in the community that will help him overcome challenges.”

Jake’s relationship with his parents frayed last year, and he was briefly removed to care while the family worked through some issues.

While in care, Jake was supported to enrol in a foundational literacy and numeracy skills course at TAFE as a pathway into work, and to explore his growing interest in photography.

He connected with David, who worked carefully to build trust so that Jake felt comfortable expressing his goals and needs. David also worked to build connections with the other supports in Jake’s care team. Jake’s parents’ sudden separation shortly after Jake started working with David presented new challenges.

Jake was distressed, and retreated. He withdrew from TAFE, stopped answering his phone, and spent days inside. His mental health deteriorated.

David says he was able draw on the collaboration in Jake’s care team to ensure he was supported.

“We were all so connected that the team could move quickly and without doubling up. We quickly got in contact with Jake, made sure he was okay, and then got him a GP appointment, found him a new peer support group and temporary accommodation, and provided wraparound support to the whole family,” he said.

David also successfully advocated for an increase to Jake’s NDIS package to reflect his changed housing circumstances, and the care team supported Jake into new accommodation.

Now, Jake is settled in supported accommodation and learning independent living skills such as budgeting and cooking. He’s taking care of himself and is excited about his future. He wants to save some money to buy a camera, has been spending more time with his mother and sister, and is back at TAFE to learn practical skills for a pathway into employment one day.



“Jake’s story is an example of how good collaboration and knowledge of the supports and services available can give someone the tools they need to create the kind of life they want,”

David

Empowered communities

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.



Sixty schools supported to model respectful relationships and prevent violence

Hundreds of staff from 60 Victorian schools have stronger skills and awareness to promote positive masculinities and prevent violence as a result of The Men's Project's Modelling Respect and Equality (MoRE) pilot program.

The program delivered three hour-long online Unpacking the Man Box workshops to all staff, which draw on our pioneering research into the attitudes, norms and values that drive harmful masculine behaviours. Afterwards, up to three selected staff members from each school attended an in-person, two-day intensive workshop.

The intensive workshop enabled staff to build skills to model equitable and healthy attitudes to boys and men within their influence, and take action to drive a culture of respect and equality at their school.

The pilot program supports the Victorian Government's Respectful Relationships initiative, which aims to embed cultures of respect and equality across school communities by unpacking and challenging the rigid and harmful forms of masculinity that negatively affect boys, men, and whole communities.



"I hope that the pilot is just the beginning of an ongoing shift across education and society as a whole.

Break all the boxes, embrace all the identities, thank you."

THE MEN'S PROJECT PROGRAM PARTICIPANT



Stronger skills for Northern Territory practitioners

Jesuit Social Services' Learning and Practice Development Unit (LPDU) delivered two week-long training series in foundational community service work – including case note writing and case management skills – to our peers and colleagues in the Northern Territory's community sector on trips to Central Australia in September 2022 and March 2023.

Practice Development Manager, Aimee Chiller, said the training is a way of maintaining relationships and contributing to capacity-building across the sector.

"Everyone was positive, engaged, and eager to learn. There was so much interest, and it's such a good opportunity for us to develop and maintain relationships in the Northern Territory in addition to our program delivery."

A regularly changing workforce in the Territory means fewer opportunities to consolidate and pass on knowledge, but the LPDU's training builds in practical opportunities that ensure attendees can apply new skills immediately.

"Training attendees told us they could apply what they'd learnt during the training immediately into their practice," said Aimee.

"A sense of belonging" for bereaved community members

One consistent theme over 20 years of delivering suicide bereavement group programs is participants realising: 'I am not alone in my grief, and others share my experiences, too.'

An intensive model of support for those who have lost a loved one to suicide, Support After Suicide's early bereavement program supports up to eight participants who meet each week over an eight-week period.

Support After Suicide General Manager Louise Flynn, who developed the eight-week program, said losing a loved one to suicide can disrupt a person's own sense of self and place in society.

"Some people can just feel torn out and separated," she said.

"Being in a group and participating in a program such as the early bereavement program can help participants restore a sense of belonging and not feel so alone in their grief."

The program, which runs several times per year, follows a set framework each session and is facilitated by Support After Suicide's counsellors alongside Switchboard Victoria and Mercy Grief Services.



"The early bereavement program differed so much from the counselling and support groups. It helped me to dig deep into my grief. Feelings I may have pushed aside, I was able to address and I gained a strength from sharing my experience as well as hearing from others. I've also become more attuned to what I need for myself in my life to help manage my grief."

SUPPORT AFTER SUICIDE PARTICIPANT

Ecological Justice Hub's plastics recycling project catalysing community action on waste

Plastic bottle caps are not easily recycled – because of their size, they don't filter through large, automated recycling machines, and consequently end up in landfill.

In 2023, Jesuit Social Services' Ecological Justice Hub – a program dedicated to both social and environmental justice through initiatives such as permaculture garden workshop, community kitchen and offices – was awarded a Sustainability Victoria grant that allowed it to purchase Precious Plastic recycling equipment.

"Having access to Precious Plastics equipment is a dream come true – allowing us to put plastic recycling in community hands for community benefit, educate and empower the community, and keep plastic out of landfill," said the Hub's Coordinator, Stuart Muir Wilson.

Three machines shred single-use plastic bottle caps and melt them into resin, which is shaped into beautiful and durable items such as planter pots, chopping boards and reusable coffee cups, which the Hub plans to sell to help fund its work.

Over April and May 2023, engineering students from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in the United States spent seven weeks at the Hub, working with the machines to develop an assembly line and running community education workshops on the Precious Plastics recycling process.



