Jesuit
Social Services
Building a Just Society

Annual Report

2025–2026

Wominjeka

This report was produced on Wurundjeri Land

Acknowledgement of Country

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, waters 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 First Peoples and non-Indigenous Australians can walk side by side, acknowledging the past, and looking to the future.

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'Year in Review' video

Watch our 'Year in Review' video and find full-length stories that are featured in this Annual Report by scanning or clicking here.

Cover image:

In November, Support After Suicide held its first annual Community Day, marking the International Day for Survivors of Suicide Loss. Program participants, their friends and families gathered at The Bush Hut in Kew to connect, share and support one another.

Photography: Carmen Zammit

The day featured live music, a photo exhibition, shared food, and personal stories from members of the Support After Suicide community about what has helped them since losing a loved one to suicide. The event relied on the generosity of volunteers, contributors and local businesses, and we look forward to making it an annual fixture on the calendar.

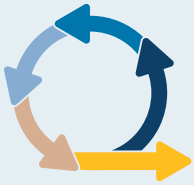
Strategic Plan 2023-28

Jesuit Social Services accompanies and works with people and communities who are excluded and isolated.

Our current Strategic Plan 2023-28 focuses on five priority areas to fulfil our purpose and achieve our social impact.

Our five priorities

1



Disrupt the cycle of disadvantage

By intervening earlier with the people and communities we engage with.

2

Enhance our programs and advocacy

By synthesising lived experience, practice wisdom and evidence.

3

Grow our social impact

By closer integration across practice, research, policy, and advocacy.

4

Strengthen our Jesuit organisational identity

Nurture the vocational hearts of staff and further embed ecological and gender justice across all activities.

5

Build the organisation's capacity

Achieve our mission by being responsive to the times and financially sustainable.

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.

Our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion

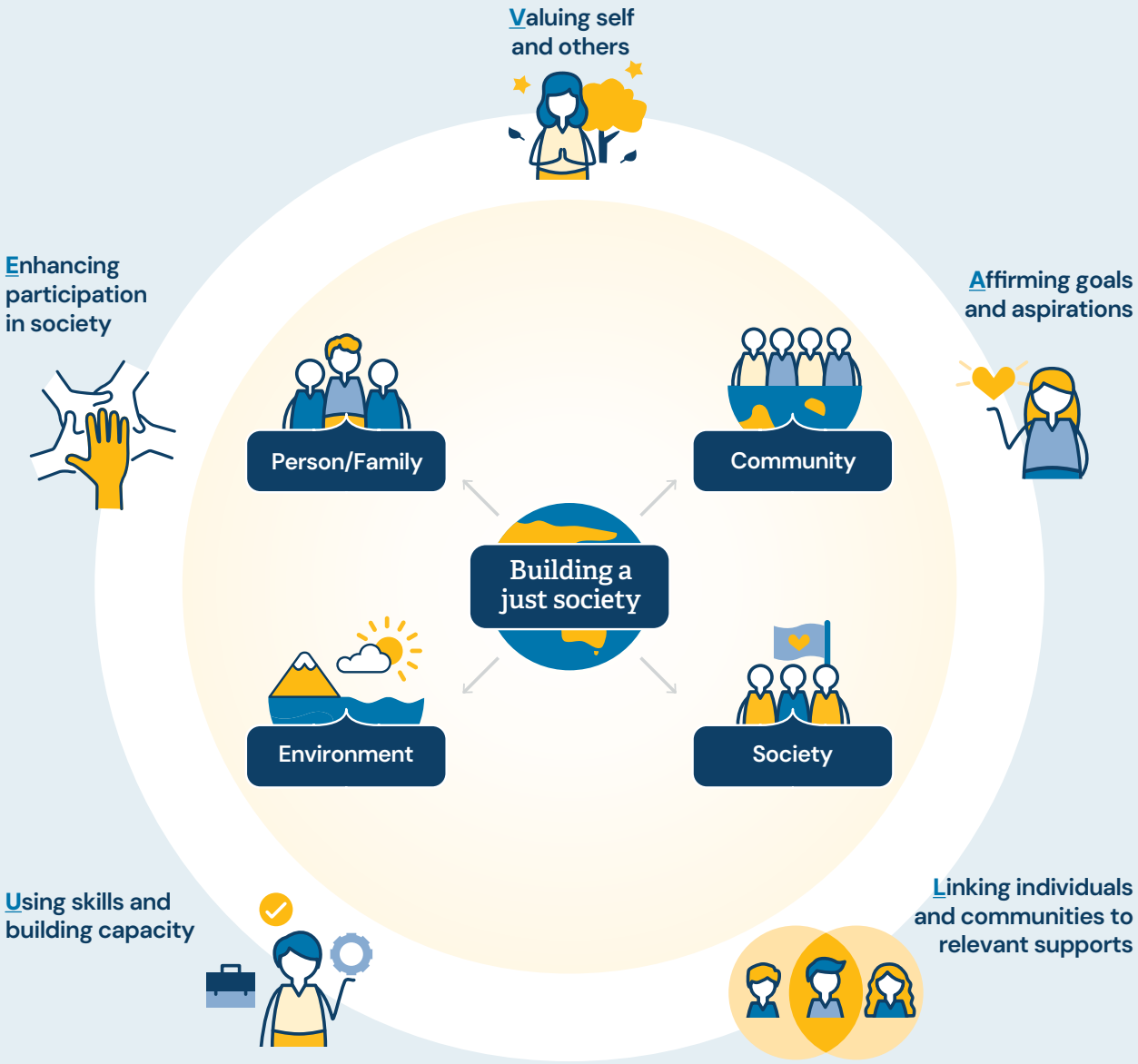
Jesuit Social Services is committed to providing a working environment that embraces and values diversity and inclusion.

