

# Courage:

# Together in the face of crises

**ANNUAL REPORT 2021 - 2022**

The Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development



**Caritas**  
AUSTRALIA

End poverty  
Promote justice  
Uphold dignity

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You have the ability and the courage to create hope where there appears to be only waste and exclusion. With your hands you know how to shape the dignity of each person, of families and of society, with land, housing, work, care and community.

Pope Francis' message to the Fourth World Meeting of Popular Movements.  
- October 2021



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island readers should be aware that this publication may contain images or names of people who have since passed away. Caritas Australia acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians, past and present, of the land on which all our offices are located.



Cover and Back cover: Anna Urbariska, Caritas Poland volunteer at the Dorohusk border crossing.  
Photo: Philipp Spalek/Caritas Poland.

Inside cover: Thandolwayo holding a water container she uses to collect water in Zimbabwe.  
Photo: August Lucky

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# About us

For over 55 years, Caritas Australia has worked hand in hand with the most marginalised and remote communities in Australia and overseas to confront the challenges of poverty. Through locally-led programs we work towards a world where all can thrive and reach their full potential.

As the International Aid and Development agency of the Catholic Church in Australia, we work with and for all people, to address immediate needs and long-term goals, regardless of religion, race or political beliefs.

Through partnerships with local organisations and Church networks, and as a member of Caritas Internationalis, one of the largest humanitarian networks in the world, we are able to reach where the need is greatest and work together for a just future.

We accompany communities to build on existing local strengths and resources, supporting them to drive their own development, for more transformative and sustainable change. When a crisis hits, we work through our local partnerships to bring aid and relief to people whose lives have been devastated by natural disaster or conflict.

We have a rich history of partnership with parishes, schools and communities across Australia. We advocate for social and ecological justice for those most impacted by inequality. Above all, with shared compassion and hope, we work towards a just future for all.



Budhni and her baby daughter in India.  
Photo: Sameer Bara/Caritas Australia.

## Inspiration

Caritas Australia is inspired by the Gospel, which finds its expression in Catholic Social Traditions. Jesus returned as a young adult to his home town of Nazareth (Luke 4: 16-30).

He chose light. Coming home, he knew this meant a fresh way of understanding himself and the world. He was to be an agent for change, for loving relationships. He had a vision of freedom. It is a vision we share, one of justice, dignity and hope.

## Mission

In the spirit of the Gospel, we work in partnership with communities in Australia and overseas to achieve their development goals and to thrive.

## Vision

Justice, dignity and hope for humanity and all of God's creation.



### Justice

The spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
For he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.



### Dignity

He has sent me to proclaim release to captives,  
Sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free.



### Hope

To proclaim a year of the Lord's favour.

## From the Chair



Over this year we have had to show our agility as an organisation, to be the exemplars of light and compassion, to hold true to a vision where all people are able to live in safe, just and thriving communities.

Through the commitment of our partners, we find ways to support each other and ensure that children can continue to learn, families can continue to put food on the table, and the most vulnerable community members are cared for when needed. We remain deeply committed to walking with them as they meet their challenges and create their opportunities.

This past year has been enormously challenging for the global community. It is during these times of uncertainty that organisations like Caritas Australia can demonstrate their purpose. "Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice" (Psalm 112:5).

This year, we have embarked on great change. After extensive consultation with staff, partners and our Board, Caritas Australia released its Advocacy Agenda in February. Grounded in the Catholic Social Traditions of our Church, it outlines the organisation's direction towards achieving long-term, sustainable policy and practice change.

The work that we do has always been guided by the teachings that "Human dignity originates from God and is of God because we are made in God's own image and likeness" (Genesis 1:26-27), and so, we must move forwards to promote and preserve human dignity as is our Christian duty.

Our enduring legacy of supporting marginalised communities and people around the world guides us and animates us to action. The encouragement and support of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has been deeply appreciated. As is the wonderful support of so many priests, religious and lay leaders throughout the Australian Church.

I would like to express my gratitude towards Bishop Vincent Long, who stood down from the Board after close to three years of dedicated service to the governance of Caritas Australia, one of which was as Chair. His commitment to, and passion for Caritas Australia, showed no bounds and I am grateful for the enduring legacy he leaves. My deep thanks are also extended to my fellow Board and Sub Committee members for their enduring and enthusiastic commitment to enlivening our Mission through good governance.

It is important to acknowledge and express my sincerest gratitude to our supporters. With your unwavering support, Caritas Australia can continue to be a paradigm of compassionate and courageous care during challenging times.

I would also like to recognise and extend my thanks to our Chief Executive Officer Kirsty Robertson, the leadership team and all Caritas Australia staff for their steadfast resolve to carry out our Mission over the past year.

With gratitude,

**Robert Fitzgerald, AM**  
Chair

## From the CEO



This year has been an incredibly challenging one, with significant disruptions in communities around the world. We have seen crisis after crisis unfold, however this year has also shown us the extraordinary courage and resilience of communities as they face challenges, crises, and turmoil.

"Courage: Together in the Face of Crises" speaks to the intrepidity we witness every day from our partners and from the people we serve. The work that Caritas Australia does, strives to remain true to Pope Francis' message: "courageous, cooperative and far-sighted efforts among religious, political and cultural leaders on local, national and international levels are needed in order to find concrete solutions to the severe and increasing problems we are facing" (Casina Pio IV, 13-14 July 2022). He calls us to be forward-thinking, ambitious, and understanding of the situations we find ourselves in.

In the midst of crises, we must not forget that the foundation of our work is supporting communities through ongoing development work. We are committed to helping the most marginalised and remote communities to confront the challenges of poverty.

I would like to acknowledge the courage of our own team this year, as Caritas Australia successfully undertook its reaccreditation with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). A vigorous process that lasts over nine months which culminated in November last year.

This year also saw Caritas Australia institute an Impact Department dedicated to driving strategy, collaboration and learning to ensure that we as an organisation can deepen our impact and achieve our strategic goals.

Sustainable growth and development are at the heart of Caritas Australia, and we look forward with optimism as we embark on the journey mapped in our Strategic Direction 2021-2031. We hope to be able to see the effects of our growth and development take root in the world as we work to achieve our goals.

I would like to thank the Caritas Australia community for their enduring support and effort during these times and thank the Chair and Board for their ardent leadership and guidance.

To Caritas Australia's leadership team and staff, across the country and overseas, I say thank you – for your resolve, for your passion, for your courage. Working with you daily is a joy, a joy for which I am deeply grateful.

With gratitude,

**Kirsty Robertson**  
Chief Executive Officer



Led by the light of the Gospel, and the teachings of the Catholic Social Traditions, our new teams and strategies set out to achieve justice, dignity and hope for all of God's creation.



Despite all of the challenges we have faced this year, we have also achieved so much. The courage and compassion of our partners and supporters have been pivotal in supporting vulnerable communities through these dark times.



# From the Mission Director



When my son was younger, he found it difficult to attend school. One day, I sat beside him in the car as, in anger and tears, he pleaded for me to take him home. His teacher came out. She was kind but he was too distressed. Then the principal came out. Same story. We sat there for over an hour. Eventually, he got his bag, opened the door and went in. It wasn't me or the principal who influenced him; he had made his own brave decision.

We learn courage together. I thought of my son later in the day when I had a conversation with somebody which I had been avoiding. Courage is often described as taking a leap into the unknown. Pope Francis uses the image of leaving your boat. At Caritas Australia, it might mean skilful advocacy on issues of importance. In many ways, Caritas Australia is a community of courage. We learn a great deal from our partners.

This year during Agency Week, we heard from Mama Cacilda from Mozambique, who has been working with Caritas Régional Chokwe since 1982. Now close to retirement, she is celebrating forty years' service to her community. Her local bishop said that if there were five such women in the world, we wouldn't need any more help! Mama Cacilda talked to us about sustainability and the need for local leadership. She spoke with a gentle sense of urgency that is still ringing in my ears. Her faith has moved mountains. Now we have to move a few ourselves.

Something similar happened for me on Sorry Day, May 26. Uncle Michael from Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation, one of our First Australian Partners, joined us for a special service. He shared part of his harrowing story as a member of the Stolen Generation. It takes courage to tell such a heart-rending story. Equally courageous was the manner in which Uncle Michael wanted to embrace the future and expressed delight in walking with Caritas Australia; his heart was open.

Mama Cacilda and Uncle Michael are among those who bring to life the Mission of Caritas Australia. The work of Mission is to remind us of our bigger picture. Every day's work is underwritten by a vision of justice, dignity and hope. That vision leads us to own our core values of courage, partnership, stewardship and compassion. Each of these values was of enormous significance in the life and teaching of Jesus. It was courage that led him to death on the cross.

There are many words that share at least part of their meaning with courage. Growth, innovation and listening. All these ask us to put something or someone at the centre of our lives other than ourselves. This is a brave thing to do, especially in a fearful world that expects us to understand life simply from our own perspective. The Mission of Caritas Australia gives us an opportunity to do something quite different. It asks us to come together courageously as agents of caritas, of a love that gives more than it takes.

With gratitude,

**Michael McGirr**  
Mission Director



The Mission of Caritas Australia gives us an opportunity to do something quite different. It asks us to come together courageously as agents of caritas, of a love that gives more than it takes.



# Our Values



## Courage

Caritas Australia stands at the foot of the cross. We make bold decisions in faith. We ask difficult questions about the nature of society and its underlying assumptions. We sometimes act in the face of complacency and criticism. We stand alongside people who are pushed out of other conversations.

We are engaged in a vigorous arm-wrestle with the complacency of a culture that is often indifferent to suffering beyond our borders. Above all, we work for justice for all people.



## Partnership

Caritas Australia is an agent of joy. We are a wonderful network of relationships between people, all of whom have their own story and their own understanding of life's mystery. We try to be as open as Jesus was, especially to the possibilities for those who long for healing. We exist to contribute to that healing, to celebrate the capability of those we encounter. We are servants, not judges. We try to respond to real needs, not the needs we imagine. We do not create co-dependents. Caritas Australia does not want to live in a divided world. We want to walk with the people who welcome us into their lives and communities.



