



**Caritas**  
AUSTRALIA

The Catholic agency  
for international aid  
and development

*"The climate is  
a common good  
belonging to all  
and meant for all"*

POPE FRANCIS, LAUDATO SI'

**For the *Love*  
of Our  
Common Home**

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

“A true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor”

POPE FRANCIS, LAUDATO SI'

## THIS ANNUAL REPORT

Climate change is having an increasingly profound impact on people in vulnerable communities in many countries where we work. Our partners have told us of the challenges they face because of the changing climate, to their livelihoods, health, food security, water supplies, community wellbeing and safety during extreme weather events. Together, Caritas Australia and our partner agencies are working to build resilience and hope in a variable climate.

Pope Francis' encyclical on human development and ecology, *Laudato Si'* ('Praise be to you') – *Care for Our Common Home*, was released in June 2015. This encyclical is more poignant than ever before, as the Pontiff called and still calls on people to unite to protect "Our Common Home". Inspired by Pope Francis' lead, his encyclical letter is the theme for this year's Annual Report.

Read more about *Laudato Si'* at [www.caritas.org.au/encyclical](http://www.caritas.org.au/encyclical)

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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 image:** Through community gardens in Gweru, Zimbabwe, Caritas Australia is helping to empower women, like Linah, to bring positive change to their entire communities.  
Photo: Nicole Clements/Caritas Australia



ACFID  
MEMBER

Australian  
Aid



**This image:** In East Africa and the Horn of Africa, armed conflict and severe drought are causing extreme levels of hunger. The Caritas network is assisting millions of people in need of urgent food assistance in many countries, including Ethiopia.  
Photo: Joshua Smith/Caritas Switzerland

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## ABOUT US

Caritas Australia is the Catholic agency for international aid and development and, as an integral part of the Church, lives out the mission of Jesus in all that we do.

With love and compassion, Caritas Australia works alongside the poorest and most marginalised people, accompanying them as they help themselves out of poverty and take greater control of their lives.

We are a member of Caritas Internationalis, one of the world's largest humanitarian networks with 165 national Caritas agencies operating in over 200 countries and territories.

## OUR VISION

A just and fair world,  
A world in balance,  
At peace and free of poverty;  
A world, which the Church  
in Australia helps build.  
Where all human beings can live  
in dignity and communities are  
architects of their own development.

## OUR MISSION

The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." Luke 4:17-19

At the heart of Caritas Australia's mission is our quest for the full realisation of human dignity and wellbeing for all people as the key way to end poverty and injustice.

## IN REMEMBRANCE

Caritas Australia acknowledges with sadness the passing of Uncle Manuel John 'Benny' #28 Ebsworth and Uncle Cecil Bowden #29, Chairpeople of Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation; Balang T.E. Lewis, Founder of Djilpin Arts Aboriginal Corporation,

Nankamarra, a patient of Purple House and featured in Project Compassion 2013, and Aunty Kim Hill, NATSICC.

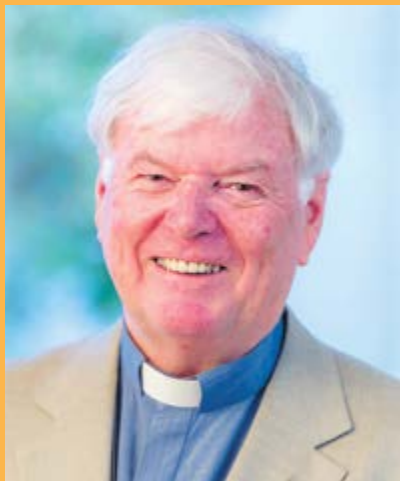
We also remember Julie Morgan, who joined Caritas in 1998 in an education role and was Deputy Director of Caritas Australia from 1999 to 2002 and William

'Bill' Byrne, the National Executive Director of Australian Catholic Relief from 1968 to 1978.

We remember Caritas Australia's partners, generous donors and their families in our prayers. May you rest in peace.

