MEDIA RELEASE

Catholic Social Services Australia

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES AUSTRALIA LAUNCHES BOLD NEW FIVE-YEAR STRATEGY: *TOWARDS 75: BUILDING FOR THE COMMON GOOD*

5 November 2026

Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA) today proudly launches its Strategic Plan 2026–2031, *Towards 75: Building for the Common Good*, marking a significant milestone as the organisation approaches its 75th anniversary.

For 70 years, CSSA has championed dignity and justice for vulnerable and disadvantaged Australians. This new strategy renews CSSA's commitment to Catholic Social Teaching and the Gospel call to care for "the least of these" (Matthew 25:40), setting a clear path to address pressing social challenges over the next five years.

Inspired by Pope Leo XIV's recent encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas*, and his powerful call to "get our hands dirty on the construction site of our time," CSSA embraces the challenge of practical, courageous action to build a society that truly serves the common good. The encyclical highlights the importance of safeguarding human dignity amid rapid technological change and calls for solidarity, justice, and shared responsibility in shaping our future.

Peter Monaghan, Chair of CSSA, said:
"As we approach 75 years of service, our new Strategic Plan reflects both our rich history and our unwavering commitment to justice and human dignity. We are called to build a society where every person is valued, heard, and supported. This plan is a call to action — to stand with those experiencing vulnerability and to work collaboratively for the common good."

The strategy focuses on four key priority areas where CSSA will concentrate its advocacy, support, and partnership efforts:

- **Closing the Gap**: Supporting better outcomes and self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- **Housing and Homelessness**: Advocating for safe, secure, and affordable homes for those most in need.
- **Family Support and Domestic Violence**: Strengthening support for families facing hardship and violence.
- **Disability and Dignity**: Championing the rights, inclusion, and dignity of people with disability.

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Dr Jerry Nockles, CEO of CSSA, said:
"Our new Strategic Plan is more than a document – it is a living commitment to listen deeply to the stories of those we serve, to understand their struggles, and to amplify their voices in public life. Grounded in Catholic Social Teaching, we seek to foster a society where love, dignity, and solidarity are the foundation of every community."

The plan emphasises the importance of partnership, dialogue, and practical action to build a more compassionate and inclusive Australia. It invites all Australians to join in this mission of hope and belonging.

CSSA warmly invites the public, partners, and media to explore the full Strategic Plan 2026–2031 at cssa.org.au/about-cssa/our-strategy.

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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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