## Stewardship

Caritas Australia has a profound commitment to care for the earth and stewardship for creation. We also have a deep sense of gratitude for the resources entrusted to us by our supporters. There are many who give from their hearts, people who make sacrifices so they can help the people we serve together. Their stories are a constant inspiration. We honour them through our dedication, probity and transparency. We honour them by making decisions based on substance. We honour the earth, our common home, through the sensitivity of our homemaking.



## Compassion

Caritas Australia understands that compassion involves our whole being: our heart, hands and head.

Our emotional response to poverty moves us to think deeply with our partners about the most constructive response to them. This leads to committed and active relationships. In turn, this leads us back to a heartfelt response and the circle of transformation continues. Compassion is not a transitory experience. St Ignatius of Loyola spoke of *discreta caritas*, which means discerning love. Discerning caritas. We hope that our compassion is the source of wisdom and fidelity. Guided by the Spirit, we work for the long haul, for the liberation of all creation.



A community displaced by drought and flooding in southern Ethiopia.  
Photo: Zacharias Abubeker/Caritas Australia.

# Our Global Impact



## HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES

**378,435 people directly reached through Caritas Australia funding**

**999,031 people reached through joint Caritas Internationalis appeals**

*Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO) reached approximately 440,816 additional people through its emergency response.*

**34 Emergency responses**

**\$8,107,497 spent**

*As lead agency of the CAN DO, Caritas Australia supported the allocation of an additional \$7,193,629.*

**23 Countries**

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Haiti, Kenya, Lebanon, Malawi, Moldova, Mozambique, Nepal, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Tonga, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Ukraine and Zimbabwe.



## Australia

### Strategic Goal 2

First Australian-led programs promote the holistic wellbeing of individuals, families and communities.

- Red Dust Healing provided train-the-trainer workshops for 67 participants; who in turn reach hundreds of indirect participants by delivering the program in communities.
- Djilpin Arts Aboriginal Corporation runs an arts and culture centre in the Northern Territory that provides employment and training for 89 local community members.

**10 projects**

**\$990,655 spent**

## AFRICA

- 16 programs and projects
- 97,937 direct participants
- 53,054 female participants
- 1,682 participants living with a disability
- 35,298 children/youth participated
- 292,059 indirect participants
- \$4,377,925 spent

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

## ASIA

- 30 programs and projects
- 169,435 direct participants
- 93,588 female participants
- 4,240 participants living with a disability
- 49,641 children/youth participated
- 338,541 indirect participants
- \$7,114,662 spent

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Timor-Leste and Vietnam.

## PACIFIC

- 15 programs and projects
- 34,447 direct participants
- 15,498 female participants
- 268 participants living with a disability
- 30,191 children / youth participated
- 303,365 indirect participants
- \$2,540,610 spent

Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Samoa.

Thanks to your generous support, in 2021-22 Caritas Australia directly reached **690,837 people** worldwide, including Australia. CAN DO, of which we are the lead agency impacted **440,816 people**.

**Total direct participants in development programs: 301,819**

**Total indirect participants in development programs: 933,965**

Community members in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. Photo: Arlette Bashizi.

## Restoring community in Western Sydney

**B**aabayn (which means 'Ancestral Woman' in Gumbaynggirr language) was founded by five Elders who wanted to create a community and welcoming environment for First Australian families and individuals in Western Sydney. Their aim was to support the community to heal from the past and nurture their sense of confidence and pride in the future.

The First Nations community of Western Sydney is home to the largest urban Aboriginal population in Australia and is affected by many intersecting issues, including poverty, recourse to alcohol and other drugs, domestic violence, high unemployment and high rates of social isolation and mental health issues.

Baabayn's approach involves strengthening personal connections to culture, community, and country and building on self-esteem, resilience and skills. By taking a whole-of-community perspective, Baabayn aims to build on people's resilience and capacity to create lasting change in their lives.

One of the activities that Baabayn supports is the Young Mums and Bubs Group, which is led by First Australian staff and provides a space for young mothers to learn skills such as arts and craft, collective income-generation projects, parenting, budgeting, financial literacy and links to psychological and government support services.

Mothers are also provided with the opportunity to engage with peer and professional support at weekly gatherings, to help resolve personal and family difficulties and enhance their social and emotional well-being.

With the support of Baabayn, a number of mothers from the program had their artwork showcased at the 2022 Vivid Festival in Sydney.

In addition to the Young Mums and Bubs Groups, Baabayn also runs a Homework Club, a Yarn Circle, a Jarjums (children) Club and a Youth Group. They also hosted a NAIDOC Week event to celebrate First Australian culture with the wider community.

Currently the Young Mums and Bubs Group is attended by an average of 10 local mums weekly, while Jarjums Club and the Youth Group also have an average of 10 attending each week respectively.

*"Baabayn is a place where people can come and gather. It's a belonging place. It's a place of culture, finding out about who your mobs are,"* said Aunty Jenny Ebsworth, one of the founders of Baabayn.

*"It's important because we were always on the fringe as Aboriginal people and we were always ostracised and left outside...we want to see our young women employed because we all have a place in society and we want to see our young mums be the best they can be."*

Above image: Art work being created at Babaayn centre. Photo: Caritas Australia.

## A widow's journey to a better life in Nepal

**A**s one of the least developed countries in South Asia, Nepal faces constant challenges with food insecurity, unreliable livelihoods, and uncertain futures. According to the World Food Programme, there are 4.6 million food-insecure people in Nepal. While communities are reliant on each other for support, there is little opportunity for advancement and improvement in the situation.

Caritas Australia partners Caritas Nepal, on their Livelihoods and Resilience Program, that helps people in vulnerable communities to improve their food security and livelihoods, while also providing training in COVID-19 awareness, human rights, disaster risk reduction, environmental conservation, and gender equality.

One woman who joined the program was Sita, a widowed mother of four who works as a labourer.

For more than 20 years, Sita worked as a labourer, but her pay was low, and she struggled to earn enough income to support her family of four children.

After her husband's death, Sita faced the additional pressure of being the sole source of income for her family. Determined to forge a brighter future

for her children, Sita joined Caritas Nepal's Livelihoods and Resilience Program.

Caritas Nepal helped Sita and her fellow cooperative members take part in animal husbandry training so that they can learn how to care for and raise their livestock. They also participated in agricultural training to learn new techniques to improve their farming. By using the skills and training she had accessed through the program, Sita was able to start her own small agricultural business and begin not only earning a decent living but also growing her livelihood and helping grow her community.

Through the program, Sita became a member of the Lalupate Women Agriculture Cooperative and was able to access a low interest loan to purchase cows and other goods to help her grow her business further.

*"The program has helped to improve my relationship with other people in the community. I feel being part of the community now and the way they praise me for standing on my feet and taking care of my children being a widow makes me happy."*

### Program Achievements

- **1,995** people diversified livelihoods and reported an increased in their income
- **3,221** people increased their food security
- **4,696** people received masks, sanitisers, soap and practised social distancing and other health protocols as part of a COVID-19 awareness campaign

Sita is now financially independent, and her children can all continue with their education. Her youngest child attends primary school while her eldest daughter is studying at university.

Above image: Sita in one of her fields with lettuce crops. Photo: Caritas Nepal.

### STRATEGIC GOAL 1.

All people, especially women, are supported to lead their development and thrive.

### Our Impact

- **5,002** women supported to assume leadership roles
- **7,768** women reported greater control and decision making in the household
- **46,439** people participated in sessions on gender issues and women's equal rights



## Building stronger livelihoods

In rural Cambodia, communities encounter many challenges, like food insecurity, low incomes, and environmental issues such as flooding and drought.

As a farmer living in rural Cambodia, Pot faced many hardships. Pot's main income was from selling vegetables, rice, and chicken; however, this income was not enough to support the needs of his family.

To make ends meet, Pot and his wife migrated to Thailand for three years to earn money to feed their children and send them to school. Whilst working overseas, Pot and his wife learned that a tragic traffic accident had claimed their son's life. The couple soon returned home to Cambodia to care for their remaining children, heartbroken, and with little food security.

In the wake of this turmoil, Pot heard about the Upholding Community Dignity Together (UCDT) Program, coordinated by Srer Khmer, a local partner of Caritas Australia.

The UCDT program supports communities to improve food security by improving small landholder production through innovative agricultural practices. It empowers small businesses to grow and expand,

and supports program participants to help themselves and their communities grow and thrive.

Since Pot joined the UCDT program, Pot's children can study regularly, and his family has enough food to eat. The program gave Pot purpose again and he is motivated to learn new skills so that his children can have a bright future.

***"I received training on marketing, farming techniques, profit and loss analysis and chicken and vegetable farming. I started learning basic skills and am now at an advanced level. I always share my experiences and knowledge with my village because sharing will help others be better, together,"*** said Pot.

Now, many villagers visit Pot's farm to ask questions and seek technical advice. Since participating in the program, the entire community has benefitted from increased access to safe agricultural products. Many other community members have learned new techniques from other farmers who participated in the program.

The future is looking much brighter for Pot. His son has graduated from Year 12, and his daughter is studying at primary school.

### Program Achievements

- Farmers like Pot now contribute to a community council fund for initiatives such as the development of new rural roads
- Villages like Pot's now have access to a wider range of nutritional foods including vegetables, fruits, fish, chicken and duck
- New farmers in the villages learn through sharing knowledge and skills

***"I want my son and daughter to graduate from higher education and have good jobs. I don't want to force my children to do what I want them to do because they have a choice, and they can decide their future,"*** he said.

*This program has been supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).*

Above image: Mr. Pot (L) and his wife (R) in the field in rural Cambodia. Photo: Srer Khmer.

## Clean water and healthier lives in Gokwe

No community can survive without clean water. As integral to our survival as air, water is the lifeblood of a community. Despite a multitude of rivers, lakes and streams, remote villages in Zimbabwe often struggle to access clean, fresh water.