Newly arrived families grow their engagement with First Nations culture

Nearly 60 newly arrived participants and family members from Jesuit Social Services' Homework Club gathered on Wurundjeri land in September to experience a Welcome to Country and play bush bingo and a scavenger hunt activity with a First Nations lens.

Homework Club is an out-of-school-hours learning support program for students living on or around the Flemington public housing estate in Melbourne.

Community Development and Support Manager Kimberley Malone said the event – delivered with our bush adventure therapy program The Outdoor Experience – was one example of the program's work to grow participant and staff engagement with Wurundjeri histories and culture.

"Establishing a sense of place is fundamental to the settlement process for our newly arrived families," she said.

"Learning about the history, culture and custodianship of the Traditional Owners of the land can enrich that sense of place."

Open Pantry strengthens food security in Western Sydney

Open Pantry has provided low-cost, fresh food to the Blackett community in Western Sydney for years.

When it looked like Open Pantry may be forced to shut its doors in late 2022, Jesuit Social Services was asked to step in to keep it running – adding the store to its existing food security programs, including the Ignite Food Store and Currawong Kitchen, which provides healthy school lunches at two local schools and catering to the community.

"There's not an abundance of affordable stores in the area, and that means people's access to food is very limited. Stores like Open Pantry are an essential community resource," said Monique Perusco, Manager of Western Sydney Programs.

The team hopes to develop Open Pantry into a space for community connection.

"We don't want to just operate a pantry. We want to operate something that is a part of the community," said Monique.



Access to paediatrician a ‘game-changer’ for Western Sydney families

When Jesuit Social Services began working in Western Sydney, we noticed that long waitlists and financial barriers meant large numbers of children living in the area did not have access to a paediatrician.

“Children who urgently needed assessment from a paediatrician – who were not coping with school and social situations, and whose families found the cost of a paediatrician prohibitive – weren’t able to get an appointment,” said Monique Perusco, Manager of Western Sydney Programs.

In 2017, Jesuit Social Services and a collective of other local organisations began advocating together for greater access to health services for children.

This advocacy culminated in New South Wales Health agreeing this year to send a paediatrician, early childhood nurse and clinical nurse to Willmott Community Hub one and a half days a week, for a trial period of six months.

“Access to free paediatric care is a game-changer for local families – it means children with high needs will get the support they need from the beginning, and this has obvious knock-on effects for children’s life trajectories,” Monique said.

Centre for Just Places’ co-designed Collaborative Action Plan articulates a shared vision for climate justice in Melbourne’s west

Climate inequity is an everyday reality in Melbourne’s west, where climate change impacts such as higher rates of heat stress intersect with existing inequities.

In November 2022, Jesuit Social Services’ Centre for Just Places released its *Mobilising Climate Just and Resilient Communities in Melbourne’s West: Collaborative Action Plan*, which brought together over 44 community health and service organisations and local stakeholders to understand the collaboration and action required to support community members at greatest risk of climate change impacts.

“In the community sector, spending time on climate change can be quite rare,” said Ben Latham, a Policy Advisor at the Victorian Council of Social Service.

“Budgets are stretched so thin, and resources are so tight – there was something special about this project.”

Sharing our ecological justice journey to inspire school leaders

In March 2023, Edmund Rice Education Australia – the system of Catholic schools teaching in the tradition of Edmund Rice in Australia – invited Jesuit Social Services to share our ecological justice journey to inspire school principals and leaders.

As Claire Thomas, our Director of Identity and Ethos, explained, “ecological justice is the intersection of social and environmental justice, and rests on the principle that ‘everything is interrelated,’ and that ethical action in the environmental sphere is central to equity at a social level.”

Claire worked alongside Jesuit Social Services CEO, Julie Edwards, and Centre for Just Places Executive Director, Susie Moloney, to prepare the presentation.

“Guided by the Ignatian pedagogical process of reflection and conversation, we shared how Jesuit Social Services’ vision, values, way of proceeding and working have been foundational in shaping our Centre for Just Places’ work to build community resilience in response to the effects of climate change, particularly for those at greatest risk of climate impacts,” said Claire.

Homework Club community celebrates Iftar

Nearly 90 primary school students and their families shared pilaf, ful, sambusa and more to break the Ramadan fast and come together as a community at our Homework Club's first-ever Iftar celebration in April.

Homework Club – Jesuit Social Services' outside-school-hours learning support program – traditionally runs an end-of-year celebration coinciding with Christmas.

However, with the majority of the program's participants coming from Muslim backgrounds, the team behind the event wanted to ensure the opportunity for the club's community to come together was culturally safe, and appropriate.

"Part of being welcoming is that we create spaces that are safe for our participants and which are culturally meaningful and relevant," said Community Development and Support Manager, Kimberley Malone.

Students, their families and program volunteers attended what Kimberley describes as a "lively and lovely" cultural exchange, co-organised by mothers of Homework Club participants, to ensure the celebration was culturally appropriate.

"It's not just about stopping eating and drinking, it's also about good behaviour, forgiving people, giving to people in need," said Awatif, mother of a program participant, whose business Multicultural Sudanese Centre catered the event.

Two students spoke about what Ramadan means to them, the group prayed, younger students did colouring in activities, and non-Muslim members of the Homework Club community learnt more about the significance and purpose of Ramadan.

"The tutors enjoyed different foods, talked to parents and kids, everyone was happy and it was really good," said Awatif.

"They did an amazing job and I liked it very much. It was really good to do for the parents and the kids to celebrate."

The involvement of families – not just students and tutors – is a unique feature of Homework Club, said Kimberley.

"The exchange is between the young person and the tutor, but the families are also really engaged with the program," she said.

"Every week on-site we're showing mum or dad how they can support the young person, or giving them feedback about how the young person's going, and it's an opportunity for families to catch up – sometimes younger siblings are there, and a tutor will read them a book. It's more than a one-on-one relationship."