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 Way of Working



Where we work

Victoria

Wurundjeri country

Brunswick

Broadmeadows

Epping

Fitzroy

Flemington

Kew

Maidstone

Melton

Reservoir

Richmond

St Albans

Sunshine

Bunurong country

Dandenong

Northern Territory

Arrernte country

Alice Springs

Larrakia country

Darwin

Palmerston

Jawoyn, Dagoman and Wardaman country

Katherine

Eastern Arrernte country

Santa Teresa

Warumungu country

Tennant Creek

Kardu Diminin country

Wadeye

New South Wales

Dharug country

Willmot

Emerton

Lethbridge Park

Blackett

Francis Sullivan AO
Chair, Jesuit Social Services

Julie Edwards OAM
CEO, Jesuit Social Services

Reflections

CEO and Chair's message

We are grateful to be reporting on another year of 'doing' and 'influencing' - where we walked alongside individuals and communities on the margins and sought ways to influence the systems, programs and policies that perpetuate inequality, exclusion and harm.

As we approach our 50th anniversary in 2027, we continue to deliver core services in Victoria, New South Wales and the Northern Territory while strengthening our national presence across emerging priority areas including child sexual abuse prevention and tech-facilitated abuse. This is in line with our Jesuit heritage of having "one foot raised," with one foot grounded in long-term relationships and experience, and the other raised to address new community challenges.

Amid a challenging criminal justice landscape where governments around the country commit to knee-jerk punitive policies, we continue to highlight the evidence of what works in reducing crime. An example of this is the award-winning Maribyrnong Community Residential Facility, which provides accommodation and support to men exiting prison and who would otherwise be homeless. In 2025, the program marked its fifth anniversary and we continue to advocate to governments that the model, demonstrated to reduce recidivism, should be expanded to support other cohorts of people.

One of our five strategic priorities 2023-2028 is to 'disrupt the cycle of disadvantage by intervening earlier with the people and communities we engage with'. This has been demonstrated across our program areas through the new federally funded child sexual abuse prevention service Stop it Now! Australia, which builds on the philanthropically funded pilot program we ran for three years. Additionally, we have commenced pilot programs in the youth justice space – including Re-Engage, which works with children who have disengaged from school, and the placement of Early Intervention Officers to support at-risk youth and prevent contact with the youth justice system.

A significant highlight of the past year was the release of our landmark Adolescent Man Box report in late 2025. This research expanded on the learnings from our two earlier major Man Box reports (published in 2018 and 2024) exploring the attitudes and beliefs of Australian men. The findings of the Adolescent Man Box report, which surveyed adolescents to explore contemporary issues such as pornography, social media and mental health, will continue to inform our work with young people including in school settings, with the ultimate aim of supporting boys to lead healthy, fulfilling lives free from harm.

We continue to develop our understanding around the emerging area of tech-facilitated abuse. During the year we received an eSafety Commissioner grant to deliver the TechRespect program in partnership with Australian National University.

“We have strengthened our national presence across critical issues such as employment pathways and the prevention of child sexual abuse while continuing to deliver core services in Victoria, New South Wales and the Northern Territory.”

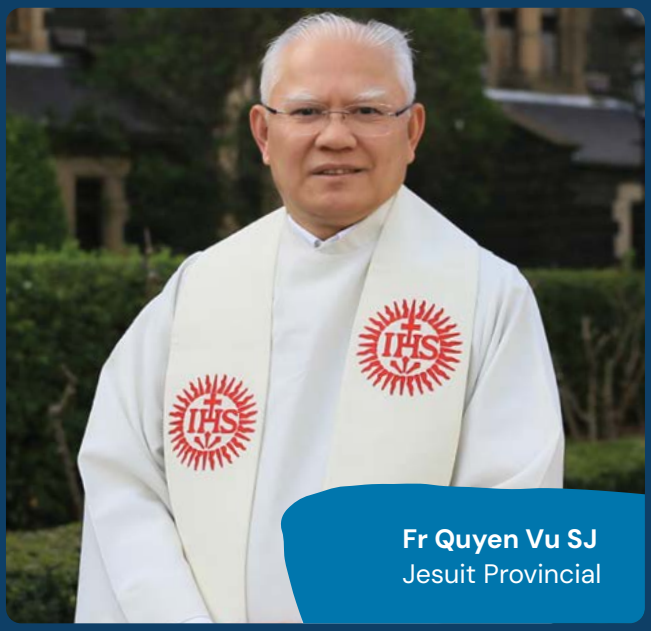
This program has a focus on 16 to 24 year old boys and men at risk of perpetration, to identify and address the nature of tech-based stalking.

Additionally, we launched the Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) Deterrence Centre in partnership with the University of Tasmania, to support technology companies to create safe online communities aligned with regulatory requirements.

Education and employment are critical factors to keep young people engaged, develop relationships, build confidence and be on a positive pathway. That is why, 15 years after we established Jesuit Community College, we continue to explore new opportunities to help marginalised people to connect with education, training and employment pathways and ultimately lead fulfilling lives. In the past year, we have commenced the Inclusive Employment Australia and Western Pathways programs, to connect people who experience barriers to employment into work, and to provide wrap-around support so they can flourish.

Finally, our beloved Artful Dodgers Studio moved to Brunswick, co-locating with our Ecological Justice Hub – a permaculture garden and community space dedicated to social and environmental justice. Their co-location enables us to create enhanced opportunities for creativity, connection and community.

We extend our gratitude to our staff, volunteers, Board directors and supporters. Thank you for your commitment to build a just society with us.



Fr Quyen Vu SJ
Jesuit Provincial

Provincial’s message

In my final year as Provincial, I would like simply to say thank you.