Without this critical resource, crops wither, disease spreads and lives are severely impacted. While great strides have been made, many communities still suffer limited access to water. One such area is the Gokwe region in Zimbabwe. Due to poor infrastructure, and connectivity, access to safe water is a major challenge.

Caritas Australia provides support to Caritas Gokwe, who facilitate the Zimbabwe Integrated Community Development Project, providing boreholes, solarization of pipes, constructing dams, water tanks and tippy taps to ensure that communities can access clean water and improve their hygiene practices.

Patricia, a mother of four, says she feels empowered and grateful after participating in the project. Patricia said the scarcity of water would force her to wake at 4 am every day and walk 2.8 kilometres to the river for water.

The spring is not protected so the community shared the water with both domestic and wild animals, leaving Patricia and her family, highly prone to water borne diseases and health issues.

Patricia's children also needed to carry water to school as their school had no water source.

With the support of Caritas Gokwe, it now takes Patricia less than three minutes to collect water each day.

***"The greatest gift that I received from the program was to have clean and safe water. Kunenge kurota (it's like a dream),"*** Patricia says.

Patricia also participated in the Gender, Child Protection and Disability Audit. This was the first time Patricia saw a woman (the consultant) lead an important community activity, as she previously thought only men could act as facilitators. This inspired Patricia and women in her community to take up leadership roles.

Through the program, Patricia also became a member of a community garden. She says that from the garden she and her family have enough to eat and can sell excess vegetables each week, making extra income for her family.

### Program Achievements

- Water is now accessible from nearby taps, with community members walking less than 500 metres to collect water
- Community members can have three meals a day, all-year round
- A primary school in the village now has piped water for students and teachers
- The village no longer buys vegetables from other villages, but instead sells their vegetables to nearby villages and supermarkets

Patricia looks forward to expanding sales and dreams of being trained in food preservation so that the food she is producing can be used all year.

*This program has been supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).*

Above image: The school after the intervention. Photo: Caritas Gokwe.

## STRATEGIC GOAL 2.

All people, especially the most marginalised, experience wellbeing and live in safe, just societies.

## Our Impact

- **70,494** people gained improved access to drinking water
- **34,553** people gained improved sanitation facilities
- **75,375** people gained improved access to health services





## Supporting rural midwives and nurses in Bangladesh

In many areas of rural Bangladesh, access to nursing and midwifery is critically low, leaving pregnant women at risk of complications as they have little option but to carry, give birth and nurse a baby with little or no medical support.

Since July 2021, the Community Managed Sustainable Livelihoods and Resilience Program (CMLRP) has helped ensure that remote villages can access sustainable livelihoods and safe medical care.

After attending a safe motherhood peer learning session, Pronali, an indigenous woman in the Jamalpur district, was keen to undertake Rural Midwife Training.

Pronali entered into an arranged marriage at a young age and worked at home to raise her children, with no income of her own. Through the program, she learnt to help women in her community deliver their babies safely.

*“Considering the remote area and the suffering of pregnant mothers, including in deliveries, my family and husband encouraged me to participate in the safe motherhood training,”* said Pronali.

Using an Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) approach, Caritas Australia’s partner Caritas Bangladesh supports sustainable change in Pronali’s community by building on existing strengths. By training trainers like Pronali, more women can participate in midwifery training and share knowledge to other community members.

*“The training has changed my family life. Now every day pregnant women come to me for health checkups and frequently call me for home deliveries. I also communicate with the health service providers of the local government community health centre,”* said Pronali.

*“The villagers and family members honour me as an important person, as their family health service provider.”*

Pronali now plays a key role in ensuring safe motherhood and safe delivery in her community. Thanks to her participation in the program, she can not only provide services to her village but also forge vital connections between the community and the local government community health clinic, helping to create a sustainable public health system in the future.

### Program Achievements

- **20** trained mid-wives are providing antenatal and post-natal health services in 72 villages
- Primary health education services provided among **6,547** community members
- **1,886** pregnant women and lactating mothers are receiving regular health services
- No instances of death during delivery of mother and child since program commenced

*“My hopes are to train up traditional birth attendants in the village, so that they can help provide safe deliveries and safe motherhood. In the future, I want to build a blended training, primary health and first aid centre in my village,”* said Pronali.

*This program has been supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).*

Above image: Pronali conducting a post natal check-up. Photo: Caritas Bangladesh.



## Young women overcoming adversity in DRC

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is considered one of the most dangerous places in the world to be a woman. Rachel, an 18-year-old girl living in the DRC, fell pregnant and was forced by her mother to live with the father of her baby, and his parents. Here, Rachel suffered violence and contempt and was given only one small meal a day. But Rachel was determined to turn her life around.

A friend referred her to Caritas Goma, where she met Mrs Justine Kanyere, a psychological advisor.

*“The guidance she gave me totally changed my life; Mrs Kanyere helped me a lot. She allowed me to feel normal again, to feel human again, to regain confidence in myself, and to take control of my life,”* says Rachel.

With the support of Caritas Goma and the Tuinuke (Let’s stand up!) Program, Rachel participated in vocational training and learned how to sew. She is now happy, earning a living and a model of resilience in her community.

Like the 300 people who participated in the Tuinuke Program, Rachel received training in entrepreneurship, management, and finance. Her trainer

commented that Rachel is one of the most courageous learners and that she is very diligent.

*“She likes to learn, and she is very determined to succeed in her life,”* says Léonie Mwasimuke, the sewing trainer.

*“When I joined the Caritas Peace Center, the first day when I was seated in front of a table and a sewing machine, I was sweating with joy...my hands were shaking...I couldn’t believe it!”* says Rachel.

*“That day, I felt that my life was going to change. I found hope right there, in a training room! I don’t know how I could thank Caritas because you saved my life and that of my baby!”*

Rachel also received credit through the program, which enabled her to rent land for her family to earn income.

*“I teamed up with two other girls from my class and we plan to open a small business,”* she says.

Today, Rachel is very proud of her life. Her in-laws now treat her with respect.

*“They understood that I am not a bad person, and that everyone can make mistakes in life, or go through difficult times that are beyond us,”* she said.

### Program Achievements

- **175** young people (67% girls) have completed vocational training in savings, credit and income generation
- **331** survivors of gender-based violence have received psycho-social support and medical assistance through safe houses
- **13,580** people have directly participated in the program

*This program has been supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).*

Above image: Rachel at her sewing machine. Photo: Caritas Goma.

## STRATEGIC GOAL 3.

A common home where all people are resilient and achieve sustainable livelihoods and ecological justice.

## Our Impact

- **14,347** people increased their incomes
- **11,299** people gained improved access to financial services
- **23,316** people adopted innovative and sustainable agricultural practices



## Keeping schools open safely during the pandemic in the Solomon Islands

When the pandemic spread across the globe, even remote locations like the Solomon Islands were vulnerable to outbreaks of COVID-19.

With one doctor for every 4,000 patients, the Solomon Islands was unable to contain COVID-19 and the nation was put under lockdown. This included closing every school. Unlike Australia, schools had no capacity for remote learning and therefore education was halted.

As a school leader and one of the brightest students at his Rural Training Centre, Emmanuel was looking forward to completing his studies in carpentry. However, this was disrupted when the pandemic hit.

Disruptions to education can have devastating long-term effects for young people. Often, families can only support their children to study for a limited amount of time. If a child's education is ended early, they are rarely able to return.

*"COVID-19 affected me, my family and my community. My parents were not able to sell their goods because of the fear of catching the virus at the market,"* Emmanuel said.

*"We earn less money in terms of savings for our school fees. Schools were closed. I would never think I would be able to pursue my dream as COVID-19 continues."*

At Emmanuel's school there were 66 students in 2021. However, as the virus spread, the number of students dropped under 20. Many parents couldn't afford their children's school fees and manage the impacts of the pandemic.

Caritas Australia Solomon Islands (CASI) launched a COVID-19 pandemic response, working with Church-run and government schools to ensure they could provide a COVID-safe environment so students could return.

This included distribution of School Care Kits of sanitation items, disposable masks, thermometers, first aid and education materials. Schools were also provided kits to produce their own masks. Extra materials were provided to install and improve sanitation and quarantine facilities.

As his school reopened, Emmanuel said: *"Through this program, our school can continue to run classes, so I can graduate."*

### Program Achievements

- Supplied Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), COVID-19 kits, and prevention training to **10,663** people
- Supported **39** schools with COVID-19 prevention and suppression equipment and training to reopen and stay open
- Reduced impact of COVID-19 in communities through awareness campaigns

*"We realised we must work together to stop the spread of the virus by adhering to the health key messages such as stay away from sick people, apply social distance, regular wearing of masks and regular hand washing,"* Emmanuel said.

*"I would like to say thank you for the gift of love, to the people of Australia for supporting us and making sure we return to school safely."*

Above image: Temperature checking at a school to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Photo: Caritas Australia.



## War in Ukraine triggers massive humanitarian crisis

The first major conflict in Europe in decades, the war in Ukraine has displaced and impacted the lives of millions and created the fastest-growing refugee crisis since World War II.

Over 5.9 million people have been forced to flee their homes. Civilian infrastructure continues to be impacted including water, gas and electric supplies, hospitals, and homes. Currently, the most urgent needs are helping displaced people access safe shelter, emergency food, water, hygiene kits, medication and psychosocial support.

Supporting our partners Caritas Ukraine and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Moldova, Caritas Australia supported people fleeing the conflict and provided urgent aid to communities in conflict zones.

The Caritas Ukraine network is supported by 448 parish hubs and more than 1,200 employees covering most regions of Ukraine and providing services in urban and rural areas. With your help, Caritas Ukraine has assisted more than 1.3 million people since the conflict began.

Roughly one in four people in Ukraine are over 60 years old and at least

two million older women remain in Ukraine. Caritas Ukraine is directly supporting older men and women through their home care program, which has been running for several years in the Donbas region. Where possible this program continues to deliver support for medicine, food and clean water to vulnerable people.