Bilingual course enriches Vietnamese migrants' sense of community connection

In the heart of Sunshine in Melbourne's west, Kim Phuong Nguyen leads the Bilingual Vietnamese Australian Citizenship Test Preparation Course.

Kim started the course in 2008 – a year after the introduction of the Australian citizenship test – while working at Jesuit Social Services.

Driven by her own journey as a refugee, Kim was acutely aware of the challenges the citizenship application process and test pose for Vietnamese migrants.

"We recognised the significance of this journey and the transformative impact of citizenship," said Kim.

"It represents far more than legal status – it is a gateway to a sense of belonging, security, and equal opportunities."

The course's bilingual delivery not only enhances participants' language proficiency but encourages community connections.

"By breaking down barriers and providing unwavering support to newcomers pursuing citizenship, we cultivate a deep sense of belonging within Australian society," said Community Development and Support Manager, Kimberley Malone.

The course provides an informal and safe environment to practice English language skills and meet other community members.

It also presents an opportunity to start meaningful conversations on subjects such as Aboriginal history and culture, rights protected by Australian law, and family violence.

Kim's dedication and the success of her programs have become widely known within Melbourne's Vietnamese community.

Kim was also instrumental in setting up various other programs for the Vietnamese community, including volunteer training, a women's group and a group for elderly people.

Nguyen Thi Kim Doan, a program participant, expressed appreciation for the course.

"Learning the topics in a group and practising the test in English has proven immensely beneficial," Doan said.



"We recognise the transformative impact of citizenship. It represents far more than legal status – it is a gateway to a sense of belonging, security, and equal opportunities."

Kim Phuong Nguyen,

**BILINGUAL VIETNAMESE AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP
TEST PREPARATION COURSE COORDINATOR**





Changed hearts, minds and systems

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.



Changing community perceptions of justice-involved people through shared experiences

The Maribyrnong Community Residential Facility provides safe and stable accommodation and wraparound support for up to 44 residents who would otherwise leave prison into homelessness – a circumstance experienced by half of people leaving Victorian prisons, and a factor that can result in people returning to custody shortly after release.

The residential facility, which we run in partnership with Corrections Victoria, has received support from the local community, with one neighbour of the facility saying it had transformed his previous position on the initiative from opposition to one of full support, after becoming engaged with a community consultation.

The facility was developed in 2020 as a response to COVID-19. It is now recognised as a crucial part of post-release services and is funded until 2024.

Full Rainbow Tick accreditation achieved

As part of Jesuit Social Services' commitment to respecting diversity and supporting inclusion, we have been pursuing accreditation with Rainbow Tick – a quality framework to help health and human services organisations become safe and inclusive for the LGBTIQ+ community. In 2023, we received full Rainbow Tick accreditation.



New research from the Centre for Just Places supports place-based policy and practice

Jesuit Social Services' Centre for Just Places was established to support and enable place-based approaches. In December 2022, the Centre released research reviewing literature, evidence and practice to understand what features enable the success of place-based approaches and how best to support them.

The *What works for place-based approaches in Victoria?* project was led by the Centre in collaboration with RMIT Centre for Urban Research and Centre for Community and Child Health at the Murdoch Children's Research Centre, and funded by the Victorian Government.



“So great to also read others’ journeys contributing to place-based approaches, creating meaningful and positive community change.”

PLACE-BASED PRACTITIONER

Key activities for the Centre for Just Places

Jesuit Social Services' Centre for Just Places supports and enables place-based approaches to social and ecological justice through research, collaboration, engagement and knowledge exchange. The Centre's work in 2022–23 fell under four areas:

- **Enabling climate justice** – alongside the release of its Collaborative Action Plan for climate justice in Melbourne's west (see page 37), the Centre continued to deliver climate resilience education and capacity building initiatives to councils and community service and health organisations across Victoria. Drawing on its ongoing work with neighbourhood houses, the Centre also developed a climate action and resilience framework for networks of neighbourhood houses.
- **Understanding equity, disadvantage and wellbeing** – building on Jesuit Social Services' long-term *Dropping off the Edge* research into locational disadvantage and its place-based climate justice work in Melbourne's west, the Centre was commissioned by VicHealth to map social and health inequities in the region, to better understand community needs and gaps in social infrastructure. Separately, it is also developing a data platform that combines data from *Dropping off the Edge* with other datasets including data from the Australian Urban Observatory. The data platform will integrate strengths-based and resilience-focused measures.

- **Supporting place-based and strengths-based approaches** – the Centre released its research on effective place-based approaches in Victoria, titled *What works for place-based approaches in Victoria?*
- **Amplifying lived experience** – the Centre continued its three-year Client Voice and Workforce Capacity pilot project in Melbourne's west and the regional Goulburn area.

With the goal that people with lived experience of government social, health and justice systems have a say in decisions that affect them, the project aims to enable frontline workers and services to better integrate lived experience voices across multiple government departments in place.





Policy

Jesuit Social Services regularly contributes submissions to government inquiries, drawing on our direct service expertise to influence policies and practices that build a just society.

In 2022–23, we contributed 18 submissions spanning issues including criminal justice, mental health, housing and homelessness, refugee and asylum seeker policy, education and employment, gender justice, and ecological justice.

This notably included our contribution to the Federal Government's Employment White Paper, where we called on the Government to address the structural barriers to participation faced by many, including the complex and overlapping factors of disadvantage that recur where they live.

Our submission to the Senate Enquiry into the Nature and Extent of Poverty in Australia similarly called for broader conceptions of disadvantage and inequity than income-based measures of poverty, to reveal a fuller picture of the web of challenges that continue to limit life outcomes for too many people across Australia.