Your work and companionship have been a blessing to so many, particularly those living with great need and vulnerability. You embody the Jesuit commitment to journey with young people and walk alongside those on the margins. I thank Julie Edwards in particular for her leadership, vision and courage, and offer my deep gratitude to the Board, staff and volunteers of Jesuit Social Services. The image of St Ignatius walking with one foot raised is fitting for you. It speaks of a willingness to move forward with purpose, while continually discerning how best to respond to the changing needs of those you serve.

Next year, you will rightly celebrate 50 years of growth, companionship and achievement. Yet an anniversary is not only a time to look back, but an invitation to look forward. We are living through profound technological and social change, and will encounter currents of disruption, fear and even hatred. At such a time, your mission will be ever more important, calling you to discern the signs of the times, accompany those who are vulnerable, contribute to public conversation through advocacy and research, and model a way of living marked by cooperation, welcome and hospitality.

I am confident that, with wisdom and courage, you will respond generously to this call. Please know that you remain in my prayers, with deep gratitude for all that you have been and continue to be for so many.

Our impact

As a social change organisation, we demonstrate our impact across three key focus areas:

- **Individuals flourishing** in a web of healthy relationships
- **Communities empowered** to participate and create positive change
- **Hearts, minds, and systems changed** towards greater love and justice

Flourishing individuals

9,182
participants supported in direct program delivery

1,310
participants who received counselling or group support through post-bereavement Support After Suicide and Standby services.

4,059 number of 1:1 counselling hours were provided.

434
carers supported through Mental Health and Wellbeing Connect.

1,747 further engagements with other carers, family or support people through telephone support, drop-ins, or group activities.

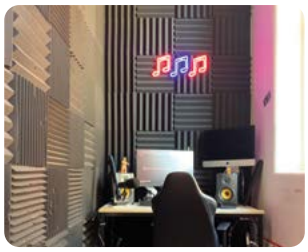
669
adults supported to transition from prison to community through our ReConnect program.

1,402
people participated in Youth Justice Group Conferencing, including participants, family members, victims, police, justice staff and conference convenors. **221 young people** participated in Victoria and the Northern Territory.

2,470
enrolments in education and training courses through our Jesuit Community College.

With a further **1,016 participants in employment programs.**

245
participants supported with school re-engagement through Navigator.



63
students supported through the Ignatius Learning Centre.

The Ignatius Learning Centre opened a new campus in Sunshine in July 2026, taking on new students from the local area.

674
young people supported towards more positive futures across our youth justice programs in Victoria and the Northern Territory.

Communities empowered

159,756

engagements with community change activities

4,553

active users of the Support After Suicide Hub, an online community space for LGBTQIA+ people who have lost someone to suicide.

29,710

purchases of nutritious meals and groceries from our Ignite Food Store, Open Pantry and Currawong Kitchen social enterprises in Western Sydney.

1,055

attendees to 62 community activities and weekly homework club sessions run by Settlement Services.

9,080

attendees over 320 training sessions and presentations to audiences such as schools, community groups, sporting clubs, construction companies and councils facilitated by The Men's Project.

Changed hearts, minds and systems

712,633

opportunities created to influence social change

56,770

communications sent via email, post and SMS to engage the hearts and minds of our supporters through stories of our people and our work.

342,619

Facebook views and LinkedIn impressions with 27 per cent growth in social media.

We are excited to reach a broader audience with the launch of our new Instagram account. **Follow us!**

49,450

views of our Research and Publications pages on our website, covering leading topics such as gender justice, place-based disadvantage and more.

260

meetings attended by Executive team and others to advocate, advise, discern or network with government, sector representatives, academics and the Jesuit ministries to drive social change.

Milestones and achievements

Annual Dinner 2026

In early 2026, almost 300 supporters and partners of Jesuit Social Services gathered in a shared commitment to building a just society, at our Annual Dinner at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Professor Kate Fitz-Gibbon, a leading criminologist and researcher in domestic and family violence at Monash University, delivered the flagship Frank Costigan QC Address.

Her remarks highlighted the transformative impact of our work in supporting young people toward fulfilling lives, and the risks posed by "tough on crime" policy approaches.

As Professor Fitz-Gibbon noted, a commitment to youth justice should not come at the expense of protecting children and young people — a message that has resonated with Jesuit Social Services for nearly 50 years.

RISE Project

As the RISE Project draws to a close, we reflect on what participation in the program has achieved for Jesuit Social Services. Delivered in partnership with Diversity Council Australia, RISE supported Culturally and Racially Marginalised (CARM) women in leadership development while building our capacity as an anti-racism organisation.

Over the three years of the program, 12 staff undertook leadership development and coaching, and continue to be sponsored by senior leaders. Through RISE we have developed an action plan that supports CARM women to overcome barriers and ensure equal access to leadership roles, and formed a network of CARM women and allies.

Learning and Practice Development Unit staff member, Steph Mendis, spoke at the final RISE event about the change needed to eradicate racism and exclusion in Australia.

Meetings with Tanya Plibersek and Julie Inman Grant

We welcomed The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for Social Services, to our central office in Melbourne in September 2025, where she met with CEO Julie Edwards and staff from The Men's Project. It was a chance for us to speak about our work with boys, men and community leaders to prevent men's violence.

Leaders from across the organisation also met with eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant and her team in March 2026 to explore opportunities to tackle online harm together. We shared updates on our programs to prevent, deter and disrupt child sexual abuse and other harmful behaviours. This includes through Stop It Now! Australia, our CSAM Deterrence Centre (in partnership with the University of Tasmania), and our What's OK? Australia service, which we launched in June 2026.

Climate justice across Asia Pacific

In her capacity as Secretary for Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific (JCAP) Social Ministries, in March 2026 our CEO Julie Edwards convened a meeting in East Timor that brought together more than 20 participants from across the Conference to promote opportunities for collaboration and engagement on global efforts to work for climate justice.