# From the Chair

**Bishop Greg O'Kelly**  
SJ AM  
Chair



*"One of the ways that Caritas Australia is best able to respond to humanitarian crises in the world today is through our Church network"*

**Thank you for another encouraging year. Although our sector can often be challenging, the people at the heart of Caritas Australia are agile and positive in their resolutions and actions. With current issues such as climate change and environmental disasters, and human-induced conflicts constantly making news, an agency as uplifting as Caritas Australia is absolutely vital.**

Meeting and working with so many positive, dedicated people always makes my role so much easier. Thank you to the Diocesan Directors, supporters, staff, partners, volunteers and many communities who make Caritas Australia what it is today – a vibrant and positive space.

In Pope Francis's encyclical on human ecology, *Laudato Si'*, the Pontiff identifies climate change as "one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day". He describes how the world's poorest people are bearing the most severe consequences of climate change, despite having done the least to cause it. Caritas Australia has witnessed this in many of the communities we serve around the world.

To echo his call for global solidarity and for the love of this planet, God's creation, we must respond in a positive way. As Pope Francis said, "A true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor." If we work together in solidarity, we will hear these cries and we will truly be able to listen and respond. Only in this way, as we work together for a just world, will we achieve social and climate justice for all.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference decided this year to enhance its commitment to the Church's work on Care for Our Common Home by bringing Catholic Earthcare Australia into Caritas Australia. This has led to an improved synergy in this important field of work, while ensuring that Catholic Earthcare has retained its distinct identity.

Another important factor for positive change is Australia's official aid program. It is discouraging that in the 2018-19 Budget the Australian Government cut \$141 million more from our aid budget in real terms over the next four years. This follows successive cuts to the aid program each year since the 2015-16 Budget. This move has placed our country in its most insular period of international engagement in 60 years. Caritas Australia strongly urges the Australian Government to reverse this negative trend.

But there is still reason for hope. One of the ways that Caritas Australia is best able to respond to humanitarian crises in the world today is through our Church network. Our capacity to respond to a number of emergencies is further enhanced by our membership of the CAN DO Consortium, the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations which is made up of eight Australian agencies.

As we move forward into 2019, I am reminded of Proverbs 22:2 which states, "Rich and poor have this in common: the Lord is the maker of them all". We are all members of one human family and are all precious in the eyes of God.

With peace and blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg O'Kelly SJ AM".

Bishop Greg O'Kelly SJ AM  
Chair

# From the CEO

**Paul O'Callaghan**  
Chief Executive Officer



"We draw on  
our Catholic  
Social Teaching  
principles in all  
aspects of our  
work"

**Across the world, increasingly unpredictable weather patterns, rising seas, and extreme weather events of greater frequency are making farming, fishing and everyday life far more difficult. Our Caritas Australia partners continue to show us the impact of such unpredictability on the wellbeing of their communities.**

Caritas Australia is one of 165 national Caritas agencies around the world dedicated to empowering marginalised communities to chart a positive future for themselves.

Our community partners always show great resourcefulness, resilience and initiative - and Caritas Australia's staff and volunteers feel privileged to work with them. We draw on our Catholic Social Teaching principles in all aspects of our work and this Annual Report shows how our guiding principles translate into positive change at individual and community levels.

We are most grateful for the ongoing support of so many people through their prayers and donations. This enables Caritas Australia to undertake programs overseas and to support a small number of domestic agencies led by First Australians. This year, Project Compassion raised \$11 million, which enabled much of this work to be done.