We drew on nearly 20 years of on-the-ground experience to provide a submission to Victoria's Suicide Prevention Strategy, calling for place-based prevention and early intervention initiatives; a better-resourced mental health system; and secure, long-term funding for specialist dual diagnosis services.

A person-centred and community-based approach was also in focus for our written and oral contribution to the Inquiry into the Challenges and Opportunities for Law Enforcement in Addressing Australia's Illicit Drug Problem, where we emphasised health promotion and harm minimisation as fundamental to supporting those misusing substances and the wider community.

We also contributed submissions to the Northern Territory's Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility Legislative Consultation, the Federal Government's Justice Reinvestment Design Project, the National Strategy to Achieve Gender Equality, the National Centre for Child Sexual Abuse Draft Strategy, the Inquiry into the Migration Amendment Evacuation Bill 2023, and the Evaluation of the Settlement Engagement and Transition Support Program, as well as Budget submissions to the Federal and Victorian governments.



“Change can be achieved when the interrelated factors causing disadvantage are understood and community-led solutions are properly resourced alongside systemwide responses”

JESUIT SOCIAL SERVICES' SUBMISSION
TO THE INQUIRY INTO POVERTY IN
AUSTRALIA, FEBRUARY 2023



Campaigns

Our advocacy campaigns engage the public towards awareness and action on social justice issues.

The **Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA)**, which Jesuit Social Services co-convenes with Jesuit Refugee Service Australia, is a unified national network campaigning for the just and humane treatment of people seeking asylum in Australia. In 2022–23, its key activities included the **National Week of Prayer and Action**, which included a webinar attended by over 100 people; five school presentations to approximately 500 students; supporting the CAPSA community to host vigils to acknowledge the 10-year anniversary of the reintroduction of onshore processing; and organising a delegation to the Palm Sunday Walk for Justice for Refugees.

Worth A Second Chance advocates for more fair, compassionate and effective youth justice systems. In 2022–23, the campaign engaged the public with a 10-part podcast series; five school presentations to approximately 500 students; and two webinars on employment pathways after prison and the factors that lead young people into the criminal justice system, which were attended by over 200 people. Worth A Second Chance continues to advocate for a minimum age of criminal responsibility of 14 in every Australian jurisdiction, with no carve-outs or exceptions – we launched a new online email action for supporters to join our #RaiseTheAge call, and participated in the Raise the Age Victorian working group.



“The mix of speakers was fantastic...I liked how they all came from a different perspective. There was commonality but also differences between each one.”

ATTENDEE AT WORTH A SECOND CHANCE'S
BREAKING THE CYCLE WEBINAR, MARCH 2023



Fundraising

In 2022–23, our donors generously supported us by donating **\$998,591**, including **\$312,195** toward our **quarterly appeals**.

We are grateful for the support we have received from **philanthropic organisations**, which collectively donated **\$1,222,142** to our work.

Our Community Partners are donors whose commitment to a **recurring monthly contribution** gives us the confidence to commit to new initiatives and stick with existing projects, knowing we have the resources to see these plans through. This year, our Community Partners donated a generous **\$104,366**.

Jesuit Social Services gratefully welcomes the generosity of **bequestors**, whose contributions allow us to continue responding to the unmet needs of the most disadvantaged young people, families and communities.



“The financial support we receive from our donors means we can actually keep doing this work, and their words of encouragement remind us that there is a whole community of people who believe in our vision of building a just society.”

Polly Elsey

FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS MANAGER



Events

Senator Malarndirri McCarthy – a Yanyuwa Garrawa woman, the Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians and Indigenous Health, and a Senator for the Northern Territory – delivered the Frank Costigan QC keynote address, speaking to the urgency of an Indigenous Voice to Parliament. We were grateful for the opportunity to reconnect after COVID-19 prevented it from being possible for so long.

Our Worth A Second Chance campaign held two webinars featuring a panel of practitioners and experts. The first explored employment and training as a pathway out of the justice system, the second untangled the complex web of factors that crystallise offending behaviour in young people – covering disadvantage and trauma, negative social influences, neurology and impulsivity, and institutionalisation. Arend, a young man who has spent time in prison, reflected on the factors that drew him into the criminal justice system and the path he is walking towards a more positive future. One attendee commented, “the young man who spoke of his experience had such a powerful story.”

The Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum, which we co-convene with Jesuit Refugee Service Australia, held a webinar to mark National Week of Prayer and Action, inspiring attendees to use their time, resources, heart and voice to advocate and take action for people seeking asylum and refugees in their communities.

The Centre for Just Places launched its Collaborative Action Plan for climate justice in Melbourne’s west – the result of a project which brought together more than 44 local stakeholders – to an online audience of approximately 70 attendees from state and local government, community service and health organisations, and peak bodies. One attendee told us, “I was amazed at the depth and breadth of collaboration across the west.”



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.

Some of our media highlights for 2022–23 included:

National print, radio and TV coverage in support of raising the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14, with some positive progress made in jurisdictions including Victoria and the Northern Territory. Jesuit Social Services is recognised as a leading voice in this space, after advocating for the age of criminal responsibility for the last decade.

Ongoing media coverage of the Victoria Police Diversity Recruitment Program, including multiple nationally-broadcast TV stories, providing a platform for culturally and linguistically diverse participants to share their experiences and ambitions.

The Men's Project and its Man Box research was featured in *Bringing up Boys who Like Themselves*, a book published by Penguin Books, with excerpts published in national tabloid newspapers.

Regular media coverage in the Northern Territory, at outlets including ABC and the NT News, to promote evidence-based approaches to support young people in trouble. Highlights included a comment piece published in the NT News, and a series of radio interviews discussing our work delivering Youth Justice Group Conferencing.





