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### African Program

Jesuit Social Services' African program provides peer support and mentoring to the children and young people in public housing in Flemington, St Albans and nearby suburbs. The program works in partnership with African community organisations to strengthen newly arrived communities.

Specific activities include referral, information sessions, mentoring of organisations, a twice weekly Homework Club, sporting and recreation activities, family liaison, and facilitating community events such as Eid Festival.

Integration of Africans will be achieved through fostering their participation in sporting clubs, in schools, and as volunteers and committee members in local whole of community events.

Youth workers with Somali, Eritrean, Sudanese and Arabic backgrounds supported by an experienced community development worker provide family inclusive services to young men and women who are newcomers, and communities which require assistance to develop their capacity to organise and advocate.

*"I've been coming to the homework club as a young African knowing that I will get my work done with a little push from the tutors and some enthusiasm. Ever since year 7 I've been coming here every Wednesday and Thursday hoping I's get straight A's (which I do). Also another benefit of coming here is to get help from tutors who have been educated in this country because most of our parents can't help us children with our work so we seek knowledge through tutors"- Hafsah, African Program homework club participant*

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#### What is needed now

1. \$100 - \$500 new sporting equipment which encourages positive involvement with other in their community through recreational programs for young people
  2. \$1000-\$2000 day trip to Sovereign Hill for 20 people from the African Community
  3. \$5000 computers for the Homework program so young people have better resources for learning objectives
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## JESUIT SOCIAL SERVICES

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### Brosnan Youth Services

Brosnan Youth Services is a holistic support service for young people exiting adult prisons and/or Youth Justice centres, who are assessed as high risk/need, with limited social and family networks, limited accommodation and post release support options and experiencing multiple and complex health problems.

Brosnan staff deliver quality programs in a manner that reflects the social justice principles of participation, equity, access and respect. Services include: intensive outreach support, case management, supported accommodation, drug and alcohol counselling, recreation programs, employment/training programs, 24/7 after hours emergency assistance and duty work and referral service.

*"The young guys we work with have reasons not to trust - they've survived a lot in their life", explains Brosnan Youth Services worker, Meg. "It's important that when we go and see them in prison we sit and listen to them, to give them a chance to see that you'll keep coming back and you won't give up on them."*

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#### What is needed now

##### **Dandenong:**

1. Approx \$300 would assist in YP gaining drivers licence after completion of 120 hours of practice
2. Purchase baby need for young mums/dads with new born.
3. Purchase house hold goods for approved Office of Housing Segment 1 applications. (once moved in)

##### **Brosnan residential unit:**

1. \$1500.00 per resident if they exit to their own accommodation for purchasing essential items. i.e. bed, fridge, washing machine, bedding, etc
2. \$5000 for staff wages if an additional staff member is required for the day is some residents want to participate but others don't in the mentoring program at Nicholson St to engage young people in activities (one year) for after hours
3. \$500 for music equipment for the house i.e. guitars
4. \$1000 Computer for the house that residents could use



##### **Youth Justice Community Support Service (YJCSS)**

1. \$800 for a girls only support group
2. \$1500 for 2 x computers at our office for participant use
3. \$1000 for a Living Skills program tailored specifically for our YJ Housing Pathways THM participants

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### Support After Suicide

Support After Suicide aims to increase the availability of timely and appropriate support to anyone who has lost someone to suicide. Support After Suicide staff do this by both providing support to individuals, families and children who are bereaved by suicide and by providing resources to education, health and welfare professionals who have the capacity to support those affected by suicide.

*“My mum died last year and I've been pretty messed up ever since. It was a couple of weeks after my 16th birthday. My two brothers, Andrew and Simon and I got home on the Sunday afternoon and found her in her bedroom. It was horrible. I still have the picture of it in my head, sometimes I feel like I'm losing it; I just want the picture to go away. It's hard to remember her without seeing how she was that day” – Matt, Support After Suicide participant*

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### What is needed now

1. \$40 would purchase an activity book and DVD resource for a child bereaved by suicide
2. \$500 would cover the cost of a parent bereaved by suicide attending an 8 week support group program
3. \$1000 would cover the cost of taking 4 young people who are bereaved by suicide on a camping trip with other young people

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### Jesuit Community College

Jesuit Community College is a Registered Training Organisation and Learn Local organisation providing people over the age of compulsory education with real skills for life, learning and work. We help individuals who face barriers to mainstream education reach their full potential, and by extension their families and communities.