A feature of our dialogue with regional partners, Cardinals and Bishops is the negative impact which climate change is having throughout Asia, Africa and the Pacific Islands. Just one sign of these messages was in the April 2018 statement by the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania:

*"Every day our people are suffering from the negative, indeed sometimes disastrous, effects of global warming. We appeal to all people, especially in the countries of industrial strength, to hear our voices from the South. In your hands lies the power to make sustainable, responsible, economic development a political non-negotiable for voters."*

Our Caritas global network has also had to step up to the greater frequency and severity of weather events. The September monsoon season was unprecedented in its intensity: causing landslides in Nepal, and severe flooding in India and Bangladesh. Then on Christmas Eve, Cyclone Tembin affected over 800,000 people in the Philippines; while in February, Tropical Cyclone Gita devastated parts of Samoa and Tonga. Caritas Australia worked with these communities to provide urgent food, water and medical supplies, and will continue to assist with rebuilding and rehabilitation well into the future.

Protracted human conflict continues to cause displacement of people around the world. With an unprecedented 68 million people forced from their homes, among them nearly 25.4 million refugees, Pope Francis began the Caritas 'Share the Journey' campaign in September 2017. It focuses on the care and protection of refugees and migrants.

Myanmar provides another example of conflict-based displacement. Over one million Rohingya people fled to Bangladesh in 2017. Since the onset of the crisis, Caritas Australia has been working in coordination with the Bangladeshi Government and other partner organisations including Caritas Bangladesh to deliver food and medical supplies to more than 60,000 Rohingya refugees.

Being part of the Caritas family means you are enabling us to continue our vital, long-term and ongoing work.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P O'Callaghan". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Paul O'Callaghan  
Chief Executive Officer

# Principles

We must all respect, care for and share the resources of the earth, which are vital for the common good of all people. Photo: Nicole Clements/Caritas Australia

## Our work is shaped by Catholic Social Teaching. Our principles include:

### CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

We must all respect, care for and share the resources of the earth, which are vital for the common good of people. Care for animals and the environment is a common and universal duty, and ecological problems call for a change of mentality and the adoption of new lifestyles.

### PROMOTION OF PEACE

All peace requires respect for and the development of human life, which in turn involves the safeguarding of the goods, dignity and freedom of people. Peace is the fruit of justice and is dependent upon right order among human beings.

### DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

Every human being is created in the image and likeness of God and therefore has inherent dignity. No human being should have their dignity or freedom compromised. The dignity of every person, independent of ethnicity, creed, gender, sexuality, age or ability, is the foundation of Catholic Social Teaching.

### THE COMMON GOOD

Every person should have sufficient access to the goods and resources of society so they can completely and easily live fulfilling lives. The rights of the individual to personal possessions and community resources must be balanced with the needs of the disadvantaged and dispossessed. The common good is reached when we work together to improve the wellbeing of people in our society and the wider world.

### SUBSIDIARITY AND PARTICIPATION

All people have the right to participate in decisions that affect their lives. Subsidiarity requires that decisions are made by the people closest to and most affected by the issues and concerns of the community.

### SOLIDARITY

Everyone belongs to one human family, regardless of their national, religious, ethnic, economic, political and ideological differences. Everyone has an obligation to promote the rights and development of peoples across communities, nations and the world,

irrespective of national boundaries. We are called by the principle of solidarity to take the parable of the Good Samaritan to heart to "love your neighbour" (Luke 10:29-37), and to express that understanding in how we live and interact with others.

### PREFERENTIAL OPTION FOR THE POOR

Caring for the poor is everyone's responsibility. Preferential care should be shown to poor and vulnerable people, whose needs and rights are given special attention in God's eyes.

Jesus taught that God asks each of us what we are doing to help the poor and needy. "Truly, I tell you, just as you did it to one of those who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40).

### ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Economic life is not meant solely for profit, but rather in service of the entire human community. Everyone capable should be involved in economic activity and should be able to draw from work, the means for providing for themselves and their family.

[www.caritas.org.au/cst](http://www.caritas.org.au/cst)

# Care for Our Common Home

For the World Day of Prayer for the Care of All Creation – *Show Mercy to Our Common Home*, Pope Francis announced, with little fanfare, that he wished to introduce an eighth work of mercy: ‘Care for Our Common Home’.