Farewell to the Brosnan Centre

This year, our beloved Brosnan Centre has relocated to our new office in Brunswick. Opened in 2000 and named after prison chaplain Father John Brosnan, the Brosnan Centre ran programs to help men, women and young people who've been to prison cope with life after their release.

Moving on from the Brosnan Centre marks a very important milestone in the history of Jesuit Social Services — one filled with deep reflection, gratitude, and a renewed commitment to the mission that Father Brosnan so passionately championed. The spirit of the Brosnan Centre lives on in our work with people transitioning from the justice system.

Artful Dodgers Studio relocation marks exciting new chapter

Our trauma-informed, arts-based program for young people aged 16 to 28 – Artful Dodgers Studio – has relocated from Collingwood to Brunswick and is now co-located with our Ecological Justice Hub.

The program celebrated its grand opening with a smoking ceremony by Wurundjeri Elder Uncle Colin Hunter, and tours of the new studio, music room and garden. As former facilitator, Jesse Hooper of the award-winning band Killing Heidi, put it: "This place was so special, is so special, and will be so special again."

Award-winning Maribyrnong Community Residential Facility Program

For five years, the Maribyrnong Community Residential Facility (MCRF) has provided temporary accommodation and wraparound support to men leaving prison in Melbourne who would otherwise be homeless.

In the past year, the program has received two major awards.

At the International Corrections and Prisons Association annual conference in Istanbul, the MCRF team was presented with the Community Corrections Award, a prestigious acknowledgement of its innovative approaches to supporting people in the community and advancing humane, effective correctional practice.

Additionally, the program received an Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Award at Parliament House in Canberra. The award recognises programs that reduce crime and violence, and that assist governments in identifying practical initiatives to strengthen community safety.

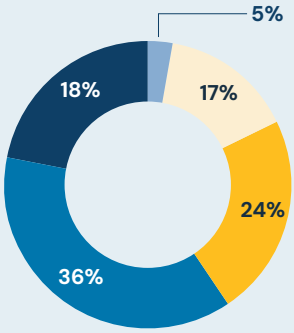
> "I feel like a human. I feel like I'm finally living. I feel like I finally have a life."
>
> - Maribyrnong Community Residential Facility participant

125 people supported through our justice housing programs

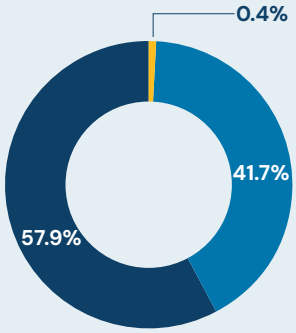
including Maribyrnong Community Residential Facility, Link Youth Justice Housing program, Next Steps and Perry House.

Participant profile and outcomes

Participant demographics



- Under 18 ..... 18%
- 18–34 ..... 36%
- 35–49 ..... 24%
- 50–64 ..... 17%
- 65+ 5%



- Male 57.9%
- Female 41.7%
- Gender Diverse/ Non-binary 0.4%

12% are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

71% Australian born

55 per cent of participants have non-Australian ancestry

29% born outside Australia

For those born outside Australia: 118 countries represented; predominantly NZ and countries across Africa, the Middle East, Southern/Central/South-East Asia

Reasons participants engage with us

Education, training, and employment support

Support with justice system and legal involvement

Healing and restoration

(predominantly those supported through suicide bereavement, as well as participants seeking support for other issues including trauma, family violence, mental health, and substance use)

Psychosocial support and skill development

(including family/community support, housing and accommodation needs, mentoring, material aid, and advocacy)

Number of people supported

Education, Training and Employment
3,794

Gender Justice
581

Disability, Mental Health and Wellbeing
2,750

Just Places
312

Justice and Reconciliation
1,637

Community and Connections
108

Voices from our community

"I got the job, and they helped me get what I needed to start, like work gear, training and transportation."

– **Mike**, Inclusive Employment Australia participant

"Some of their old friends are now in jail, and maybe my sons would have gone the same way. The school changed their life for the better."

– **Parent** of a student at our Ignatius Learning Centre

"It's a time where you can just be yourself. There's no talk of being behind or not being good enough—because of each other, we know we can do whatever it is. It's the people around me that make me want to keep going."

– **Robyn**, Willmot Community Hub participant

"They sort of prepared me, getting back on my feet and I can't imagine what I would've done without them. I hate to imagine. Extremely helpful. They made it possible for me to pick up where I left off."

– Reconnect participant

"I'm really happy with the Homework Club. The tutors help with things we couldn't manage on our own, which means a lot. It's wonderful, and as someone who didn't finish school, I'm very thankful for the volunteer tutors. My daughter is now 15 and still attends."

– **Parent** of Homework Club participant

"This is the club that no one wants to join but I am indeed grateful to have found such a club."

– **Heathclyff**, Support After Suicide participant and volunteer

Positive change

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 the following outcomes reported for participants:

67% reported improvement in view of self

68% reported improvement in meaningful relationships and family connections

69% reported improvement in view of the future

73% reported improvement in use of supports

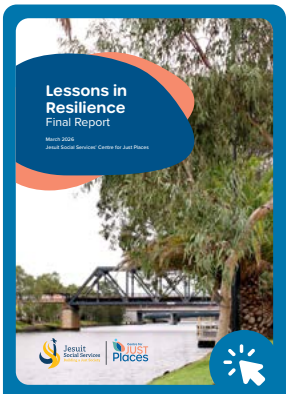
Participant and program stories

JUST PLACES

Lessons in Resilience from Melbourne's west

In March, our Centre for Just Places published *Lessons in Resilience*, a report highlighting how community service and health organisations in Melbourne's west have responded to crises including floods, heatwaves and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report drew on nine months of research, including interviews with frontline staff and organisational leaders working across the region. It included key recommendations for government, funders, organisations and sector leaders to strengthen resilience across the region and better support action on the ground.