News and milestones

New partnership nurtures creativity and leadership skills of young people with disability

Two Jesuit Social Services programs have partnered with disability services organisation Burke and Beyond to develop innovative community leadership workshops for young people with disability.

Combining the artistic expertise of Artful Dodgers Studios with the educational resources of Jesuit Community College, the workshops provide a unique platform for participants to express their creativity through art and music, while developing their confidence and leadership skills to plan and execute an end-of-year performance.

Reconnecting more young people with school, earlier

Jesuit Social Services was selected to help deliver the age-reduced pilot of the Navigator program, which reconnects young people chronically disengaged from education with the learning and training pathways towards brighter futures.

Navigator runs state-wide in Victoria for young people aged 12 to 17, and will extend to students aged 10 and 11 in four Melbourne areas under the three-year pilot – recognising the opportunity that exists to engage students preparing to enter high school.

Jesuit Social Services has delivered Navigator in Melbourne's north, east and west since its inception in 2016 – along with other program partners supporting 3,700 young people to successfully return to education – and continues to deliver the program to older learners alongside the pilot.

The pilot for 10- and 11-year-olds to reconnect with education is fully staffed and will accept its first referrals in mid-2023.



“Times of transition present a critical opportunity to orient young people away from trouble and towards the things that will give them the best chance in life – like good friendships, opportunities to challenge themselves, and a strong and positive sense of self. We're thrilled to have the chance to support even more young people under this pilot.”

Helen Coventry,

– NAVIGATOR PROGRAM MANAGER



Support for families and carers of people who experience mental health challenges or substance use problems

In January 2023, Jesuit Social Services was appointed to implement and deliver the Mental Health & Wellbeing Connect Centre for families, carers and supporters of people with mental health and substance use problems in Melbourne’s western metropolitan region – one of eight Centres across Victoria.

This initiative is one outcome of the 2021 Royal Commission into Victoria’s Mental Health System, which highlighted the important role played by families, carers, and supporters in contributing to the wellbeing of people experiencing mental health challenges and substance use problems.

The Centre will be led by the experiences of families and carers and will provide a warm and welcoming space for connection with peers, and access resources and support – including funds for access to support from outside services.

Implementation is well underway, with staff employed and delivering an interim service from our existing Sunshine office while a new site in central Sunshine is fitted out.



“Greater integration and coordination between clinical and non-clinical services is also needed. This can be better facilitated through... the involvement of families and carers.”

Jesuit Social Services

SUBMISSION TO THE ROYAL COMMISSION INTO VICTORIA’S MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM

60,000+

Victorians provide mental health care to a loved one (Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services, Victoria’s Mental Health Services Annual Report 2019–20)



Strengthening disaster responses through community collaboration

Jesuit Social Services' Centre for Just Places has secured Federal Government funding to support collaborative planning and action that will strengthen community resilience to natural disasters in regional Victoria.

The National Emergency Management Agency, which builds Australia's resilience to natural disasters, announced successful applicants from Round One of the Disaster Ready Fund in June 2023.

The Centre for Just Places, in partnership with Eastern Community Legal Centre, ARC Justice, and the Federation of Community Legal Centres Victoria, was awarded \$1.8 million to facilitate a collaborative action planning process to reduce vulnerability and strengthen resilience to disasters and climate change in the Yarra Ranges and Campaspe communities in regional Victoria.

Evidence shows employment program is successfully supporting long-term unemployed people into work

In 2022, Jesuit Social Services completed an evaluation of our Jobs Victoria Employment Service, which supports people experiencing long-term unemployment or barriers to employment.

From a sample of 554 participants, 62 per cent found a work placement with an employer, and of those, 61 per cent were employed for six months or more.

Jesuit Social Services works alongside those who face particularly high barriers to employment, and is especially heartened to see strong results for these marginalised cohorts. Sixty-eight per cent of participants with criminal justice system involvement were placed with an employer, and 70 per cent of those were employed for at least six months.

"This project seeks to recognise where existing and future disaster and climate change risks exist, and will support a network of place-based organisations in the Yarra Ranges and Campaspe Shire to build resilience through collaborative action."

Julie Edwards

CEO, JESUIT SOCIAL SERVICES



"These strong results are particularly impressive given the complex and compounding barriers our participants face to securing and maintaining employment – many had been without work for months or years before coming to Jobs Victoria Employment Service."

Stephen Ward,

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION,
TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT**



justice-involved participants employed
for at least six months through Jobs Victoria
Employment Service

Enhanced housing facilities and better experiences for justice-involved youth

Additional beds, peaceful gardens, private bathrooms to accommodate all genders and therapeutically designed modern facilities are just some of the upgrades coming to Perry House this year, after Jesuit Social Services secured a Youth Housing Capital Grant from the Victorian Government to redevelop the residence.

Perry House is a specialist disability accommodation program that currently supports up to four young men aged 17 to 25 who have had involvement with the criminal justice system, have an intellectual disability, and are experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness.

Leanne Acreman, General Manager of Housing and Complex Needs programs, said the shift from communal to private ensuite bathrooms represented a “significant change for the organisation more broadly”, as Jesuit Social Services undertakes our Rainbow Tick accreditation – a rigorous process to demonstrate the organisation is a safe and inclusive place for LGBTIQ+ people.

Perry House staff provide 24/7 support to participants to help them to develop independent living skills, address mental and physical health concerns and substance misuse issues, engage in education or training, and find suitable long-term housing in the community.

Manager of Housing Programs Kane Apelu said the new design – a disability-accessible two-storey home with up to 12 double bedrooms, which will be ready in early 2024 – will incorporate therapeutic elements in its colour scheme, lighting and openness.

