

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES AUSTRALIA WELCOMES POPE LEO XIV'S ENCYCLICAL *MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS*.

25 May 2026

Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA) warmly welcomes the publication of Pope Leo XIV's first Encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas* ("Magnificent Humanity"). This landmark document offers a profound and timely reflection on the dignity of the human person amid the rapid advances of technology and artificial intelligence.

Reflecting on the richness of Pope Leo's Encyclical, CSSA CEO Dr Jerry Nockles said the work covers much ground, but he was overwhelmed to see the focus on Dignity and the Common Good as well as a bias for action – for getting our hands dirty.

"At its heart, *Magnifica Humanitas* reaffirms the infinite dignity of every human being – *dignitas infinita* – rooted in the profound and eternal truth that each person is lovingly made in the image and likeness of the Triune God.

"This divine imprint – the divine spark we see in one another – calls us to recognise and respect the sacredness of every life and to uphold that dignity above all else, especially as we face the complex challenges of our modern world."

"The Holy Father calls us to 'build society for the common good.' This is not an abstract ideal but a practical commitment to the wellbeing of all, especially those most vulnerable. These principles have long been the foundation of CSSA's work supporting families and those facing hardship."

"Importantly, Pope Leo challenges us not to be passive observers but to engage actively – to 'get our hands dirty on the construction site of our time'. This is a powerful call to roll up our sleeves and work together with compassion, courage, and hope to shape a more just and humane society."

MEDIA RELEASE



"We will be reflecting carefully on *Magnifica Humanitas* over the coming days and weeks, discerning how best to bring the Holy Father's vision into practical action here in Australia."

Magnifica Humanitas was signed by Pope Leo XIV on 15 May 2026, marking the 135th anniversary of Pope Leo XIII's seminal social encyclical *Rerum Novarum*. The new encyclical was formally presented at the Vatican's Synod Hall on 25 May, where the Pope delivered an address and blessing.

CSSA looks forward to sharing the Holy Father's message widely and continuing to advocate for a society grounded in justice, compassion and respect for human dignity.

ENDS

About CSSA

CSSA is the national peak body for Catholic social service providers. CSSA's network of forty-two member agencies runs across all Australian States and Territories with a combined total of over seven hundred sites, delivering essential services to vulnerable and disadvantaged Australians.

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