Click or scan to read the Lessons in Resilience Report

The project was funded by Greater Melbourne Foundation, Western Public Health Unit and Wyndham City Council, and the research was launched at an event at Whitten Oval in Footscray.

WESTERN SYDNEY

A simple sign, a stronger welcome

With our Ignite Food Store in Western Sydney supporting increasing numbers of newly arrived refugee families to access affordable food, store worker Bernadette noticed something small but meaningful.

Many new customers spoke Arabic as their first language, and some were unsure how Ignite worked. Instead of ignoring the barrier, she took action.

"I asked a friend who speaks Arabic if they could translate our store sign that explains how to put our hampers together. It was a small thing but it has made a big difference."

COMMUNITY & CONNECTION

'Kindness is a really positive thing to spread'

In her spare time, Hawthorn AFLW player Naj Allen volunteers with our Homework Club program, an out-of-school-hours learning support program run by volunteers for school-aged students living on or around the Flemington public housing estate in Melbourne.

Click or scan to hear from Naj

JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION

A fresh start for Dale

One of five children, Dale (not his real name) had a tough childhood.

At age 13, he spent time in youth detention – Dale estimated he had cycled in and out of prison around 15 times since then.

The lack of post-release support contributed to the cycle of re-offending.

"If I was released on parole I might get support for three months, [but after that] there was no housing or any other ongoing support. Sometimes I would stay with the mum of my kids, or couch surf at friends of friends' houses," he says.

In 2024, Dale arrived at the Maribyrnong Community Residential Facility, which we deliver in partnership with Corrections Victoria.

The program provides safe and secure accommodation for men exiting prison – as well as wrap-around support focusing on education, training, independent living skills, managing physical and mental health and drug rehabilitation.

The program supported Dale to find work and get his driver's licence. Eighteen months later, he is living independently with his daughter.

Click or scan to read more

Launches

EDUCATION, TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT

New employment programs making a difference

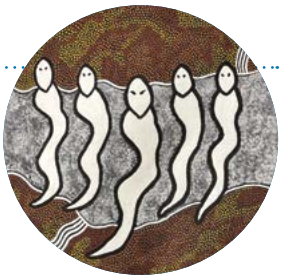
For more than 20 years, we have been committed to providing education, training and employment pathways to people who face barriers to mainstream participation. In the past year, we've launched two new employment programs to help marginalised people into work.

Inclusive Employment Australia is a federally funded service supporting people with disabilities who have had contact with the justice system to prepare for, find and maintain work. We deliver the program across five municipal areas of metropolitan Melbourne.

Western Pathways, funded by the Victorian Government, is a new employment program providing tailored support for young people in Melbourne's west. It provides mentoring, coaching, interview and resume preparation, and support with work tickets.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Yeyekerte partnership helps young men thrive



In Mparntwe (Alice Springs), we have partnered with Yeyekerte Aboriginal Corporation to run the Alkupitja Atnerre On Country Learning Program.

This program supports young men who are in contact with the justice system, or at risk of it, to connect to culture, make healthy life choices, stay at school or find employment, and link with support services and programs.

One component of the program is On Country Learning Camps, which provide a safe and supported environment for young people, with 24-hour support from Aboriginal leaders and strong cultural mentors and role models.

GENDER JUSTICE

Stop It Now! Australia launch

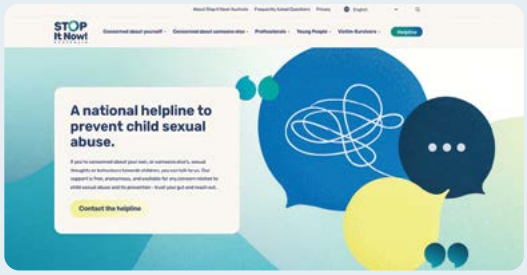
This year, we expanded our commitment to ensuring that all young people grow up in a world where they are safe and free from sexual abuse and exploitation.

Stop It Now! Australia became the nation's first federally funded and nationally available child sexual abuse offending prevention service. Operated by Jesuit Social Services, the initiative delivers on a key recommendation of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and forms part of the National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse. It builds on the learnings and outcomes of the pilot program operated by Jesuit Social Services, which saw more than 35,000 people access its website. The new national service comprises a free and anonymous phone helpline, website and online self-help resources for adults concerned about their own or someone else's sexual thoughts and behaviours towards children.

271% increase in answered call volumes after the expansion of Stop It Now! Australia

21,993 views
of resources or information on the stopitnow.org.au website

3,929 views
of child abuse prevention research and advocacy on the Jesuit Social Services website



About the Adolescent Man Box

In November 2025, we launched the Adolescent Man Box report, drawing on the results of an anonymous online survey of 1,401 young people aged 14 to 18, of all genders. The study asked Australian teenagers about their beliefs in relation to how teenage boys should act, and about a range of attitudes, behaviours and experiences.

Shining a light on the realities of what it means to be a teenage boy in Australia today, the report highlighted both promising signs and critical challenges that must be addressed if we are to support boys in leading fulfilling lives – free from violence and other harmful behaviours.

The Adolescent Man Box found that many of the young people who took part in the survey personally reject the restrictive Adolescent Man Box rules. However, a significant minority personally endorsed rigid ideas about masculinity and adherence to these views was associated with negative outcomes in terms of their wellbeing and their behaviour.

Of the boys who most strongly supported the Adolescent Man Box rules:

- Almost half agreed or strongly agreed that **no one really knows them well**
- More than one quarter had **experienced being physically hurt** on purpose in the past month
- More than one quarter believed that if a man is violent to his partner, it is probably because **they deserve it or did something to provoke it**
- Around one third said **they'd retaliate when rejected**
- More than a quarter said their friends would **use AI to create fake nude images** of people they knew

The research was launched with an address at the National Press Club, followed by significant, widespread national media coverage and a major launch event in Melbourne. The launch also reached millions on social media.