New research insights into masculinity

Jesuit Social Services’ The Men’s Project will deliver a second iteration of our pioneering research, The Man Box, which explores the links between traditional ideas about masculinity and a range of harmful behaviours and life outcomes.

First published in 2018, The Man Box surveyed 1,000 Australian men aged 18 to 30 to uncover the gendered social pressures that negatively impact young men and those around them, particularly women.

In early 2024, Jesuit Social Services will deliver a second The Man Box report, which has this year surveyed 3,500 men aged 18–45, and for the first time examines the relationship between rigid ideas of masculinity and intimate partner violence, mistrust of women, and bystander behaviour. The research is being completed with the support of Respect Victoria.



Two more years of mentoring for marginalised people leaving prison

More people from African backgrounds who are involved with the criminal justice system will be supported to overcome social isolation after a two-year funding extension to the African Visitation and Mentoring Program.

The program, which has run since 2010, acknowledges social isolation leaves people at higher risk of re-offending, and enables positive relationships to assist a person's transition from the criminal justice system back into the community.

People of African background who are involved with Victoria's criminal justice system are paired with a carefully trained and selected volunteer mentor, who provides culturally sensitive and ongoing mentoring and visitation support.

Bilingual financial literacy group increases awareness and sparks conversations

Arabic-speaking women in Melbourne have increased their skills and awareness in household budgeting after a series of financial literacy workshops delivered by our Settlement Program.

Over three two-hour sessions, participants learnt about concessions, banking, managing money with a partner, budgeting and financial goals, and shared information with other attendees – including grocery specials and their own tips for saving money.

Participants described the sessions as positive and interesting, and expressed interest in passing on what they had learnt to their children.

Support After Suicide awarded full accreditation

Our Support After Suicide program has been awarded full accreditation against the Suicide Prevention Australia Standards for Quality Improvement. The Standards were developed in collaboration with people with lived experience of suicide, help-seekers, clinicians, service providers, and accreditation experts. Achieving accreditation demonstrates that Support After Suicide is committed to implementing a safe, high-quality, and effective suicide prevention and postvention program. Accreditation is awarded for three years.



Australian-first recruitment program contributes to a more diverse Victoria Police

Seven students braved lockdowns, floods, and fitness tests to graduate from Jesuit Social Services' inaugural Victoria Police Aboriginal Diversity Recruitment Program, which aims to improve the diversity of the force by preparing candidates to navigate the Victoria Police recruitment process.

"We've long understood in policing, and we forget it to our cost, that we cannot police effectively unless we represent and reflect the community we police," said Victoria Police Assistant Commissioner Luke Cornelius.

Participants represented eight Aboriginal groups, including Yorta Yorta, Palawa, Taungurung, Arrernte, Gunaikurnai, Yamatji, Wongi and Gunditjmara mobs, and live in both metro and regional areas of Victoria – including the locality of Shepparton, which in late 2022 experienced severe flooding that sent aspects of the 15-week program online.

Graduates attended three nights of classes per week, which covered core topics in the police recruitment process – including the entrance exam, fitness and first aid, and learnt from guest speakers, police mentors, and each other.

"This program is fantastic for any Aboriginal person wanting to serve their community," said graduate Laila, who said she had always wanted to be a police officer, but the difficulty of the entrance exam put qualifying out of reach.

"I think it's a great opportunity to emphasise your skills, learn more, collaborate, get to know each other as a team – this program brings us all together."

Preventing violence in the community by intervening earlier

The Men's Project has secured new funding for an early intervention program that aims to reduce the use of violence among boys and young men.

The program is funded until September 2025, and is working with men and boys aged between 12–25, from diverse communities.

The program will be delivered in non-mainstream school and community settings, and will seek to prevent the use of violence by challenging harmful gender norms, addressing attitudes that support violence, and building bystander skills and strategies that can contribute to reducing violence.

"The program has refocused and revitalised the work I do with my partner and boys in supporting healthy, respectful and equitable relationships with themselves and others." – The Men's Project program participant

"[The program aims to promote] a chance for everyone, no matter how they identify, to thrive and feel confident in themselves." – The Men's Project program participant



"The program has refocused and revitalised the work I do with my partner and boys in supporting healthy, respectful and equitable relationships with themselves and others."

**THE MEN'S PROJECT
PROGRAM PARTICIPANT**

Enhancing our practice through training and reflection

Staff and volunteers have built and strengthened skills in culturally-inclusive practice, having restorative conversations and narrative work after 97 training sessions attended by 1296 people delivered in-house by our Learning and Practice Development Unit (LPDU).

Comprised of practice consultants with experience and wisdom in service delivery across a diverse range of practice settings, the LPDU delivers two training calendars per year to meet professional development needs it identifies in collaboration with leadership teams.

In addition to strengthening our practice, the training provides new opportunities for collaboration and connection across teams and programs.

The LPDU additionally facilitated 35 reflective practice sessions, attended by 386 people, which provided frontline practitioners with the reflective space to gain new insights into their practice approach and work through emerging themes and issues.

Reflective practice centres Our Way of Working (the Jesuit Social Services Practice Framework) and our values in our practice, which you can read more about on pages 4–5.

Restorative pilot program for justice-involved Aboriginal young people

Aboriginal children will have more opportunities to connect with self, family, community and culture and stay out of the criminal justice system under a three-year pilot restorative justice program in Melbourne's outer east co-delivered by Jesuit Social Services and Worawa Aboriginal College.

Lotjpadhan, which means 'to speak to each other' in Yorta Yorta language, will address harm caused by young people using restorative approaches and strengthen Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations' skills in convening restorative group conferences.



