

CSSA LAUNCHES VITAL NATIONAL SURVEY TO MAP THE IMPACT OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

30 June 2026

Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA) this week launched the *State of the Sector Survey 2026 – Mapping the National Footprint of Catholic Social Services*, a crucial national initiative designed to gather detailed data on the operations, challenges, and contributions of Catholic social service organisations across Australia.

As Australians face rising cost-of-living pressures, growing housing insecurity, increasing mental health concerns, and escalating family and domestic violence, Catholic social services continue to stand alongside those most in need – offering support, restoring dignity, and helping build pathways to safety and hope.

“Our sector is a beacon of compassion and resilience, yet our collective impact often remains overlooked in national conversations about social policy and funding,” said Dr Jerry Nockles, CEO of CSSA.

“This survey is far more than just data collection – it is a vital opportunity to ensure the voices of Catholic social services and the communities we accompany are heard clearly and powerfully.”

CSSA is calling for participation from Catholic social service organisations right across the country – from large established agencies to small local groups. Every organisation, no matter its size or location, plays a vital role in the fabric of our sector and the lives of the people we support.

The *State of the Sector Survey 2026* will provide the evidence needed to:

- Demonstrate the scale and life-changing impact of Catholic social services across the country
- Highlight ongoing and emerging challenges faced by organisations and the communities they support
- Strengthen advocacy with governments and policymakers on key social priorities
- Build a compelling case for sustained and increased investment in services for Australia’s most vulnerable

MEDIA RELEASE



Dr Nockles calls on all Catholic social service organisations to take part in this important survey to ensure all voices in the sector are counted and strengthened:

“Every group working under the Catholic banner has a vital story to tell. By completing this survey, you help us build a true and powerful picture of our sector’s reach and effectiveness.

“This allows us to influence policy, secure resources, and improve the lives of countless Australians.”

“The survey will provide important, timely data on the depth and breadth of our impact,” Dr Nockles said. “However, equally as important, it will tell the story of our mission in action - how Catholic social services uphold human dignity, foster solidarity, and accompany the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in our community every day.”

“Please join us in this critical endeavour – complete the survey today and help shape the future of Catholic social services in Australia.”

The survey is now open and accessible online. For more information and to participate, visit <https://cssa.org.au/cssas-state-of-the-sector-survey-2026/>.

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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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