The Adolescent Man Box Report has helped bring into focus the road ahead as we work to prevent violence in the community. We've woven what we've learnt through our broader Men's Project programs, to pass on those important findings to teachers, parents, community leaders and young people in the community.

We've also redesigned our programs that work with young people, such as Change Makers and MoRE, to use the research to inform discussions about pressures young people experience, and build their knowledge around attitudes shaped by social constructions of masculinity.

We brought together experts from across the sector at the launch event of the Adolescent Man Box

What the report found

Boys are moving away from narrow views of what it means to be a man, and most boys appear to recognise the value of emotional connection and empathy.

Rigid beliefs about masculinity are linked to harm to others, and to boys themselves. For boys who most strongly endorsed the Adolescent Man Box life appears to be lonelier.

Most boys believe in gender equality, and the vast majority see girls as equals, but they still feel strong societal pressure to conform to the Adolescent Man Box rules.

Real-life relationships matter. Most boys rely on their parents for guidance ahead of online influences.

The impact of the research

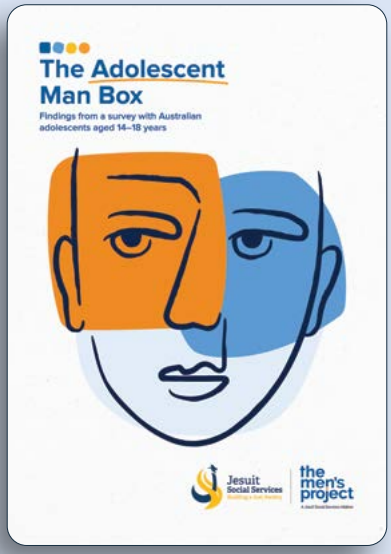
Launched with a
National Press Club address

NATIONAL PRESS CLUB OF AUSTRALIA

Video produced with
AFL players from the Western Bulldogs

The Men's Project staff with Western Bulldogs players

1,100+
pieces of media coverage and estimated views of 238M

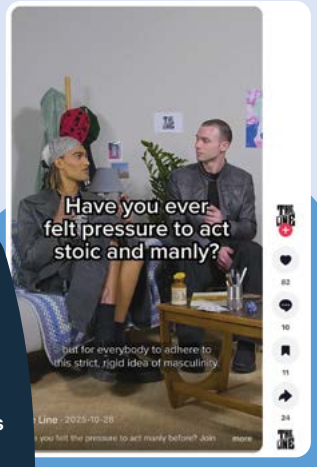


70,000+
visits to The Men's Project page on Jesuit Social Services' website

MoRE: Prevention in Education program has shared key findings with
645 educators
159 students across
70 schools

Change Makers program initiates conversations around masculinity and 'being a young man' with
135 young people across
15 group programs

Social media collaboration with Our Watch's The Line campaign received
10.96M impressions
3.53M video views
221,500 clicks



A TikTok post from The Line collaboration

"Most boys reject the narrow and restrictive views of masculinity, especially about needing to be emotionally stoic. But the ones who do endorse or believe them, there are some challenges in there with their behaviours."

– **Drew Hanger,** Prevention in Education Manager, The Men's Project

Click or scan to watch the National Press Club address, the Western Bulldogs video or to read the full report.

Influencing and fundraising

Fundraising

When governments fall short on providing the positive connections and support needed by people living on the margins, it's the gifts of ordinary people that make extraordinary change possible.

We are grateful to the individuals, schools and parishes, philanthropic trusts and foundations, businesses and community groups who generously supported our work in the financial year 2025–26.

$2.87 million dollars raised to enable us to support those most entrenched in disadvantage

$2.4 million dollars in philanthropic grants

Together, they contributed $5.28 million through program grants, Gifts in Wills, regular and workplace giving, fundraising events, responses to appeals, and more.

We are particularly grateful to those who have chosen to leave a Gift in their Will to help bring love to hard places. Whether such gifts are large or small, Gifts in Wills can help to ensure compassion, dignity and hope continue reaching people for generations to come.

"If you just look at society with all the violence we're seeing, and you want to see a better society, it requires investment in young lives before they become derailed and entrenched in crime."

– **Steve,** who donated in his brother's memory

Media

Media engagement is one of the ways in which we advocate for a just society. By providing a platform for our staff and participants to share their experiences, we can amplify our policy and advocacy work and support an authorising environment for evidence-based policies and investments.

The launch of our Adolescent Man Box report in late 2025 generated strong media coverage. Across 2025–26, the report received more than 1,200 unique media hits, including cross-platform coverage on the ABC, print and digital coverage across most major newspapers and websites, and TV coverage on SBS, Channel 7, Nine and Network Ten. This coverage included interviews with Jesuit Social Services staff as well as young people themselves, reflecting on the report's themes and findings.

Across the year, we had more than 2,000 pieces of media coverage. Other highlights included regular print, radio and TV interviews around youth justice; the publication of multiple opinion pieces at outlets including ABC, the Canberra Times and the NT News; and print and radio coverage of our Stop It Now! Australia child sexual abuse prevention program.

David Murray, Strategic Projects Lead, speaking on Channel 7 News on youth crime solutions

2,000+ mentions in the media
including on television, print and online news outlets

20 media releases published

Policy and Advocacy

At Jesuit Social Services, we 'do' and we 'influence.'

Our influencing work is driven by our Advocacy and Strategic Communications team and seeks to change policies, practices, ideas and values that perpetuate inequality, prejudice and exclusion.