Our Programs

Justice and reconciliation

African Visitation and Mentoring Program (AVAMP)
 Back on Track
 Community Connections Mentoring
 DFFH Vaccination Outreach Support
 Ignatius Learning Centre
 Link Youth Justice Housing Program
 Maribyrnong Community Residential Facility Transitional Support Program
 Next Steps and Dillon House
 Perry House
 Pivot
 ReConnect
 YJ Vaccination Outreach program
 Youth Justice Community Support Service
 Youth Justice Group Conferencing (Victoria and NT)

Disability, mental health and wellbeing

Artful Dodgers Studios
 Connexions
 Individual Support Program
 Specialist Support Coordination
 StandBy Support After Suicide
 Support After Suicide
 The Outdoor Experience

Education, training and employment

Artful Dodgers Studios
 Corporate Diversity Partnerships
 Ecological Justice Hub
 Ignatius Learning Centre
 Ignite Café
 Jesuit Community College
 Jobs Victoria Advocates
 Jobs Victoria Employment Service
 Just Works
 Navigator
 Victoria Police Diversity Recruitment Program

Community and connection

Homework Club
 Just Voices Speakers Program
 Northern Territory programs
 Settlement program
 Western Sydney programs

Housing and support

Link Youth Justice Housing Program
 Maribyrnong Community Residential Facility Transitional Support Program
 Next Steps and Dillon House
 Perry House

Gender justice

Modelling Respect and Equality Schools Pilot
 Restore
 Stop It Now! Australia
 The Men's Project
 Unpacking the Man Box

Just places

Centre for Just Places
 Ecological Justice Hub
 Northern Territory programs
 Western Sydney programs

Some programs fall under multiple pillars and therefore have been listed twice, but participants are counted once only under their primary pillar for the purpose of annual statistics.

Supporters

Jesuit Social Services is supported by hundreds of individual donors and organisations to whom we are so grateful. We could not do our work without the financial and pro bono support you share with us every year. Thank you.

In addition, the list below highlights the support we receive from government, business, trusts, foundations, funds and community organisations. This includes multiple departments within the Victorian Government.

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

5point Foundation
Australian Province of the Society of Jesus
Collier Charitable Fund
Commonwealth Government of Australia
Creswick Foundation
Gippsland PHN
Hantomeli Foundation
Jenkins Foundation
Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation
MacKillop Family Services
Melbourne City Council
Moonee Valley City Council
Mount Pelion Foundation
New South Wales State Government
Noel and Carmel O'Brien Family Foundation
Norman, Mavis and Graeme Waters Perpetual Charitable Trust
North Western Melbourne PHN
Northern Territory Government
Our Lady of the Way Parish, North Sydney
QMV Solutions Pty Ltd

Sisters of Charity of Australia
South Eastern Melbourne PHN
St Columba's Catholic College, Springwood
Sustainability Victoria
The City of Greater Dandenong
The Lochtenberg Foundation
Vaughan Family
Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth)
Victorian State Government
Western Victoria PHN
Westpac
Yarra City Council

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

Nine non-executive Directors currently make up the Jesuit Social Services Board, comprising five Provincial Appointees, including the Chair, and four Directors appointed by the Board.

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 Board plays a crucial role in steering Jesuit Social Services towards 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 is Chair of the Jesuit Social Services Board, Chair of the Melbourne Academic Centre for Health Council, Deputy Chair of the Melbourne Theatre Company, and is a Director of AWARE Super and Caritas Australia. Patricia was also a member of the Melbourne Racing Club Committee and the Commonwealth Bank of Australia CEO Advisory Panel during the reporting period.

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.



Christiana McCudden

Christiana McCudden is a partner at Gilbert + Tobin lawyers, in the disputes and investigations team. Christiana advises and represents both private and public clients across a variety of matters including as lead partner in many pro-bono files and key litigation. Having grown up in rural Victoria 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.



Inala Cooper

Inala Cooper is a Yawuru woman from Western Australia's Kimberley region who grew up in south-west Victoria on Gunditjmara 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. Inala resigned from the Jesuit Social Services Board in December 2022.



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.



Justin Lachal

Justin Lachal has more than 20 years' experience in the accounting and finance sector, including roles with KPMG, the ANZ Banking Group, Jones Lang LaSalle, Latrobe University, the Anglican Diocese and the Catholic Archdiocese.

Justin is a Fellow of the Chartered Accountants and holds a Masters degrees in Business Information Technology, Applied Finance and Business Administration. Justin is currently a member of the Sunraysia Institute of Technical and Further Education (SuniTAFE) Board, Anglican Insurance and Risk Services (AIRS) and the Debaters Association of Victoria.



**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 Loreto Justice Network Committee, and is a Director of Mary Ward International Australia.



Julian Butler SJ

Julian Butler SJ joined the Jesuit's in 2017 and is the Australian Jesuit's Provincial Assistant, Young Adult Ministry, and is Chair of The Cardoner Network Board. Julian serves as a chaplain at Xavier College, is an editorial contributor at Jesuit Communications Australia, and chairs the Australian Jesuit Province's Governance, Risk & Compliance Policy Reference Group. Prior to joining the Jesuits, Julian practised law in a firm specialising in child protection and youth criminal defence. He holds degrees in law and commerce from the University of Melbourne and in philosophy from the University of Divinity, where he is currently undertaking studies in theology.



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 and is currently Chairperson of the Victorian Assisted Reproductive Treatment Authority and a Director of Kids Under Cover.



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 and is currently the Chief of Catholic Mission, Learning and Teaching Officer, Catholic Education Sandhurst. 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.