The traditional seven works of mercy emerged from the Jewish and Christian scriptures, and are most commonly recognised as ‘The Last Judgement’ found in Matthew’s Gospel:

“... for I was hungry and you gave me food,  
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,  
I was a stranger and you welcomed me,  
I was naked and you gave me clothing,  
I was sick and you took care of me,  
I was in prison and you visited me ... ”  
(Matthew 25:35-40)

The works of mercy are both physical and spiritual, that is, they are both ‘hands on’ as we attend to specific needs, and also part of the longings of our prayer, reflection and discernment as we work to change the conditions of the social and natural world that can lead to hunger, thirst, marginalisation and exploitation in our common home.

## THE EIGHTH WORK OF MERCY

In announcing the eighth work of mercy, Pope Francis said:

“Obviously ‘human life itself and everything it embraces’ includes care of our common home ... may the works of mercy also include Care for Our Common Home.

“As a spiritual work of mercy ... a ‘grateful contemplation of God’s world’ which allows us to discover in each thing a teaching which God wishes to hand on to us.

“As a physical work of mercy, [it] requires ‘simple, daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness’ and ‘makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world’.”

## ABORIGINAL CARBON FUND

Caritas Australia has partnered with the Aboriginal Carbon Fund in a project which reflects the eighth work of mercy.

Rowan Foley, CEO of the Aboriginal Carbon Fund said, “[This partnership] works with Aboriginal rangers across Northern Australia who are reducing greenhouse gas emissions through land management techniques such

as savannah burning. Australian businesses and government agencies are offsetting their carbon footprint by supporting Aboriginal rangers to carry out this work”.

As we accompany First Australians in this program we are attentive to the words of Pope Francis from *Laudato Si’* #146:

“... it is essential to show special care for Indigenous communities and their cultural traditions ... For them land is not a commodity but rather a gift from God and from their ancestors who rest there, a sacred space with which they need to interact if they are to maintain their identity and values.”

It can help to remember that as we walk together with care that is heartfelt in this our ‘home’, which is “the inseparable vessel of our journey”, we are simply members of one human family.

Abundant Blessings,

Anne McGuire RSM  
Head of Mission

*\*Anna F Rowlands and Robert E Czerny, Thinking Faith, The Eight Works of Mercy, 19 February 2018*

“A long term mission of the Aboriginal Carbon Fund is for Australian Catholic Schools to be carbon neutral by 2025”

ROWAN FOLEY, CEO,  
ABORIGINAL CARBON FUND

# Thank You

Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia and putting compassion into action. Your generosity helps us change lives.

*"We are very proud of him. It can show to other people in other countries that deaf people with a disability can do anything"*

SOKLY, DEAF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM  
CO-DIRECTOR, MARYKNOLL CAMBODIA

As a child, Rattanak contracted polio and became deaf. Living in poverty and without assistance, he faced a life of isolation. Thanks to Project Compassion and Maryknoll Cambodia's Deaf Development Program, he now runs a successful barber shop. Find out more about Rattanak's story at [www.caritas.org.au/rattanak](http://www.caritas.org.au/rattanak)

Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia



# Fundraising Spotlight

IN 2017-18:



**\$28.75** million raised by over **35,000** Caritas Australia supporters



**1,100** parishes and **1,300** schools helped to raise **\$10.79 million** through Project Compassion

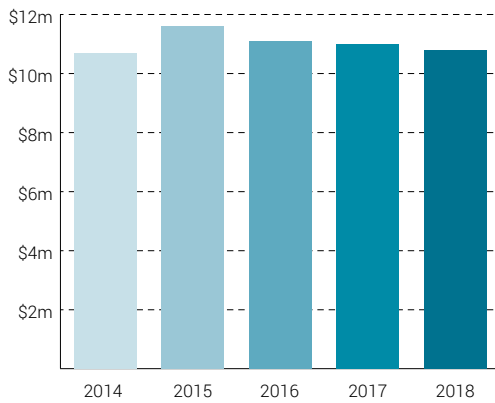


**506** Women for the World participants raised over **\$138,000** for our worldwide programs



**\$1.2** million raised for the Africa Food Crisis Appeal to help communities in need

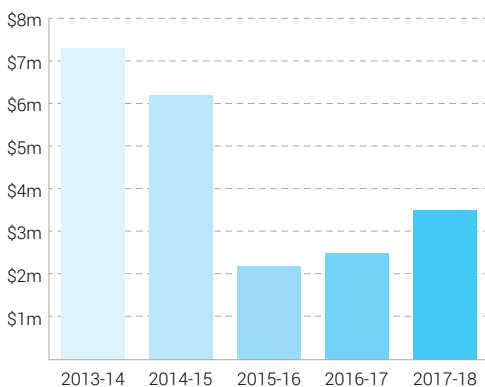
## PROJECT COMPASSION



## FUNDRAISING INCOME 2014-2018

	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018
Bequests	\$2.82m	\$2.32m	\$4.06m	\$2.27m	\$5.43m
Emergencies	\$7.33m	\$6.22m	\$2.28m	\$2.54m	\$3.51m
General Donations	\$2.39m	\$1.26m	\$1m	\$1.08m	\$1.25m
Direct Marketing Appeals	\$2.65m	\$3.27m	\$3.27m	\$2m	\$2.06m
Philanthropy	\$1.36m	\$1.79m	\$1.23m	\$1.81m	\$1.88m
Regular Giving	\$3.12m	\$3.58m	\$3.86m	\$3.86m	\$3.63m
Project Compassion	\$10.67m	\$11.47m	\$11.07m	\$11m	\$10.79m
Events	\$0.17m	\$0.22m	\$0.23m	\$0.16m	\$0.20m
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$30.51m</b>	<b>\$30.13m</b>	<b>\$27m</b>	<b>\$24.72m</b>	<b>\$28.75m</b>

## EMERGENCY RELIEF AND APPEALS



See pages 8 and 9 for a more comprehensive financial snapshot



Coming together in support at the Women for the World gala luncheon in Sydney. See [www.womenfortheworld.org.au](http://www.womenfortheworld.org.au) for more. Photo: Peter Brennan

# Financial Snapshot

**Caritas Australia ended the 2017-18 Financial Year with a strong operational result, posting a surplus of \$4.45 million. This figure was due to the generosity of our donors and a large bequest, prudent stewardship and governance of our resources.**

**Over \$23.86 million was spent on international and First Australian programs, including humanitarian assistance.**

In 2015 and 2016, El Nino caused widespread drought and frost across Papua New Guinea. Caritas Australia continues to support communities to re-establish food and water security and build resilience for future extreme weather events. Photo: Mark Mitchell/Caritas



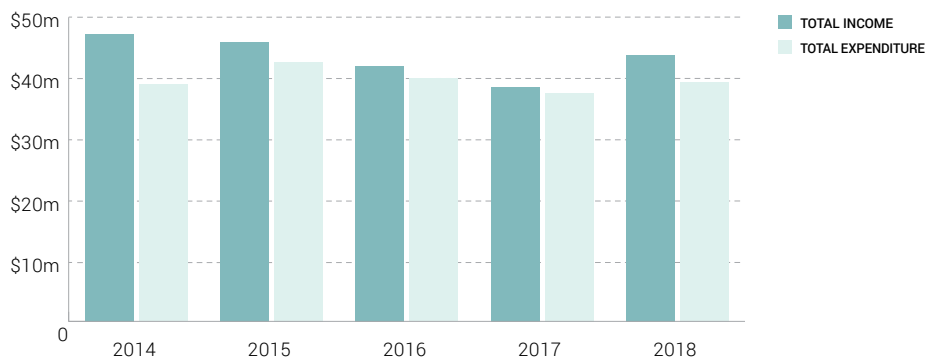
## FINANCIAL RESULTS

The full year results report total income at \$43.81 million and expenditure at \$39.36 million, creating a favorable net position of \$4.45 million. The result is mainly driven by the receipt of a large unplanned bequest, community support including response to the emergency appeals, delays with program implementation, and a reduction in overall employee and administration-related costs in line with our expenditure management strategy. Surplus funds are reinvested in future development programs and investments to mitigate future funding risks.