We achieve these goals through meeting with decision-makers and funders, producing reports and discussion papers, making submissions to inquiries and reviews, presenting at conferences and events and leading and participating in campaigns and coalitions.

Over the past year, the Advocacy and Strategic Communications team produced 23 submissions, reports and papers across a range of interconnected social justice areas.

Mischa Barr and Melanie Thomson presented to the Victorian Inquiry into Anti-LGBTQIA+ Hate Crimes

Through direct engagement with government representatives and decision-makers at the federal, state and territory levels, we participated in around 65 meetings or roundtables and wrote 40 letters seeking action and further discussion on specific issues.

Additionally, we participated in 27 different advocacy networks, campaigns and advisory groups, sharing our insights and the lived experience of our frontline staff and participants to support collaborative efforts for reform.

40
letters to government

65
meetings or roundtables with governments

23
submissions, reports and papers

Influencing hearts and minds

Jesuit Social Services has a long track record of shaping public discourse through contributions to policy inquiries, Royal Commissions, and government consultation processes. Our input is frequently cited in final reports—bringing the lived experience of participants, the practice wisdom of staff, and evidence-based solutions directly into decision-making spaces.

While translating inquiry findings into tangible policy reform is often an extended process, securing a seat at the table means our perspectives are on the formal record. This year, several of our written submissions generated significant interest from parliamentary committees, leading to invitations to give evidence at public hearings.

- We spoke at a hearing of the federal **Inquiry into Youth Justice and Incarceration**, outlining programs with demonstrated effectiveness across prevention, early intervention, diversion and response. We called on the Commonwealth to incentivise states and territories to introduce legislation and implement policies and programs that are consistent with effective, evidence-based approaches to youth justice.
- We spoke to the committee conducting the federal **Inquiry into the Relationship Between Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (DFSV) and Suicide**, highlighting gaps and opportunities to improve system responses to suicide and suicide risk in the context of DFSV.
- We spoke at a hearing of the Victorian **Inquiry into Anti-LGBTQIA+ Hate Crimes**, focusing on the need to address the underlying drivers of violence against LGBTQIA+ people – including anti-LGBTQIA+ prejudice and rigid masculine norms – as well as addressing the factors driving some of the contemporary manifestations of this violence.
- We met with the Chair of the federal **Inquiry into Racism, Hate and Violence Directed at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People**, discussing how systemic racism manifests in the experiences of First Nations people across justice systems, housing and climate policy.

As these committees finalise their reports, our engagement aims to ensure that our perspectives will remain central to their upcoming recommendations to government.

Our people

Staff

Our passionate and experienced staff and volunteers are at the heart of our work with people and communities. In 2025–26, Jesuit Social Services welcomed more than 151 new staff across the country, bringing our total number of staff to nearly 400.

Jesuit Social Services is a values-based organisation. Our values are welcoming, discerning and courageous. 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.

Staff from Mental Health and Wellbeing Connect building community with carers during National Carers Week

398 staff across Australia

Volunteers

Over the past year, the unwavering dedication and generosity of our volunteers have been instrumental in driving positive change across our programs and communities. We are deeply grateful for their passion and commitment in support of our vision to build a just society.

These passionate and dedicated volunteers contributed to programs including Flemington Homework Club, Community Connections Mentoring, Ecological Justice Hub, Support After Suicide, and digital literacy programs. Volunteers also support our Ignite Food Store and Op Shop, and Willmot Community Hub programs in Western Sydney, as well as our policy, advocacy and communication teams.

15,677 hours of support to our participants and programs

258 volunteers over the financial year supported our vision and uplifted the lives of those we walk alongside

Our programs

At Jesuit Social Services, we 'do' and we 'influence.' Our 'doing' work spans a range of programs that help individuals, families and communities to thrive.

We are a national organisation, with a significant footprint in Victoria, New South Wales and the Northern Territory. Our programs span the following range of interconnected social justice areas.

Justice and reconciliation

We work to keep people out of prison and help them to get their lives back on track. We also work to ensure that people leaving prison can successfully transition back into the community.

Community and connection

We work with communities we are invited into, building connections with people seeking asylum, newly arrived migrants, First Nations people, and those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Education, training and employment

Not everybody has the same access to education or employment opportunities. We support people who have had limited access to learn, study and work.

Disability, mental health and wellbeing

We assist people to reduce harm to themselves and others, establish healthy social connections, and engage in their community.

Just places

Partnering with communities across Australia, our Centre for Just Places supports and enables place-based approaches to both social and ecological justice.

Housing and support

Feeling safe, confident and comfortable at home is a crucial aspect of supporting all people to become their best selves.

Gender justice

The Men's Project supports boys and men to live respectful, accountable and fulfilling lives free from violence.

Scan the QR code to view a list of our programs and initiatives

Our Board

Chair of the Board

Francis Sullivan AO

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 whose governance provides accountability and oversight.

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:

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

Click or scan to read more about our governance and biographies of our current Board directors