**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. Frank is a member of the Advisory Council of the Global Foundation and the Board of the National Apology Foundation. He has served variously as a Jesuit priest within the Catholic Church, a human rights lawyer, a professor of law at Australian Catholic University, and as the 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.

Human Resources

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

Human Resources

In 2022–23, Jesuit Social Services filled more than 140 roles across Victoria, New South Wales and the Northern Territory, for a total of approximately 429 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 19 induction and orientation programs.



“Volunteering at the Ecological Justice Hub has helped get my confidence level back up and just got me interested in life again. The results you get, it gives you a sense pride in what you’re doing. The other volunteers and I come from all different walks of life, which I think is amazing, everyone’s got their own story. We share our stories and share our experiences, but the best thing is, at the end of the day, we’re a team.”

ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE HUB VOLUNTEER

Volunteers

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

Over the past year, we maintained connections with over 200 volunteers, who contributed a combined total of nearly 15,000 hours of support to Jesuit Social Services and our participants.

These passionate and dedicated volunteers contributed to programs including our Homework Club, Artful Dodgers Studios, Ignite Op Shop and Food Store, Ecological Justice Hub, Ignite Cafe, and in supporting our policy and advocacy work.

‘Humbling’ to be ‘invited in’ through grief counselling volunteer role

It was a chance meeting that led to highly experienced bereavement counsellor Goldie Zyskind’s volunteering role with our Support After Suicide program.

“I was ready to move on from my then bereavement counselling role when I bumped into a past colleague who had moved to Support After Suicide – she suggested I volunteer with the program,” said Goldie.

Goldie has been volunteering with the program for over 10 years, primarily providing one-on-one counselling to people who have lost a loved one to suicide.

She said being a counsellor with the program is a “privileged experience”.

“We are there to accompany people in their journey for as long as they need and in whatever way they need. It’s really special that people entrust themselves and their experience and their feelings to us.”

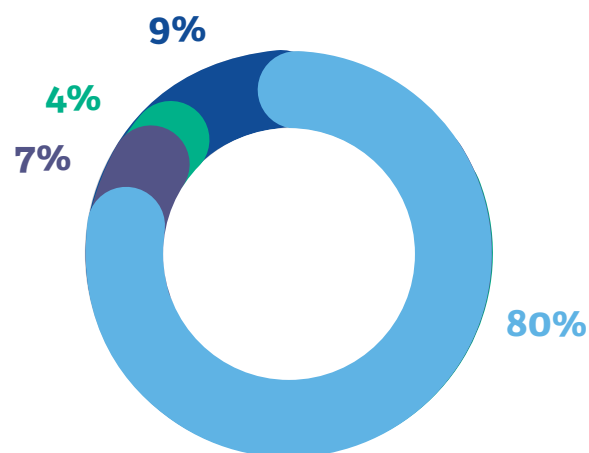
Goldie also benefits from being part of the Support After Suicide team.

“It’s nice to be part of a team who value the participants, value each other and value where they work.”

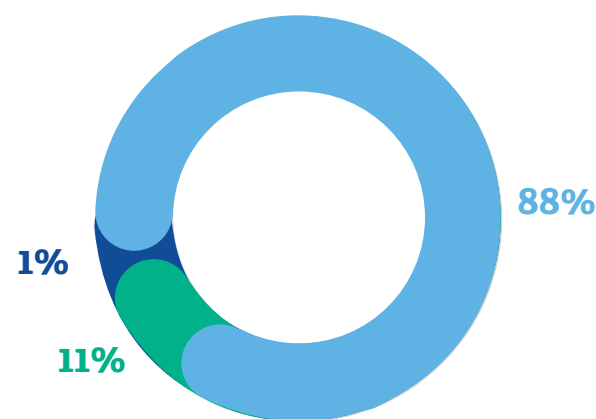
Volunteering enriches other parts of Goldie’s life too.

“To be invited into the lives of others, to see people’s experiences and hear their stories is a very humbling experience.”

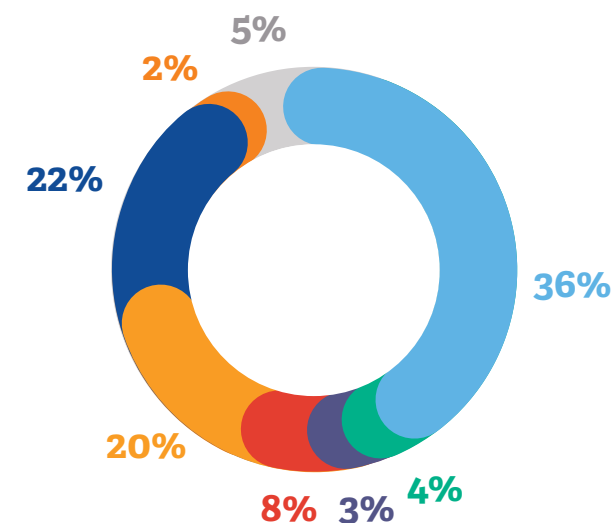
Financial summary



Revenue	Percentage
Government Income and Grants	80%
All Other	7%
Trust and Philanthropic Grants	4%
Fundraising	9%
Total Revenue	100%



Expenditure	Percentage
Direct Program Expenditure	88%
Administration Expenditure	11%
Fundraising Expenditure	1%
Total Expenditure	100%



Direct Program Expenditure	Percentage
Justice and crime prevention	36%
Ignatius Learning Centre	4%
Centre for Just Places	3%
Mental health and wellbeing	8%
Settlement and community building	20%
Education, training and employment	22%
Research, policy and advocacy	2%
Gender and culture	5%
Total Expenditure	100%



Build a just society with us

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

Make a tax-deductible donation

Give hope to someone in need by making donating at 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 learn more about the issues we care about at jss.org.au





www.jss.org.au



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