The College draws on the rich tradition of Jesuit education committed to 'care of the whole person' and development of active and informed citizens.

We offer nationally recognised qualifications in general education for adults, volunteering, visual arts and contemporary craft and creative industries, as well as short courses and pre-vocational programs. Our training is government funded for eligible learners.

We can offer training in a range of locations and tailor training to suit different groups of learners. We also prepare and help learners to access training offered by other providers, including TAFE.



*“People we work with have lots of issues going on in their lives that make it hard for them. We’re looking for ways to bring education to them in ways that make it easy to access and manage” - Sue Olney, Acting Director, Jesuit Community College.*

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### What is needed now

1. \$500 textbooks for new students who struggle are enrolled in a course
  2. \$1000 a new laptop for students
  3. \$5000 covers the cost of a course at the college for a student to complete
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### Artful Dodgers Studios

The Artful Dodgers Studios provide innovative and creative spaces for young people to work in fully equipped art and music studios with experienced artists and musicians. Exploring and developing their creative skills and getting involved in projects, exhibitions and public outcome events.

The program is for young people aged 17 – 28 who may experience marginalization due to a range of risk factors. These may include substance misuse, mental health, homelessness, involvement with youth justice, unemployment and any other risk factors that the young person identifies as causing disadvantage or social exclusion.

*"I had very complicated family circumstances and breakdowns and in a way Artful Dodgers can feel like a family to people [like me] because of the support you get" - Tess, Artful Dodgers participant.*



#### What is needed now

1. \$50 supply canvas material and artist starter kit
  2. \$300 cover cost of a young person professionally recording and producing their own CD.
  3. \$1000 cover the cost of young person to participate in year of mentoring with a professional artist in Rudder program
  4. \$2000 covers the cost of hiring a studio/gallery to publically exhibit
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### Holy Family Social Services, Western Sydney

As a partnership between Holy Family Parish Mt Druitt and Jesuit Social Services, Holy Family Social Services has been working in Western Sydney since 2008. An expanding range of projects are being developed in order to offer genuine opportunities to members of the local community, especially in the areas of training and employment. The Mt Druitt area is one of the most disadvantaged urban populations in Australia.

The staff at Holy Family Social Services are excited about the development of new projects and social enterprises which offer affordable food and clothes, job opportunities and experience in retail for members of the Mount Druitt community. Responding to needs identified in the community, Holy Family Social Services offers holiday programs, social enterprises, training courses, exercise classes and projects to address social isolation. The team's aim is simply to generate hope and opportunity in one of Australia's most disadvantaged urban communities.

*"We have a fantastic team in Western Sydney. They are extraordinary people who are all committed to making a genuine difference in this community. Thanks to their efforts our first Retail Training Course is now underway with an excited group of students looking forward to developing new career opportunities" - Michael Maxwell, Social Services Manager*



#### What is needed now

1. \$15 would provide a meal pack to a family in need.
2. \$25 would fund a school lunch for a disadvantaged child for one week.
3. \$100 would allow Senior School OCI Mentors and Primary School Mentees to go on a program outing.  
*NB Opportunity Choices and Inspiration - a mentoring program in which Year 11 students from the local Senior College mentor Year 6 children from the local primary school who are identified by their Principal as being at risk of disengaging with education. One local school has reported that up to 10% of year 6 students do not 'arrive' at year 7.*
4. \$150 dollars would sponsor a Retail Certificate Course graduate to have a 'Ready-for-work' makeover.
5. \$800 would fund a bus for an outing for disadvantaged families within the community.
6. \$2000 would provide a ride at our community festival.
7. \$5000 would provide a three months paid work experience to a disadvantaged/long term unemployed person.
8. \$20000 would fund OCI and its expansion to another school for one year.

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### Connexions

Connexions aims to improve the lives of young people, aged 16 – 28 years old, experiencing mental health and drug and alcohol concerns. The program seeks to engage young people in relationships of trust and understanding, providing a professional service of counselling and treatment.

Connexions endeavours to bring about change in the health services system by identifying existing gaps and by pointing to a better way of responding to the multiple needs of alienated young people. Jesuit Social Services continues to advocate for an integrated model of service delivery that is compassionate, flexible, skilled and timely.

