

Catholic Social Services Australia congratulates Premier Malinauskas on emphatic election victory

22 March 2026

Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA) has congratulated Premier Peter Malinauskas on his emphatic victory in South Australia's state election.

Dr Jerry Nockles, CEO of Catholic Social Services Australia, welcomed the result and expressed optimism about working with the re-elected government on issues affecting vulnerable South Australians.

"Congratulations to Premier Malinauskas and his team on a decisive win that reflects the confidence South Australians have placed in their leadership," Dr Nockles said.

"In his victory speech, the Premier spoke about Aussie patriotism meaning we can sit with a stranger over a cuppa or a frothy and argue about the footy – not our faith. I loved that sentiment, and I'd add: Premier, I'd be more than happy to sit down with you and talk about the footy AND faith.

"We simply must recapture the ability to broach difference with dignity. In an era of increasing polarisation, the capacity to engage respectfully across lines of difference is not just nice to have – it is essential for a healthy democracy and a cohesive society."

Dr Nockles said CSSA looked forward to working constructively with the Malinauskas Government on shared priorities.

"There is important work ahead – addressing homelessness, supporting families doing it tough, ensuring our most vulnerable are not left behind, and building communities where every person's dignity is respected," he said.

"We are optimistic about what can be achieved when government, community organisations, and people of goodwill work together. But we are also clear-eyed about the scale of the challenges facing South Australia and the nation.

"Catholic social service partners are an essential element of that effort, and CSSA is committed to being a constructive partner in support of a just, inclusive, and compassionate Australia where everyone has the opportunity to flourish."

Dr Nockles also extended personal well-wishes to the Premier and his family.

"Finally, every blessing to Premier Malinauskas, Annabel, and their children. The pressures of public life on families are real, and we hold them all in our thoughts as they embark on this next term.

"We approach the work ahead with faith and courage."

ENDS

About CSSA

CSSA is the national peak body for Catholic social service providers. CSSA's network of forty-two member agencies works across all Australian States and Territories with a combined total of over seven hundred sites, delivering essential services to vulnerable and disadvantaged Australians. The work of Catholic social service partners is of profound importance to Australia's 5.1 million Catholics.

Media Contact | Carmel Sefian | 02 6285 1366 | carmel.sefian@cssa.org.au