Caritas Ukraine has supported more than 311,915 displaced people with food and 74,419 individuals with clean water. More than 23,069 people accessed basic medicines and 229,957 people received hygiene supplies. A further 17,352 people were able to access safe accommodation across 293 centres.

The massive influx of displaced people from Ukraine put an enormous strain on existing response capacities. Nearly half a million refugees have crossed the border to Moldova, one of the poorest countries in Europe.

As part of our Ukraine response, we are supporting Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Moldova, in partnership with Catholic Relief Services, to provide transitional accommodation to Ukrainians displaced by the conflict. The Safe and Dignified Accommodation Program aims to

### Program Achievements

- Caritas Ukraine, Caritas Spes and local Caritas offices assisted more than **1.1** million people
- More than **600,000** people were supported with food distributions
- More than **74,680** people received access to clean water and sanitation

support families to find long-term and safe accommodation. It also provides financial support for host families in Moldova so they can provide safe accommodation for refugees in their own homes.

Sadly, two Caritas Ukraine staff lost their lives in the Mariupol centre, along with five other people who were sheltering at the office when it was struck by a Russian tank on 15th March. We pray for them, their families and for all Caritas staff and volunteers.

Above image: Families gather in the snow to receive aid and supplies from Caritas staff in Odessa early in the conflict. Photo: Caritas Ukraine.

## STRATEGIC GOAL 4.

Communities affected by conflict and disasters can meet their immediate needs, and recover and build back stronger from crises.

## Our Impact

- 15,133 people participated in the development or implementation of disaster risk reduction plans
- 215 community, Church or school disaster preparedness plans were developed with the participation of vulnerable groups

# A YEAR OF CRISES

## Upheaval and turmoil in Afghanistan

In August 2021, the situation in Afghanistan deteriorated rapidly following the combined factors of economic collapse, political instability, COVID-19, and long-term drought. The people of Afghanistan were left in urgent need of humanitarian assistance with fears that 97 per cent of the population could be pushed into extreme poverty. Caritas Australia provided support through our partner in Afghanistan, CRS, who responded rapidly to the crisis by providing:

- Emergency cash assistance to more than 8,000 families
- Training on livestock management practices to help reduce disease, improve livestock health and increase milk production
- Education for 3,791 of the most marginalised girls and boys in rural Afghanistan including access to education for 2,287 girls and boys and advanced learning programs for 650 older, out-of-school children.



A young girl in Afghanistan studies. The remoteness of the village is a big problem, having in the past prevented many children from attending school. Photo: Stefanie Glinski/CRS.

## Africa Food Crisis leaves millions at risk of extreme hunger

Drought, locust plagues and conflict have left record number of people in Africa in urgent need of humanitarian aid. As international food and fuel prices skyrocket because of COVID-19 and the conflict in Ukraine, the region has plummeted into a food crisis that has left 18 million people facing severe hunger in the Horn of Africa region alone.

Caritas Australia is working with partners in Ethiopia, Somalia, Eritrea, South Sudan, Kenya, Mozambique and Zimbabwe who are providing urgent:

- Food distributions to households at risk of malnutrition
- Support to children impacted by malnutrition
- Clean drinking water and support for sanitation
- Cash transfers to households at risk of poverty
- Hygiene supplies, including soap and hand sanitisers to help prevent the spread of COVID-19
- Seeds and household items for families impacted by conflict and displacement.



Water well in Southern Ethiopia. Photo: Zacharias Abubeker/Caritas Australia.



Destruction of Typhoon Rai, which struck the Philippines in December 2021. Photo: Caritas Philippines.

## Typhoon Rai wreaks havoc across the Philippines

In December 2021, the Philippines was struck by Typhoon Rai, a Category five typhoon that brought torrential rain, strong winds, flash floods, landslides and extensively damaged homes and livelihoods across the country.

Over 1.8 million Filipinos were impacted by the typhoon, which was declared the worst to hit the country since Super Typhoon Haiyan. Approximately 600,000 people needed to be evacuated from their homes, and roads were impassable due to extreme flooding and fallen trees. Typhoon Rai also left many local communities without power, telecommunications and access to clean water.

Caritas Australia's partner, Caritas Philippines, responded to help meet the needs of the most vulnerable providing emergency shelter to more than 2,000 people.

## Volcano eruption causes widespread damage in Tonga

Thousands of people were impacted by a series of disasters that started with a devastating volcanic eruption in January 2022. The Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai underwater volcano eruption led to a powerful tsunami and extensive ashfall.

For the people of Tonga affected by the eruption, this led to a disruption in their food and water supplies, schools were closed, roads and homes were destroyed, and telecommunications were cut for more than one month. An estimated 84 per cent of Tonga's population was affected by the disaster.

Caritas Australia supported Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand and Caritas Tonga to respond with:

- Clean drinking water via a new water purification station and cleaning of water tanks
- Shelter for families who lost their home
- Counselling for traumatised families
- Relief items including hygiene kits, buckets and jerry cans, kitchen supplies and blankets.



Caritas Tonga staff unload supplies from a truck after the eruption in Tonga. Photo: Caritas Tonga.

# EVALUATION AND LEARNING

## STRATEGIC GOAL 5.

Caritas Australia is a vibrant, impact-focused organisation, committed to ongoing learning.

### Case Study: Mid-Term Evaluation of the 'Upholding Community Dignity Together' program in Cambodia

In 2021-22, Caritas Australia undertook a mid-term evaluation of the Upholding Community Dignity Together Program delivered in partnership with eight local partner organisations in Cambodia. The program aims to improve food security and enhance the wellbeing and resilience of 51 village communities; while promoting equity for women and children.

The mid-term evaluation found positive changes in program participants' awareness, knowledge, skills, and behaviours. The adoption of the Assets-Based Community-driven Development approach ensured the program built upon the strengths of the communities, leading to potential for more sustainable outcomes.

*"Before, I migrated to other provinces and Thailand to work because I did not know what to do for a living here in my community... However, after joining the project, I learned many techniques. Now, I can stay home with my family and earn an income from growing vegetables and raising chickens."*

- Evaluation Respondent

The mid-term evaluation did find that some program benefits were not felt evenly across all project sites, largely due to the very different social, economic, and environmental contexts of each project location as well as the delivery models adopted by partners. Opportunities exist to strengthen learning between partners to capture good practice approaches within the program; while also ensuring ongoing community participation in learning and reflection activities to understand enablers of success in each context.

*"Other villages observed that we have successfully connected the water in the community, so they want to do the same. They have asked us for our experience so they can do it too."*

- Evaluation Respondent

### Key Recommendations

- Align the program outcomes and strategy more explicitly to the Sustainable Development Goals and relevant government policies in program documentation and reporting
- Continue to invest in partner capacity strengthening; and facilitate opportunities for knowledge sharing between partners and communities
- Review program strategy; exploring approaches for improved outcomes measurement and strengthening of ability to identify and tell stories of significant change
- Explore opportunities for linking Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and nutrition, strengthening value-chain analysis and working with communities on innovative rainwater harvesting methods.

### Our Response

A three-day workshop was hosted with all partners to review the recommendations and develop plans for how these recommendations can best be integrated into the remaining phase of the program. Priorities include addressing recommendations related to value-chain analysis and exploring interlinkages between WASH, agriculture and disaster risk reduction activities.

### Measuring Our Impact

Since 2014, Caritas Australia's approach to measuring impact has been guided by our effectiveness framework known as the Integral Human Development (IHD) Framework.

Recognising the opportunities afforded by our new Strategic Directions and the changing global context, we undertook an external review of the IHD Framework in early 2022 to ensure it remains relevant and effective in capturing our global impact.

The review found that we have a strong history of supporting impactful programs guided by our approach to Integral Human Development; however, opportunities exist for us to further strengthen the way we measure and communicate our impact. In response to the review, we have been working to implement recommendations, including through the development of an Impact Framework linked to the Change in the World Goals in our strategic direction.

### Understanding our Impact through Evaluation and Learning

Caritas Australia is committed to measuring the things that matter most – the outcomes of investments and activities that create social change.

Evaluations provide a vital avenue for ourselves and our partners to explore the effectiveness of our programs and hear directly from participating communities about the impact these projects have had on their lives.

In 2021-22 we undertook seven external evaluations across Africa, Asia and the Pacific; as well as five Gender, Disability and Child Protection Assessments.



# FUNDRAISING SPOTLIGHT

## STRATEGIC GOAL 6.

Caritas Australia cultivates broad funding streams with a growing level of income.



### Fundraising income 2017 - 2022:

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Bequests	\$2.27m	\$5.43m	\$4.09m	\$4.60m	\$9.28m	\$3.32m
Philanthropy	\$1.81m	\$1.88m	\$1.51m	\$1.57m	\$4.03m	\$3.15m
Direct Marketing Appeals	\$2m	\$2.06m	\$2.89m	\$3.15m	\$5.02m	\$4.53m
Regular Giving	\$3.86m	\$3.63m	\$3.75m	\$3.58m	\$3.49m	\$3.6m
Project Compassion	\$11m	\$10.79m	\$10.73m	\$7.91m	\$7.63m	\$7.21m
Emergencies	\$2.54m	\$3.51m	\$0.75m	\$0.23m	\$0.73m	\$5.87m
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$24.72m</b>	<b>\$28.75m</b>	<b>\$24.28m</b>	<b>\$21.37m</b>	<b>\$30.54m</b>	<b>\$27.68m</b>

\*Emergencies includes philanthropic donations

### Communities join forces to support the people of Ukraine

To support people affected by the crisis in Ukraine, Caritas Australia supporters from around the country joined forces to raise much-needed funds for families displaced by the conflict.

In partnership with **Music for Ukraine**, Caritas Australia hosted a classical music concert to fundraise for partners in Ukraine. The event, at City Recital Hall in Sydney, brought together hundreds of attendees, as well as some of Australia's finest classical artists in a musical show of support and solidarity for the people of Ukraine. Thank you to the organisers, Bonnie Boezeman AO, Maria Timofeeva, Andrew Goodwin, Cathy Goodwin-Gracia, Vladimir Fanshil and Victoria Stepanenko. Judith Neilson AM generously supported with funds to cover costs for the event.