Connexions provides intensive outreach and support counselling, suicide prevention, drug and alcohol support for young people and clinical consultancy to other workers in the field.

*“With Connexions it’s the ability to find myself amongst a busy world. My case workers and I working towards a more positive future for me. Connexions gives me sanity through good conversations and counselling. It has allowed me to find a new dimension to my mental health and experience things that I haven’t experienced before, like new and challenging thoughts” – Tim, Connexions participant*

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#### What is needed now

1. \$50 provides food necessities hamper for program participants
  2. \$100-\$200 provides funding for recreational activities such as sporting events or movie tickets
  3. \$100 - \$300 provides hygiene packs for program participants. Eg toothbrush, toothpaste, shaving kits
  4. \$500 -\$1000 provides accommodation packs for program participants. Eg sheets, towels, pillows
  5. Approx \$300 would assist in YP gaining drivers licence after completion of 120 hours of practice
  6. Purchase baby need for young mums/dads with new born.
  7. Purchase house hold goods for approved Office of Housing Segment 1 applications. (once moved in)
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### Vietnamese Welfare Resource Centre

The Vietnamese Welfare Resource Centre is based in the high-rise housing estate at Flemington and has been responding to the settlement and support needs of the Vietnamese community in North and West Melbourne for over 18 years. Services offered by the VWRC include the provision of information and referral, counselling and crisis accommodation, community groups for young people, families and the aged, and the fostering of community and cultural activities such as forums, classes, information sessions, training programs and festivals.

The VWRC has recently opened an outreach service in St Albans, and continues to work with both local residents and service workers - including council staff, health workers, police, teachers and Centrelink personnel - to promote cross cultural awareness and understanding.

*Lam was sponsored to come to Australia by her husband and has two young children. The Vietnamese Welfare Resource Centre staff helped her with some vital pieces of information: that her spouse visa was only temporary and she had to apply for permanent residency; that she needed to select a suitable school to enrol her children in; that learning English was a priority, as the government provides 510 hours of language lessons free in the first five years of residency; and, that she could apply for housing as she was currently sharing with friends.*

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#### What is needed now

1. \$500 provides the reading material for an English conversation group
2. \$1000 provides assistance for newly arrived family with settlement support. E.g visa, housing, English lessons.
3. \$2000 provides resources and facilities for community cultural celebration. E.g Vietnamese New Year.

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### Alice Springs

Jesuit Social Services is working with local Alice Springs communities to support Eastern and Central Arrernte to improve their situation and to have more control over their lives.

This new project is based on community development principles and will be commencing work at the family group level. Our agreed approach will:

- embrace the importance of culture, family and sovereignty
- embrace the centrality of strong, respectful relationships and reciprocity in partnerships
- build on the strengths of Indigenous people, families and communities
- follow sound sustainable community development principles.

Through local family and community meetings, this project will undertake a local assessment of needs, identify priorities and develop plans to address these. Opportunities to directly address 'closing the gap' will be identified. Community governance structures will be established and strengthened and areas for corporate, philanthropic and government engagement will be identified.

*"Eastern and Central Arrernte' people made this approach for assistance because they were deeply concerned about the impact of the changes in government business and service delivery. These changes have resulted in a reduction in the communities' ability to access these mainstream systems and programs in culturally appropriate, meaningful, effective and sustainable ways", Julie Edwards, CEO*



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#### What is needed now

1. \$150 covers the cost of travel for an outreach worker to visit a remote community in NT. Such as administration expenses, petrol etc.
  2. \$200 provides facilities for local community meetings. Eg Local hall for hire, coffee and tea refreshments.
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### Collingwood Community Information Centre

The Collingwood Community Information Centre provides a welcoming space and a high quality information and referral service staffed by public housing residents and a team of trained volunteers from the neighbourhood.

The CCIC's services are as follows:

- Self-directed access – drop-in services (photocopier, fax, computers, refreshments); tax help.
- Information provision – community information.
- Advocacy – complex cases; networking; partnerships.
- Capacity building via training and mentoring – CCIC volunteer program; informal outreach; English help program; student placements.
- Enhancing connection and engagement – drop-in services; welcome lunches, meeting rooms, office infrastructure for local groups; activity information.

