



BUILDING A JUST SOCIETY

Marking 35 Years in 2012

OUR STRATEGIC PLAN 2011 - 2014

www.jss.org.au

Our Vision

Building a Just Society

Our Mission

Standing in solidarity with those in need, expressing a faith that promotes justice.

Our Purpose

We work to build a just society where all people can live to their full potential - by partnering with community to support those most in need and working to change policies, practices, ideas and values that perpetuate inequality, prejudice and exclusion.

Our Values

- Welcoming – forming strong, faithful relationships
- Discerning – being strategic about where we can have the greatest impact
- Courageous – standing up boldly to effect change.

Who we work with

We are part of and work with:

- Those most in need - individuals, families and communities
- The broader communities in which we live and
- The decision-makers, service providers and institutions that affect us.

What we do

We strengthen and build respectful, constructive relationships for:

- Effective services - by partnering with people most in need and those who support them to address disadvantage
- Education – by providing access to life-long learning and development
- Capacity building – by refining and evaluating our practice and sharing and partnering for greater impact
- Advocacy – by building awareness of injustice and advocating for social change based on grounded experience and research.
- Leadership development – by partnering across sectors to build expertise and commitment for justice

Key focus areas of our service delivery and advocacy

We have developed expertise and provide services in the following focus areas working with people, families and communities to remove barriers to participation and inclusion:

- Justice and crime prevention – people involved with the justice system
- Mental health and wellbeing – people with multiple and complex needs and those affected by suicide, trauma and complex bereavement
- Settlement and community building – recently arrived immigrants and refugees and disadvantaged communities.

Across all this activity we promote education, lifelong learning and capacity building with a focus on those people with barriers to sustainable education and employment.

How we do it

Building relationships is at the heart of our work; in all we do we strive to be welcoming, discerning and courageous.

Jesuit Social Services Strategic Plan 2011 - 2014

GOAL A:

Intervene directly to address disadvantage through effective services and education.

1. Developing, delivering and refining service interventions

- Consolidate and build program work across our focus areas
- Strengthen our presence in New South Wales and Northern Territory
- Respond strategically where we identify service gaps and emerging needs
- Strengthen cross-program coordination
- Strengthen community involvement in our programs

2. Providing flexible, supported education and lifelong learning

- Establish Jesuit Community College
- Foster education / learning pathways for program participants

GOAL B:

Influence through capacity building, leadership development and advocacy.

3. Building capacity among:

- participants
- staff
- supporters and volunteers
- sector / partner organisations
- Jesuit network
- organisation

4. Strengthen our advocacy role

- Build a social research policy advocacy unit of national standing
- Pursue a proactive research and advocacy agenda linked to key focus areas
- Build a network of advocacy friends

5. Leadership development of community / business / government sectors

- Draw on our values and heritage to promote socially informed leadership within the broad community
- Build on and form partnerships to create access for disadvantaged into the Australian community at all levels including business

Participants:

- Foster program participants capacity to contribute to building a just society

Staff:

- Continue to work to be an employer of choice that fosters people's sense of vocation and actively seeks and honours their contribution across the organisation
- Continue to invest in developing and enhancing staff skills through ongoing opportunities for professional development and training

Supporters and volunteers:

- Strengthen community involvement in our programs
- Model and promote reflective volunteering within Jesuit Social Services and the community sector
- Actively seek champions in the community

Organisation:

- Continue to refine the application of Ignatian principles across Jesuit Social Services
- Strengthen internal process management and coordination
- Strengthen cross program governance, management and practices.
- Strengthen communications, marketing, and public relations opportunities to support the building of our national profile and voice
- Develop and implement Jesuit Social Services' Environmental Way of Proceeding
- Maintain strong fiscal management
- Develop a funding / fundraising strategy to support the implementation of the 2011-2014 Strategic Plan.

Sector / partner organisations:

- Articulating and disseminating good practice models / learnings
- Strengthen organisational capacity for partnering

Jesuit network:

- Strengthen collaboration with Jesuit institutions, individuals and influencers to support advocacy and service delivery in pursuit of our shared mission
- Participate in regional and international Jesuit forums and work collaboratively on achieving regional and international Jesuit social justice goals
- Establish a coordinating team to oversee the realisation of these strategies

Who we are

Jesuit Social Services' vision is 'building a just society'. We believe this can only be achieved by working collaboratively with others and we therefore seek to influence hearts and minds to that end – our program participants, staff, volunteers, government and key decision makers, community, business, church and wider society.

Our origins were as a community service organisation forming robust, respectful and purposeful relationships with the most disadvantaged people in our community and this remains the foundation of Jesuit Social Services. This engagement gives us both the mandate and the responsibility to use what we learn on the ground to articulate and disseminate our findings (including information about both emerging and entrenched problems and models of effective practice), to build capacity and develop leadership for justice and to advocate for change.

We believe that fundamental to the building of a just society is the opportunity for all people to reach their full potential. In keeping with our tradition, we believe that all people seek meaning and purpose in their lives and that all our activity - our service delivery and our influencing work - must take account of this imperative.

Jesuit Social Services began in 1977 and is a work of the Australian Jesuit Province operating under an independent Board of Directors as an incorporated organisation.

Our Guiding Principles

Jesuit Social Services is guided by foundational documents of the Society of Jesus, Catholic Social Teaching and the vision, mission and values of the Australian Jesuit Province.

In keeping with this heritage we understand that we are called to live a faith that does justice and expresses solidarity with the poor and marginalised.

We are invited to 'find God in all things' and, with other Jesuits and their lay colleagues throughout the world, to prioritise inter-faith and cultural dialogue and reconciliation with creation.

In discerning where we choose to work and what issues we address, we consider where the need is greatest, where others will not or cannot go and where the greatest good can be achieved.

The Christian Gospel and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching - human dignity, the common good, subsidiarity and solidarity - guide and inspire all aspects of our work.

The goal of the Australian Jesuit Province is to promote partnerships for our shared mission, deepening our love for the poor and marginalised - underpin the work of Jesuit Social Services.

Jesuit Social Services is a work of the Australian Jesuit Province operating under an independent Board of Directors as an incorporated organisation.

Jesuit Social Services acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land and is committed to working with them and with the wider Australian community to promote justice for Australia's First Peoples and reconciliation between all.