Attended by over 200 guests in Victoria, **Stand With Ukraine**, organised by Fiona Carns and Ciara Griffiths, was a hugely successful event hosted by Steve Vizard at Quat Quatta. The event featured Caritas Australia CEO Kirsty Robertson, followed by a Ukrainian performer, a Q&A session with jockey Craig Williams and wife Larysa, ending with an amazing auction.

Schools around Australia also played their part in supporting people affected by the war in Ukraine. At **Gilroy Catholic College** in Castle Hill, New South Wales, students wrote messages of support for the people of Ukraine. The messages were collated and sent to the community of St Andrew Ukrainian Church in Lidcombe, Sydney. School students also created their own online donation page and wore badges on their uniforms to signal their support for Ukraine.



# OUR PEOPLE



Caritas Australia Supporter Services team.  
Photo: Caritas Australia.

The last year at Caritas Australia has been one of agility, as our people worked to a 'new normal' of pivoting between in-person and remote work, in response to their local conditions. And through all of this, they have responded courageously, learning and growing and working together to deliver our inspiring programs.

### Measuring our impact

This year saw the creation of a new Impact Department for collaboration, advocacy, listening and learning.

The Impact Department is tasked with driving strategies for collaboration, listening and learning, so that Caritas Australia can generate an evidence-base to deepen impact, be accountable, credible and achieve our strategic goals.

They will work with a whole of agency lens to support the cascading and measurement of the strategic goals across the agency.

### Embedding Caritas Australia's values

This year Caritas Australia worked to embed the values of Courage, Partnership, Stewardship and Compassion across the organisation.

A variety of workshops were held throughout the year, enabling teams to discuss the values and more deeply

understand how they contributed to Caritas Australia's culture and ways of working.

Caritas Australia engaged staff around the values at events and encouraged individuals to speak about how these values influence and impact their everyday work.

It has been inspiring to see individuals, teams and the broader agency embrace these values and further build a flourishing culture that brings these values to life daily.

### Creating a learning organisation

In order for Caritas Australia's people to thrive and to be the best that they can be as they work towards the organisation's Mission, is a key objective of the People team. As part of this goal, Caritas Australia is building the capability of leaders to grow and develop their people and have commenced the roll-out of a leadership development program, where all people managers will undertake leading edge learning, including coaching and mentoring to further build their skills.

## STRATEGIC GOAL 7.

Caritas Australia attracts and retains motivated staff and volunteers and nurtures effective partnerships.

To ensure that all staff have access to timely learning and development opportunities, Caritas Australia's learning management system has over 100,000 courses available to engage our people and ensure their continued career growth.

### People systems to drive our effectiveness

During the last year, Caritas Australia has invested in a range of people systems to drive effectiveness around people information. A human resources information system, an applicant tracking system and a platform to survey staff have been implemented. This enables improved reporting on people metrics, as well as ensures required compliance and risk management.

### Volunteers

Caritas Australia acknowledges the support of the many volunteers who support the organisation and would like to say thank you for the amazing and vital role their commitment plays in achieving organisational goals.

### More than two decades as a volunteer

Peter Stephenson has recently celebrated 22 years of service at Caritas Australia and is an integral part of the Marketing and Communications team. A lot has changed in this time!

"When I started, we had about 20 employees," said Peter.

"I was given drawers full of slides, prints and negatives to turn into a digital format, years before digital cameras were common in the organisation,"

Throughout his time at Caritas Australia, Peter has enjoyed 'the friendliness and co-operation, encouragement and team spirit of the staff', as well as the great development and scope of the organisation.

"Since the beginning, I have been aware of their common and continuing dedication to the betterment of the disadvantaged and poor in the world."

When asked about Peter, the Marketing and Communications team gave a resounding response that he is incredibly important to the work they do – his dedication, his wisdom and of course, his jokes!



Peter Stephenson in the Caritas Australia Sydney Office.  
Photo: Caritas Australia.

# Our Diocesan Network

Caritas Australia's network of Diocesan Directors, committees and volunteers across the country is essential to communicating our work and Mission deep within the Australian community. They regularly engage with the local Diocesan Parishes, schools, Catholic networks and the broader Australian community.

In 2021-22 our Diocesan Directors were:

## National

Diocesan Director, Maronite Eparchy  
**Rev Fr Tony Sarkis**

Diocesan Director,  
Ukrainian Eparchy of Australia  
**Archpriest Michael Kalka**

## Australian Capital Territory

Diocesan Director, Canberra &  
Goulburn  
**Beth Doherty**

## South Australia

Diocesan Director, Adelaide  
**Tracey Tessitore**

Diocesan Director, Port Pirie  
**Mary Manning**

## Tasmania

Diocesan Director, Hobart  
**Michael Smith**

## New South Wales

Diocesan Director, Sydney  
**Chris Nolan**

Diocesan Director, Armidale  
**Georgina Franklin**

Diocesan Director, Bathurst  
**Rev Deacon Josh Clayton**

Diocesan Director, Broken Bay  
**Vacant**

Diocesan Director, Lismore  
**Rev Deacon Graeme Davis**

Diocesan Director,  
Maitland-Newcastle  
**Teresa Brierley**

Diocesan Director, Parramatta  
**Sebastian Salaske-Lentern**

Diocesan Director, Wagga Wagga  
**Vacant**

Diocesan Director,  
Wilcannia-Forbes  
**Sr Elizabeth Young**

Diocesan Director, Wollongong  
**Vacant**

## Victoria

Diocesan Director, Melbourne  
**Romina Martiniello**

Diocesan Director, Ballarat  
**Jillian Hogbin**

Diocesan Director, Sale  
**Vacant**

Diocesan Director, Sandhurst  
**Fr Rom Hayes**

Diocesan Coordinator, Sandhurst  
**Kerry Stone**

## Western Australia

Diocesan Director, Perth  
**Rev Deacon Paul Reid**

Diocesan Director, Broome  
**Tony Treacy**

Diocesan Director, Bunbury  
**Peter Williams**

Diocesan Director, Geraldton  
**Rosemary Taylor**

## Queensland

Diocesan Director, Brisbane  
**Andrew Knife**

Diocesan Director, Cairns  
**Vacant**

Diocesan Director, Rockhampton  
**Vacant**

Diocesan Director, Toowoomba  
**Christine Gwydir**

Diocesan Director, Townsville  
**Neil Helmore**

## Northern Territory

Diocesan Director, Darwin  
**Rev Deacon Tony Cunningham**



Diocesan Directors and engagement staff in Sydney.  
Photo: Caritas Australia.

## Bringing people together in the spirit of caring

Serving as Diocesan Director of Adelaide since July 2021, Tracey Tessitore acts as a Caritas Ambassador across her diocese, promoting the work of Caritas Australia and bringing others into our community.

Speaking about her time with Caritas Australia, Tracey paints a picture of a thriving community filled with passionate people dedicated to helping others.

*"When I speak at the pulpit and I invite people to Mission, someone always come forwards and says, 'that's me I want to be involved.' We have had schools invite a family who stepped forward to speak as Caritas Ambassadors for their local parish.*

*These ambassadors make such a difference in bringing people together in the spirit of caring and giving and promoting the good work that the Caritas network does. Through these ambassadors the community of Caritas Australia grows every year."*

Tracey reminded us however that the path is not always clear and speaks of the challenges she faced as she assumed this role during the pandemic.

*"I really believe everything that gets put in our pathway, is right and it's where God wants us to go. I think of the story of Paul in Damascus, where Paul thinks he is not the right person to answer the call, but God knows that he is. What keeps me grounded is my faith in Christ and that he has put me here for a reason and that is to speak for suffering people and through my networks to make a difference, and I will."*

As Diocesan Director, Tracey helps not only promote the work of Caritas Australia but also works to bring others into the community of charity and helping to keep the Holy Spirit alive within us and our community.

*"Anyone who understands what Caritas Australia does, knows that they do what they say, and people get helped.*

*Everyone wants to be known by name and story, to belong and contribute and love and be loved. And to me the Caritas network does that exactly, it finds the person in the program and gives us a relationship directly with that person.*

*We need to be promoting these amazing people and places and showing people how they can help while being totally grounded in our faith."*

# OUR ADVOCACY

## Caritas Australia Advocacy Agenda 2022-2026

In 2021, Caritas Australia conducted extensive consultation with partners, staff and Board members to understand priorities, perspectives, strengths and challenges for advocacy. Caritas Australia was also informed by the views of supporters and the wider Catholic community. Together, their voices were instrumental in shaping the development of the Caritas Australia Advocacy Agenda 2022-2026, which will guide the organisation's advocacy over the next five years.

The advocacy goal as an organisation is shaped both by the Strategic Direction and the Caritas Internationalis understanding of advocacy. Caritas Australia's goal is that:

Caritas Australia actively pursues change in policies, practices and attitudes in the Australian Government and society, so as to contribute to the common good and the enforcement of human rights of the people we serve, here in Australia, in our region and around the world.

### Guiding principles:

| We are credible | We are evidence-based | We are co-operative | We amplify voices | We are focused |



## STRATEGIC GOAL 8.

Caritas Australia inspires all Australians, especially the Catholic community, to advocate and act.



Oceania Talanoa delegation.  
Photo: Oceania Talanoa.

### Ecological justice and responding to climate change

We call for Australia to adopt effective targets and credible plans for reducing emissions; to increase investment in resilience and adaptation which prioritises the voices, needs of local communities, and reduces climate-induced displacement; and to ensure local communities have an informed and effective voice in decision-making around extractive industries that affect their livelihoods, societies, and environment.

### A stronger Australian aid program for the most marginalised

We will promote an Australian aid program that focuses on poverty alleviation, prioritises the most marginalised and reaches more people through long-term, sustained growth; that adopts stronger measures to support locally led decision-making, capacity and resilience to address development and humanitarian issues; and that provides increased, sustained support for COVID-19 response and recovery.