*“Significantly, since its establishment, the CCIC has become much more to the local community than an information service. Beyond the tangible services that it offers, the CCIC has become a popular meeting point and is perceived as a safe and welcoming place to find support and meet other community members” – Richard, Community Development Worker*



#### What is needed now

1. \$300 – welcome lunch to introduce new residents on Collingwood Housing Estate to local agencies
2. \$300-\$500 local community groups requiring meeting rooms, office infrastructure, welcome lunches
3. \$720 – hire of basketball court for 2 hour/week basketball clinic for a term
4. \$1000 Collingwood All-Stars (community youth soccer team) with uniforms
5. \$2000 new computers for both staff and community

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## The Outdoor Experience

Since 1985, The Outdoor Experience (TOE) has been offering a range of Outdoor Adventure Intervention programs for young people aged 15 - 25 years.

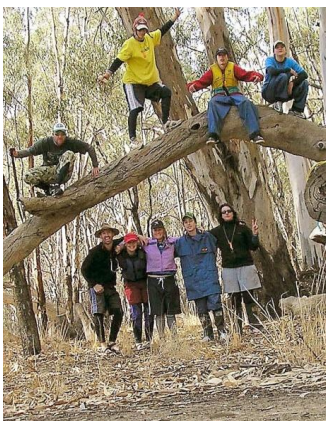
TOE's Bush Adventure Therapy Program (Core) takes small groups of young people on extended wilderness journeys and ventures to some of the most remote places in Victoria.

The Core program is for young people who have, or have had, issues with alcohol and/or substance use. This program provides numerous and significant opportunities for participants to develop healthy relationships with self, others and the environment.

Community Adventure Programs (CAP) programs are tailored to meet the particular needs of an already organised or identified group. TOE develops the tailored program in collaboration with community agencies, focusing on adventure, healthy living and the outdoors. Programs may involve bushwalking, rock climbing, rafting canoeing, caving, or cross country skiing (season dependant).

CAP Programs are tailored to suit the needs and aims of your group: 1 day workshops; 1 day adventures; 2-5 day / 1-4 overnight trips or journeys; extended remote journeys.

*“The young people are supported to deal with and reflect upon the difficult life circumstances that may have brought them to TOE. These programs assist them to recognise their own strengths and to make changes that will be valuable in their everyday life” – Fiona, TOE Program Coordinator*



### What is needed now

1. \$100 buys 10 pairs of socks for a group of young people going on a hike.
2. \$500 provides safety ropes and harnesses for rock climbing adventures
3. \$2000+ buys backpacks / tents for camping trips

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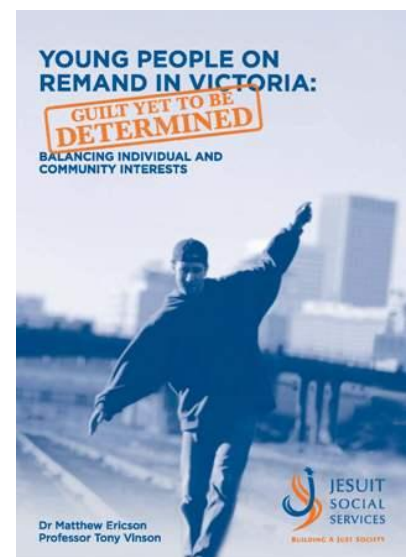
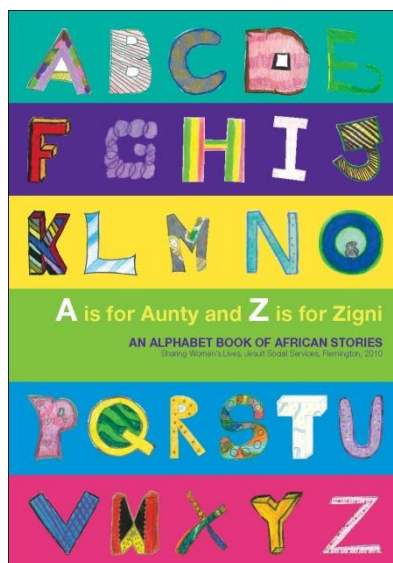
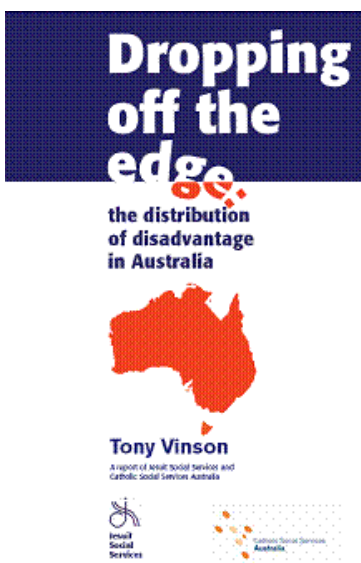
## Research, Policy and Advocacy Unit