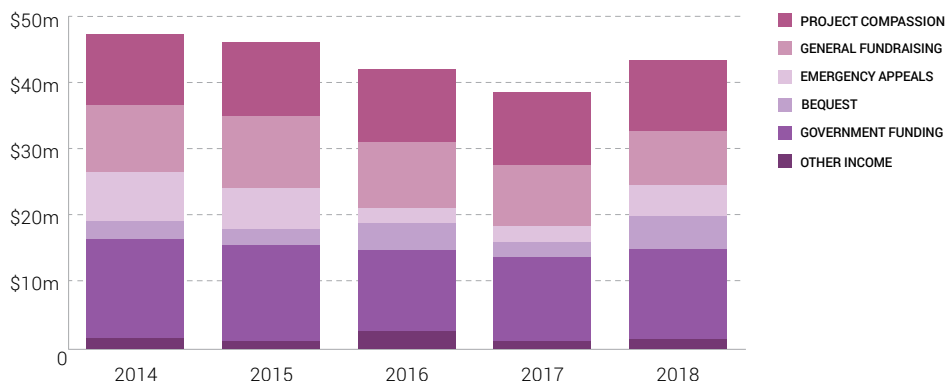
The ongoing loyalty and generosity of our donor community has enabled us to achieve a favourable result.

Total income for the year is \$43.81 million. Community fundraising and bequests were the major driver representing 66% of the total income; recurrent and one-off government grants contributing 31% and 3% from other income (bank interest, dividends and restatement of foreign exchange).

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



### Income Stream (\$'m)





## ORGANISATIONAL STRENGTH AND SUPPORT

In October 2017, the National Council endorsed the Caritas 2020+ project. The primary focus is to secure our longer-term financial sustainability and continue to deliver greater social impact for the communities that we serve. The five project streams are geared to create a streamlined, agile, innovative and sustainable operating model to position Caritas Australia well into the future. We have already started to realise very positive dividends, and this is expected to continue over the next three financial years.

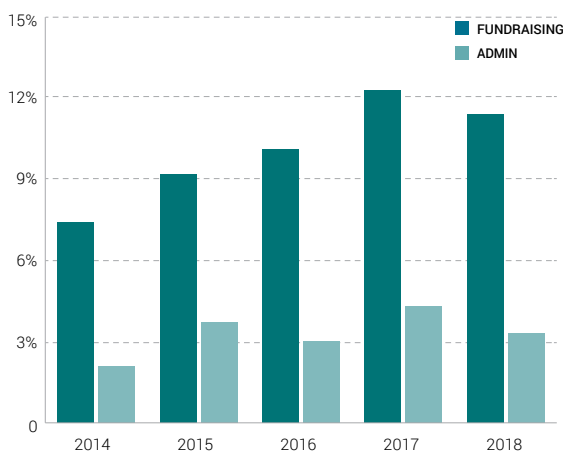
Our National Council and Leadership Team is committed to maintaining the administration ratio (as % of total income) to within 10% where possible. This allows us to maximise the social impact on every donor dollar.

We continuously review our back office systems, processes and structures to streamline, automate and create efficiencies to reduce overall support costs. The recent introduction of our new Customer-Donor Relationship Management system has enabled the organisation to create additional efficiencies through automation and to improve the effectiveness and return on our fundraising activities.