### Justice for First Australians

We will promote truth and voice for First Australians by supporting the inclusion of honest and truthful history of Australia and its relationship to First Australians throughout the education system. We will support local, grassroots, First Australians-led organisations to have a strong and effective voice in shaping policy that impacts the lives of their communities and reduce the over-representation of First Australians in the juvenile justice and child protection reform systems. We will promote ecological justice through recognising traditional knowledge and practices in caring for Country.

### The wellbeing, participation, and leadership of women

We will strengthen the Australian aid program's work on the prevention and response to gender-based violence, the promotion of leadership and participation of women in decision-making forums and the protection, participation and leadership of women in a humanitarian context.

### Advocating for justice as part of our Pacific family

Caritas Australia is a member of Caritas Oceania, a regional grouping that also includes the Caritas agencies of Aoteroa New Zealand, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga and CEPAC (Episcopal Conference of the Pacific). In 2021, Caritas Australia participated in the development of Caritas Oceania's advocacy strategy, with key pillars on protecting the environment and responding to climate change; the wellbeing and leadership of women and girls; and responding to the health, social and economic impacts of COVID 19. The new strategy also gave birth to the Caritas Oceania Advocacy Working Group, which has transformed the network's collective collaboration and impact. Through the advocacy working group, Caritas Australia will continue to advocate in solidarity and partnership with across the Oceania family.

### Climate finance and debt research

In collaboration with Jubilee Australia and Caritas Oceania, Caritas Australia has commenced research for a report on climate finance and debt for Pacific nations, with the aim of influencing the United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP27) in Egypt in November 2022. The joint research and report will highlight the barriers that local communities face in accessing funding for climate adaptation projects. It will also confront the dangers of current climate finance mechanisms which have the potential to impact Pacific Island countries via debt traps. This advocacy seeks to promote better mechanisms for ensuring that funding for climate resilience reaches the people who need it most.



# OUR COMMUNITY



Bishop Shane MacKinlay celebrated the anniversary along with the Caritas Australia Diocesan Directors for Melbourne Archdiocese, Ballarat Diocese and Sandhurst Diocese. The celebration included a 'Birthday Cake', ceremoniously cut by Bishop MacKinlay on behalf of the Bishops of Australia and Sue Martin, Caritas Australia's Catholic Earthcare program coordinator.

Caritas Australia's Catholic Earthcare event in the Sandhurst Diocese. Photo: Caritas Australia.

## Caritas Australia's Catholic Earthcare Australia celebrates 20 years

Caritas Australia's Catholic Earthcare was founded in 2002 in response to the Australian Bishops' social justice statement "A New Earth: An environmental challenge", which called for ecological conversion and a commitment to address environmental issues following the papal encyclical Laudato Si'.

Generating dialogue to care for our common home ever since, Caritas Australia's Catholic Earthcare runs Earthcare Schools and Earthcare Parishes to assist both schools and parishes on their journey towards the Laudato Si' Goals. Currently 250 schools and 65 parishes take part in the program.



Participants during a Walking with God session. Photo: Caritas Australia.



Eddie enjoys his beans and rice during Project Compassion. Photo: Beth Doherty.

## Beans and Rice Wednesdays to raise money for Project Compassion

John Paul College in Canberra, took a novel approach to fundraising for Project Compassion. For the duration of Lent, the school canteen only sold a simple meal of beans and rice every Wednesday. The meal was inspired by the importance of beans and rice as staple foods for some of the world's most vulnerable people.

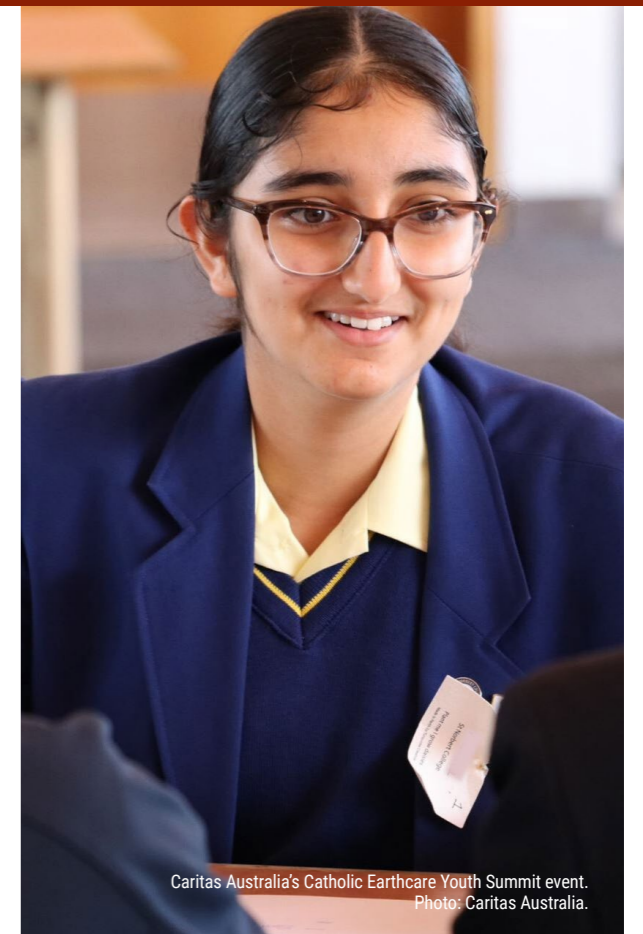
The John Paul College Peace Leaders, Albert David and Addison Atkinson also organised a pancake breakfast, a guess the teacher's baby photo competition, lolly jar guessing competition, a sale of Zooper Doopers, a clothing pool where secondhand uniforms were sold for \$2 and a Crazy Hair Day.

Their creative fundraisers certainly paid off, as the school raised an impressive \$6,353.05 for Project Compassion.

## Walking with God

Caritas Australia's Walking with God program launched in Adelaide in early 2022, where a group of ten young adults gathered for prayer and reflection, walking from Victoria Square to the River Torrens.

The program invites participants to connect with creation in their local areas. Walking with God is based on Ignatian Spirituality, challenging participants to encounter God in all things by incorporating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander spirituality to provide a different perspective on connecting with our common home.



Caritas Australia's Catholic Earthcare Youth Summit event. Photo: Caritas Australia.

## Youth Summit

Over 300 students from 36 schools across the state, attended the NSW Catholic Earthcare Youth Summit on 10 November 2021.

Attended by Most Reverend Bishop Vincent Long, the event saw Caritas Australia's Catholic Earthcare collaborate with students from Mount Saint Benedict College, Saint Scholastica's College, Saint Mary Star of the Sea College and Stella Maris College to design and lead a one-day event, which covered environmental advocacy on a personal, community and international level.

**"Our focus is always to empower students to advocate for and take action on ecological justice and sustainability,"** said Sabrina Stevens, Caritas Australia's Youth Coordinator.

**"This year, the theme is: 'from little things, big things grow', which reflects how the youth summit is created by students, for students, with a view to develop their capacity to advocate for the future they want to see."**

# Our Year



Caritas Australia's CEO, Kirsty Robertson and Advancement Director, Richard Landels on the Cycle to End Poverty.  
Photo: Caritas Australia.

## Cycle to End Poverty

Inspired by the story of Biru from Project Compassion 2022, who overcame poverty and disability to open his own bicycle repair business in India, Caritas Australia's CEO, Kirsty Robertson and Richard Landels, Advancement Director, cycled 900km over nine days from Sydney to Melbourne to help break the cycle of poverty.

After being farewelled by parishioners at Mary Immaculate Parish in Quakers Hill, and with a blessing from Most Reverend Vincent Long to set them off, Kirsty and Richard embarked on a mammoth journey to meet with communities and raise \$50,000 for people living in poverty.

Along the ride Kirsty and Richard visited parishes and schools where they were able to speak about the work of the Caritas network, before finally being welcomed to Melbourne at St Patrick's Cathedral by Most Reverend Archbishop Peter Comensoli.

## EMERGENCY ACTION ALLIANCE

### Emergency Action Alliance

Caritas Australia is part of the Emergency Action Alliance (EAA), a group of 15 leading aid organisations in Australia. When there is an emergency, the EAA can activate a public appeal on behalf of the members, to simplify and streamline donations from the Australian public. These appeals are short term and usually supported by the ABC and SBS. The money raised is then distributed to those members responding to the emergency.

On the 30th March 2022, the EAA and ABC launched a national appeal for Ukraine, starting with the Concert for Ukraine that aired on ABC iview. The appeal raised over \$4 million, including a \$2 million contribution from the Australian Government.

Find out more at [www.emergencyaction.org.au](http://www.emergencyaction.org.au)



Most Reverend Bishop Mykola Bychok of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saints Peter and Paul of Melbourne with CEO, Kirsty Robertson, and Advancement Director, Richard Landels.  
Photo: Caritas Australia.

## Solidarity with Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy

Bishop Mykola Bychok from the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy visited the Caritas Australia Sydney office on 13 May 2022, along with Father Simon Cku from the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy.

At the time of the meeting Caritas Australia had raised over \$3.5 million for the Caritas network in Ukraine and in solidarity with the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy in Australia. By the end of June, donations for Ukraine had reached over \$4.8 million.



## Caritas Oceania Laudato Si' Forum brings together young Catholics from across the region

Young people from across Oceania attended the Caritas Oceania Laudato Si' Forum online from 24-26 May to share their hopes, dreams and concerns about our planet and the future. His Eminence Soane Patita Paini Mafi of Tonga led the prayer on the first day. Most Reverend Bishop Columba Macbeth-Green and Most Reverend Bishop Paul Donoghue from the Archdiocese of Rarotonga led the prayers on subsequent days.

The purpose of the webinars was for young people from Oceania to come together and share ideas on how to care for our common home and to better understand and respond to the call to ecological justice for all future generations.



Caritas Australia event at NSW Parliament House.  
Photo: Photo: Caritas Australia.