Drawing on our experience of engaging with disadvantaged people, families and communities through our services and programs, the Jesuit Social Services Policy Unit has two key functions:

1. Research, policy and advocacy: identifying areas of unmet need, conducting research and using our findings to advocate for change in keeping with our vision of 'building a just society'. For more details see our Resources section.
2. Evaluation of Jesuit Social Services program activities and services: utilising knowledge gained from our programs and services to promote models of good practice in assisting disadvantaged people, families and communities.

## What is needed now

1. \$1000 employs a casual researcher to develop case study to support advocacy activity.
2. \$5000 hosts a justice forum with sector leaders and advocates.



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### Just Leadership

Just Leadership is a new initiative of Jesuit Social Services designed to develop the leadership capacity of individuals, organisations and communities in ways that contribute to building a more just and compassionate society.

The purpose of Just Leadership is to:

- Foster the development and nurture of social leaders within and across business, government and community, encouraging leaders to take action that will contribute to building a society that is more socially, environmentally and intergenerationally just.
- Build stronger connectivity between organisations and their people, developing work cultures and relationships that nurture both performance and meaning.
- Build stronger connectivity between organisations and their communities, through enterprising leadership strategies that enhance social innovation and inclusion.
- Be heard as an authentic voice, engaging and inspiring organisations, their people and the community in collaboration for a more just and compassionate world.

*When first hearing about the Just Leadership breakfast series, I was really struggling to find inspiration and meaningful networks in the professional world. The Just Leadership series provided an opportunity for me and other young professionals to stop and reflect about values, social justice and leadership. I got an appreciation of the growing network of people who, no matter where they sat in an organisation, could use success to help the community. - Jak Dyer, Director, Jak Dyer Consulting Pty Ltd.*



#### What is needed now

Just Leadership would use funding to help Jesuit Social Services develop the program across the country by facilitating workshops, and meetings for like minded individuals to foster their development as a social leader.

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### [AAIP \(African Australian Inclusion Program\)](#)

The African Australian Inclusion Program (formerly Workplace Development Program) is a professional bridging and training program for qualified African-Australians, providing six months paid workplace experience at NAB. Twenty three people have been placed in NAB since the program was piloted in 2009, and the program continues to grow in strength. The African Australian Inclusion Program is a joint initiative of Jesuit Social Services and NAB in collaboration with Adult Multicultural Education Services (AMES). The need for the program was identified by the African-Australian community who noted that lack of local experience in the Australian business sector was a significant barrier to employment for qualified African-Australians. The joint response of the collaborating organisations has been well documented and praised by many areas of the broader community.

The program aims to provide commercial experience and learning opportunities for participants, including enhancing their business networks. All participants are provided with a NAB workplace coach and mentor throughout their placement. Participants are also provided with comprehensive job search support including interview techniques and resume writing during the later part of their work placement.

When the barrier to employment is broken down, working African-Australians have the opportunity to become role models for younger African-Australians, who in turn are then motivated to stay in school and become qualified themselves.

*My time at NAB has been an eye opener in so many ways. I feel I have developed so many skills so far and I am thirsty for further knowledge. I have a wonderful team and I am learning so much every day. I would like to thank you for having the courage and vision to develop this program. It gives people like myself an opportunity which money cannot buy. I cannot say enough about the program and how it changes lives. Also just to put the icing on the cake, I have been offered a position to stay on with my team for another year. I only found out today and it has made my day. – Semira, program participant.*

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#### [What is needed now](#)

Fundraising for the AAIP will allow us to look at expanding the program to offer the opportunity for more African-Australian people to gain meaningful training and employment.

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