Board directors

Julia Griffith

Christiana McCudden

Justin Lachal

Sr Libby Rogerson CJ

Lisa Brophy

Sherry Balcombe

Fr John Martis SJ

Semefa Sefe

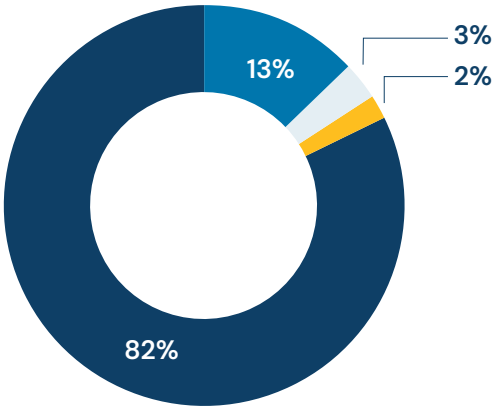
Kate Perry

Michelle McCarty

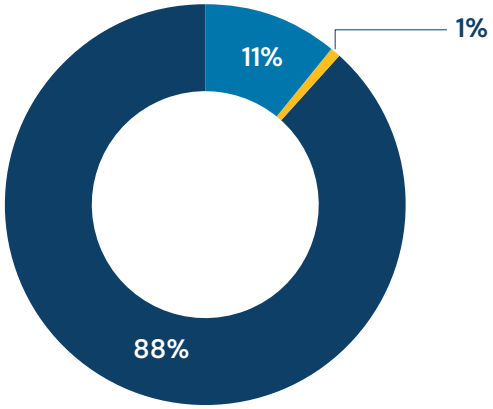
Pat Allen

Financial summary

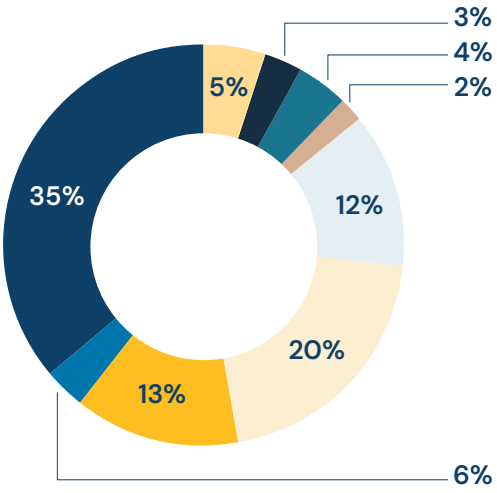
Total revenue was $55,152,816, while total expenses were $51,826,828.



Revenue	%
Government income & grants	82%
All other	13%
Fundraising	3%
Trust and philanthropic grants	2%



Expenditure	%
Direct program	88%
Administration	11%
Fundraising	1%



Direct Program Expenditure	%
Justice	35%
Support After Suicide	6%
Education, Training & Employment	13%
Housing and Complex Needs	20%
Gender Justice	12%
Centre for Just Places	2%
Western Sydney	4%
Advocacy	3%
Ignatius Learning Centre	5%

Build a just society with us

SUPPORTER STORY

A legacy to carry on their values

The saying, "We're all God's children," passed from Susan's mother to her, and down the line to her now adult children.

When Susan met her husband, John – a pharmacist – in the 1960s, she found a partner who shared her values of treating everyone with respect and seeing the best in people. Despite raising five children, the couple always found time to help those on the margins – teaching English to migrants, welcoming refugees into their home and volunteering with various welfare-focused charities.

They became regular givers to Jesuit Social Services in 2006, after first donating back in 1997. Susan says they appreciated how the organisation valued people, while tackling difficult social issues head-on.

"They do the research and then they follow through in ways that are honest and caring."

When they met with their solicitor in 2017 to organise their estate, Susan and John chose to include a gift in both of their Wills. Susan says while they weren't wealthy, they felt that even after providing for their family, they could make a modest contribution. "We don't mind how it's used, as long as it's helping someone," she says.

Sadly, John passed away in 2024. Susan was proud to honour his legacy by delivering his gift to Jesuit Social Services. She knew it would be used in "the best possible way", honouring a man who gave so much of himself in service of others.

Susan hopes their gifts will help Jesuit Social Services continue reaching people doing it tough – whether through the same work they witnessed over the years, like supporting people leaving prison or experiencing homelessness, or through new programs responding to future needs. She also feels their decision allows the couple's love for people to continue beyond them.

> "It can help carry on some work that you can no longer do."
> – **Susan**, supporter

How to support 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 a donation at jss.org.au/donate

Become a community partner

Sign up for a monthly gift to help us accompany those who need us

Volunteer

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

Advocate for justice

Join our campaigns and learn more about the issues we care about at jss.org.au

Leave a gift in your Will

Remembering Jesuit Social Services in your Will is one of the most powerful ways to ensure that your values – and your compassion – continue to impact lives long after you're gone.

Gifts in Wills come from people from all walks of life, and every gift – no matter the size – makes a difference, helping to bring love to hard places.

Thanking our supporters

Jesuit Social Services relies on the generosity of hundreds of individual donors and organisations, and we are deeply appreciative of your continued support. Your financial contributions and pro bono assistance are vital to our mission and make our work possible each year. Thank you.

We also want to acknowledge the invaluable support we receive from government departments, businesses, trusts, foundations, and community groups. A special thank you goes to the Victorian Government's multiple departments for their significant contributions.

We are thankful to every organisation listed below for their partnership and trust in our work.

- 5point Foundation
- Australian Province of the Society of Jesus
- Bob Stewart of Kew
- City of Greater Dandenong Grants Program
- Commonwealth Government of Australia
- The Flora & Frank Leith Charitable Trust
- Greater Melbourne Foundation
- Hansen Little Foundation
- Hantomeli Foundation
- Homework Club Partnership Fund (a sub-fund of Australian Communities Foundation)
- Jenkins Foundation
- Loyola College, Mannix House
- Moonee Valley City Council
- Mount Pelion Foundation
- Mullany Family Trust
- Musicland
- Neilson Foundation
- New South Wales State Government
- Noel & Carmel O'Brien Family Foundation
- Northern Territory Government
- Our Lady of the Way Parish, North Sydney
- Planet Wheeler Foundation
- Primary Health Networks in the following regions: Gippsland, Eastern Melbourne, North Western Melbourne, South Eastern Melbourne
- Sisters of Charity of Australia
- St Aloysius College, Kirribilli
- St Columba's Catholic College, Springwood
- Superior Strategy Pty Ltd
- The William Angliss Charitable Fund
- Victorian State Government

Jesuit
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Building a Just Society

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