## Health a focus in PNG

Caritas Australia hosted an event at NSW Parliament House with 32 senior executives from across Catholic health and aged care, education, law and some of Caritas Australia's major supporters. The event aimed to acknowledge the generous support from Catholic Health Australia and its members to reduce the impact of COVID-19 in Papua New Guinea and report on the ongoing health crisis in the country. Caritas Australia's CEO, Kirsty Robertson and Programs Director, Dan Skehan unveiled plans to work with partners in country to increase access to quality and affordable health services in Papua New Guinea.



Caritas Australia's First Australian Associate Director, Christine Rhazi and Uncle Michael Welsh outside KBHAC office.  
Photo: Caritas Australia.

## Sorry Day with Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation

This year Caritas Australia staff and volunteers were able to hear from Uncle Michael "Widdy" Welsh, Chairperson at Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation (KBHAC), on Sorry Day.

KBHAC was formed by the survivors of Kinchela Boys Home who were forcibly removed from their families during the Stolen Generations. It seeks to address the multigenerational trauma that impacts survivors, families and descendants.

The event focussed on truth-telling, a key part of Caritas Australia's partnership with First Australian partners, and staff were able to say sorry and commit themselves to reconciliation.

*"The truth-telling about the invasion of this land needs to be told. It needs to be told for everybody,"* said Uncle Michael "Widdy" Welsh.

# Our Governance

Caritas Australia is governed as a company limited by guarantee under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) and its activities are overseen by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. Caritas Australia is a member of both the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and the Fundraising Institute of Australia (FIA) and is therefore signatories to both Codes of Conduct. As a Member Organisation, Caritas Australia is guided by the Caritas Internationalis Management Standards.

As members of Caritas Australia, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) oversee the activities of the organisation in the areas of justice, ecology, international aid and development, and peace.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 8th December 2021.

## Our Leadership Team

Caritas Australia's Leadership Team drives the strategic direction of the organisation as well as the day to day operational management and work to ensure the strategic goals and the change that we want to see both within ourselves, and in the world are achieved. They bring a breadth of knowledge and experience coupled with passion and commitment that creates a culture that lives our values of Courage, Partnership, Stewardship and Compassion.



**Kirsty Robertson**

Chief Executive Officer  
Appointed: 2019



**Rocky Naickar**

Chief Finance and Operation Officer  
Appointed: 2013



**Richard Landels**

Advancement Director  
Appointed: 2018



**Michael McGirr**

Mission Director  
Appointed: 2021



**Alicia Benardos**

People Director  
Appointed: 2020



**Dan Skehan**

Programs Director  
Appointed: 2021



**Leigh Matthews**

Impact Director  
Appointed: 2022

More detailed profiles can be found here: [www.caritas.org.au/about/what-is-caritas/our-leadership-team/](http://www.caritas.org.au/about/what-is-caritas/our-leadership-team/)

# Our Board

Caritas Australia's Board is comprised of dedicated and experienced individuals who guide our Strategic Direction, oversee governance, monitor accountability and ensure that the organisation lives and achieves its Mission.



**Robert Fitzgerald, AM**  
Chair

Appointed:  
March 2020



**Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv STL DD**  
Director

Appointed:  
March 2020  
Member - Mission, People and Culture Committee



**Virginia Bourke**  
Director

Appointed:  
March 2020  
Chair - Mission, People and Culture Committee



**Jack de Groot**  
Director

Appointed:  
October 2020  
Member - Programs and Impact Committee



**Patricia Faulkner AO**  
Director

Appointed:  
July 2020  
Member - Audit, Finance and Risk Committee



**Christine Grima**  
Director

Appointed:  
July 2020  
Chair - Programs and Impact Committee



**Dr. Martin Lavery**  
Director

Appointed:  
March 2020



**Wendy Hughes**  
Director

Appointed:  
July 2020  
Chair - Audit, Finance and Risk Committee



**The Honourable John Watkins AM**  
Director

Appointed:  
November 2020

## Our Board sub-committees

In 2021-22, the following sub-committees supported the Board:

**The Audit, Finance and Risk Committee** reviews and provides guidance to Caritas Australia's management related to independent external audit and financial standing and reporting, which includes investment portfolio and the ongoing development of the agency's risk management framework.

**The Mission, People and Culture Committee** is responsible for reviewing and providing guidance to Caritas Australia's management related to People and Culture, including providing assistance with the agency's workforce response to COVID-19. This committee also assists with the provision of practical approaches to Mission Integration across the agency.

**The Programs and Impact Committee** reviews and provides guidance to Caritas Australia's management related to international development and aid projects and programs. This committee is responsible for ensuring the implementation of effective approaches for measuring success and addressing challenges in program delivery.

More detailed profiles can be found here: [www.caritas.org.au/about/what-is-caritas/our-board/](http://www.caritas.org.au/about/what-is-caritas/our-board/)

# Financial Snapshot

In 2021-22 financial year Caritas Australia spent close to \$37.5 million funding our International and First Australian programs and responding to emergencies and humanitarian assistance.

## PERFORMANCE

The full year ended with total income at \$45.9 million and total expenditure at \$52.7 million creating an accounting deficit of \$6.8 million. The planned deficit spending is guided by our strategic plan commitment to grow our investment in our program priority areas and strengthen our long-term funding model.

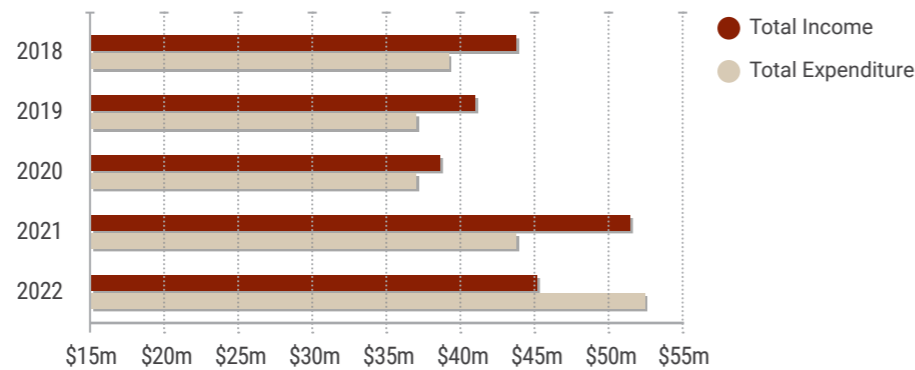
Funding allocation to our programs grew by 16% over the prior year with a total of \$37.5 million going towards emergencies and humanitarian assistance, including close to \$2.6 million to the Ukraine Crisis and over \$2.8 million to the food crisis in Africa and Afghanistan.

Fundraising remains our primary source of income at the back of the strong community support, receipting \$27.7 million during the year, 60% of the total organisational income.

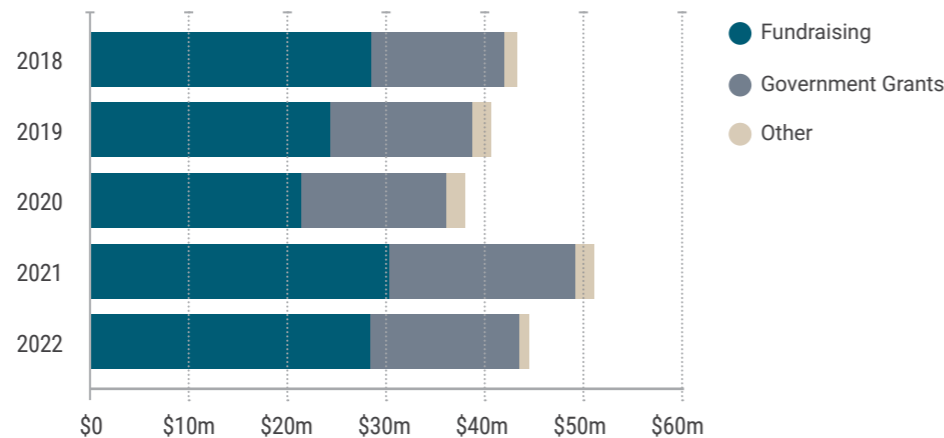
Recurrent and one-off grants contribute close to 37% with 3% coming from other income (interest earned on term deposits and dividend payouts from investment funds).

Investments in income generating initiatives have started to return dividends across our recurrent income streams.

### Income vs Expenditure (\$'m)



### Income vs Stream (\$'m)



Caritas Australia is the lead agency of the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO) and receives DFAT grants on behalf of the member organisations. In 2021-22, Caritas Australia received \$7,193,629 in grants for the CAN DO Consortium.

## ORGANISATION STRENGTH AND SUPPORT

Caritas Australia is committed to ensuring operational decisions are supported by strong governance and prudent use of available resources.

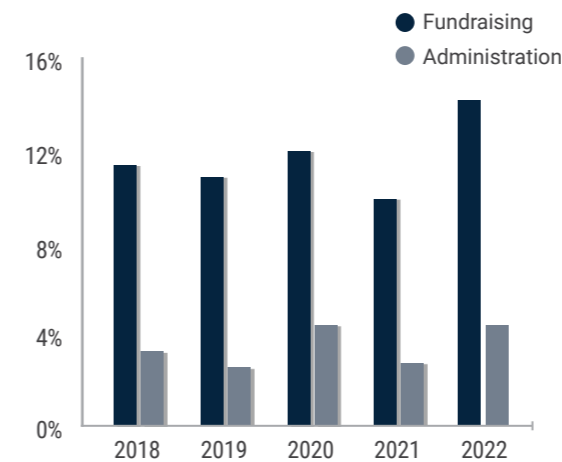
This is achieved by maintaining a reasonably low fundraising ratio of 11-12% (fundraising cost as % of total income) and, administration ratio of 3.0%-3.5% (admin costs as % of total income). The slight increase in these ratios in 2021-22 is a result of investments in income generating activities to create a longer-term sustainable income-streams.

Investments in cyber security, network protocols and cloud solutions have further strengthened our existing network security and remote working environment.

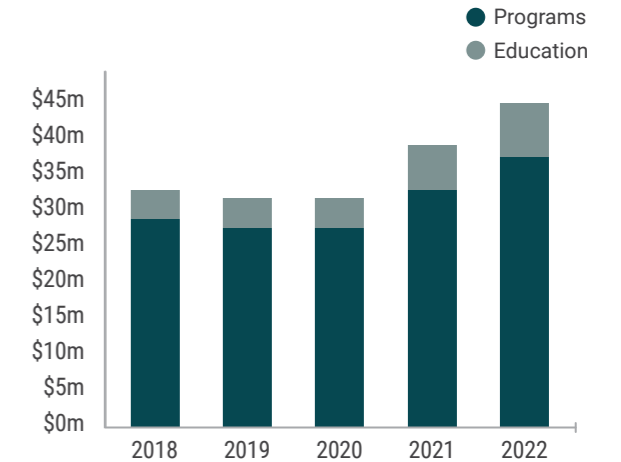
In line with Caritas Australia's Strategic Direction, allocation towards our program's expenditure has been increasing since 2021. In 2022 the increase was just over 16% and this trend is expected to continue over the forward years.

Savings and under expenditure from administration and deferred projects are reinvested in existing and new one-off program initiatives.

### Administration/ Fundraising Ratio



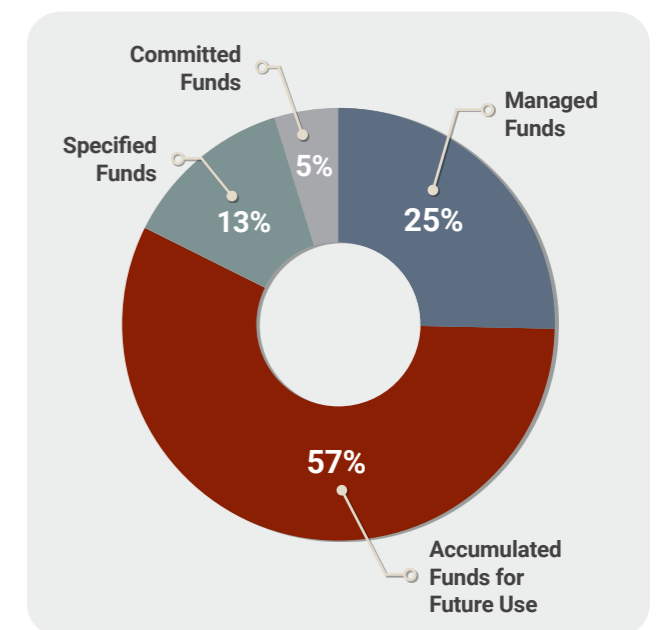
### Total Expenditure - Programs & Education



**EQUITY:** Accumulated funds or unrestricted reserve are funds which have no conditions attached and can be used at the discretion of the Caritas Australia.

Unspent government grants and income from special appeals make the committed and specific funds reserve and the use of these funds are restricted for the purpose it was provided.

Managed funds are held with fund managers for longer term organisational sustainability and can be drawn upon to support core activities, if required.



Our Full Financial Report 2021-22 is available to read at [www.caritas.org.au/publications/annual-reports/](http://www.caritas.org.au/publications/annual-reports/)



# Your Compassion

Thank you for your  
generosity and support.

## Major supporters

Cathryn Byrne  
 Gerald and Virginia Stack  
 Helen Van Ryan  
 John and Denise Cartwright  
 Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and  
 Papua New Guinea  
 Little Company of Mary  
 Pat and Helen La Manna  
 Panizza Family  
 Presentation Sisters of Wagga Wagga  
 Robert Campagnaro  
 Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart  
 St Thomas the Apostle Chaldean and Assyrian Catholic  
 Diocese of Australia and New Zealand  
 The Maronite Eparchy of Australia, New Zealand and  
 Oceania  
 The Melkite Catholic Eparchy of Australia and New  
 Zealand  
 The Syriac Catholic Church of Sydney

## Corporate partners

Catholic Cemeteries and  
 Crematoria  
 Connellan Industries Australia  
 Pty Ltd  
 Dai-ichi Life Insurance  
 (Cambodia) Plc.  
 Dunmarra Pty Ltd  
 Ernst & Young  
 Kelly Grains  
 Mercy Community Services  
 North Queensland  
 Pacific Equity Partners  
 Seasonal Supplies Pty Ltd  
 St John of God Health Care  
 WDT Engineers  
 winedirect.com.au

## Generous Bequest Gifts

Adriana Schneijderberg  
 Alexander Levey  
 Betty Hawke  
 Fr Charles Mcbri  
 John De Van Der Scueren  
 Kevin Sheedy  
 Mary Green  
 Mary Schramm  
 Maureen Hannan  
 Maureen Menzies  
 Noreen Cubis  
 Patricia Doepel  
 Patricia Elvins  
 Patricia Kay  
 Patricia Pieterek  
 Robyn Milligan  
 Rosetta Robinson  
 Zoe Egan

## Trusts and Foundations

Andrew and Geraldine Buxton  
 Foundation  
 Bruce and Joy Reid Trust  
 CW AM Drew Family Trust  
 Darcy Brennan Foundation  
 Gregorius Trust  
 Holmes Family Foundation  
 JA Sheppard Fund  
 Keady Investment Trust  
 Pratten Family Foundation  
 Potts Foundation  
 Sandoll Foundation  
 Skellern Family Foundation  
 The Highlands Foundation  
 The Noel and Carmel O'Brien  
 Family Foundation  
 The Wilkinson Foundation  
 Three Springs Foundation  
 Vincent and Virginia Scanlan  
 Vonbri Foundation

Image: Community participants in Entrepreneurship and  
 Livelihoods Program in India.  
 Photo: Sameer Bara/Caritas Australia.



## Ways to Get Involved

### Become a regular giver

Make a monthly donation by calling 1800 024 413 or visit [www.caritas.org.au/give](http://www.caritas.org.au/give)

### Host a fundraiser

Head to [www.caritas.org.au/fundraise](http://www.caritas.org.au/fundraise) and start fundraising!

### Register for Workplace Giving

One of the most cost effective and simple ways of donating. Visit [www.caritas.org.au/workplace-giving](http://www.caritas.org.au/workplace-giving)

### Leave a gift in your Will

Include a bequest in your Will and together we can create sustainable change. Visit [www.caritas.org.au/bequests](http://www.caritas.org.au/bequests)

### Purchase a Global Gift

Give a gift that keeps on giving, visit [www.globalgifts.org.au](http://www.globalgifts.org.au)

### Volunteer

Want to help out? Call 1800 024 413 or go to [www.caritas.org.au/volunteer-opportunities](http://www.caritas.org.au/volunteer-opportunities)






### Sign up to receive our news

Monthly e-news Hope in Action: [www.caritas.org.au/HIA](http://www.caritas.org.au/HIA)

Quarterly magazine Caritas News: [www.caritas.org.au/magazine](http://www.caritas.org.au/magazine)

Latest news: [www.caritas.org.au/news/latest-news/](http://www.caritas.org.au/news/latest-news/)

### Follow us

-  @CaritasAU
-  @CaritasAust
-  @CaritasAust
-  @caritasaustralia
-  @caritasaust

Thandolwayo and her grandmother Regina sit outside their kitchen in Zimbabwe. Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia.

## Accountability and International Standards

### DFAT

Caritas Australia is accredited by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), responsible for managing Australia's aid program. To maintain accreditation, Caritas Australia's systems, policies and processes are rigorously reviewed by the Australian Government. Following an extensive process Caritas Australia renewed its accreditation with DFAT this year.

In 2021-22, we received support from the Australian government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program, the Australian Humanitarian Partnership, and the Church Partnership Program.

### ACFID

Caritas Australia is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct, which is a voluntary, self-regulatory sector code of good practice. As a signatory we are committed and fully adhere to the ACFID Code of Conduct, conducting our work with transparency, accountability and integrity. For more information on the Code, visit the ACFID website [www.acfid.asn.au](http://www.acfid.asn.au) or email [code@acfid.asn.au](mailto:code@acfid.asn.au).

### Codes and Standards

We uphold the highest standards of practice, as demonstrated by our commitment to the:

- ACFID Code of Conduct
- Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Standards
- Caritas Internationalis Management Standards
- National Catholic Safeguarding Standards
- Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief
- The Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS)
- Fundraising Institute of Australia Principles and Standards of Fundraising Practice
- Good Humanitarian Donorship Principles
- Sphere Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards

We have also adopted and implemented the international standards of risk management, ISO 31000.

### Funding

Caritas Australia generates income from various streams including the Australian Government, public donations, and investments. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Australian Government.

### Charity Status

Caritas Australia is endorsed by the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission as a Deductible Gift Recipient. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

### Feedback and Complaints

We welcome feedback about our organisation. To provide feedback or make a complaint, call 1800 024 413, write to Caritas Australia, GPO Box 9630 in your capital city or go to [www.caritas.org.au/complaints/](http://www.caritas.org.au/complaints/) to see other options, including how to make an anonymous complaint. Complaints alleging breaches of the ACFID Code of Conduct can also be made to the ACFID Code of Conduct Committee via [www.acfid.asn.au/content/how-make-complaint](http://www.acfid.asn.au/content/how-make-complaint).

### Privacy Policy

In line with the Privacy Act 1988 and the legislation changes in March 2014, Caritas Australia is committed to ensuring that we not only meet the legal requirements but also establish a culture of good practice regarding personal information about supporters.

Read our full privacy policy at [www.caritas.org.au/privacy/](http://www.caritas.org.au/privacy/).

### Solicitors

Makinson d'Apice Lawyers

### Bank

Commonwealth Bank of Australia


### Auditors


Pitcher Partners





**The Catholic Agency for  
International Aid and Development**


Caritas Australia  
Level 2, Building 3, 189 O'Riordan  
Street, Mascot NSW 2020


 [questions@caritas.org.au](mailto:questions@caritas.org.au)


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