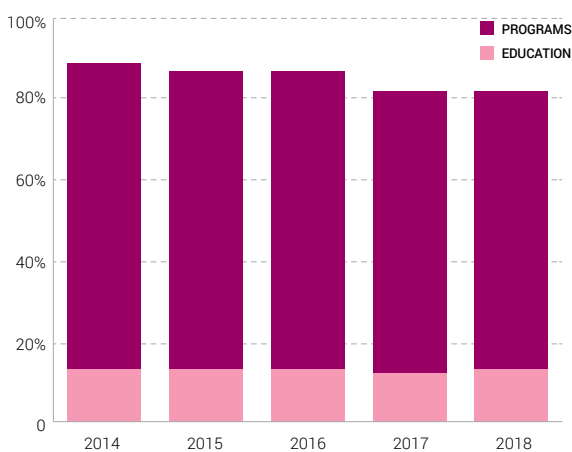
Expenditure on overseas and domestic aid and development programs, and community education programs have remained close to 90% over the years.

The slight reduction over the past two years is due to delays associated with local government approval, local partner capacity, and compliance reporting. In these circumstances, funds are carried forward to 2018-19.

**Administration/Fundraising Ratio (%)**



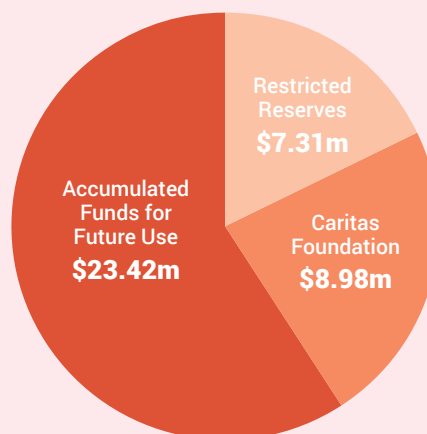
**Total Expenditure - Programs and Education (%)**



## EQUITY

Unrestricted reserves (funds which have no conditions attached) are used to fund expenditure in the first six months due to the receipt of income from our core fundraising activities falling later in the year. Unspent government grants and income from special appeals make the committed and specific purpose reserved – its use is restricted for the purpose it was given.

The Caritas Foundation is for the purpose of long-term organisational sustainability.



*"The ongoing loyalty and generosity of our donor community has enabled us to achieve a favourable result"*

**Our Full Financial Report 2017-18 is available to read at [www.caritas.org.au/annualreport](http://www.caritas.org.au/annualreport)**

# Being Prepared



On 26 February 2018, a magnitude 7.5 earthquake impacted the Southern Highlands and Hela Provinces of Papua New Guinea (PNG). An estimated 544,000 people were affected with 270,442 people in urgent need of assistance.

In response to the earthquake, Caritas Australia was nominated as the lead agency in PNG for the Church Agency Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO) to coordinate the agencies responding to the crisis. Together with other CAN DO agencies and our PNG Church partners, we are helping to restore shelter, access to water and sanitation, conflict resolution and psychosocial support in conflict-affected communities. It is anticipated that by 2019, PNG Church partners will assist almost 60,000 people across 40 of the most affected communities.

This was just one disaster. Throughout the past 12 months, our agency responded to five disasters in four Pacific countries. In order to further enhance the resilience of the most vulnerable communities to climate change and disasters, in 2017 we developed a resilience framework, which aligns with international best practice.

*This program was supported by the Australian Government Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP), the Church Partnership Program and the New Zealand Government*



Photo: Milton Kwaipo/Caritas Australia

**“I never thought I can grow rice here on my land but it’s a dream come true now”**

## Rita's Story

In 2014-15, PNG experienced severe weather conditions such as frost, drought, water shortages and fires. The people in the highlands suffered widespread crop failure, limited access to food and clean water, and lack of regular employment.

At the time, Caritas Australia and other agencies assisted with food and water relief. Since then, we have re-established water security and livelihoods for 25 vulnerable communities (57,205 people) in the most drought-affected districts across four dioceses.

In the past Rita, a subsistence farmer, bought food produce from the local shop. But after expressing interest in growing her own, she participated in sustainable farming training and planted drought-resistant rice seedlings. Part of a pilot program, we hoped that this would be successful enough to replicate for many other communities.

In her first harvest, Rita sold six bags of rice for PGK 1800 (AUD \$900). Quickly she became a role model for women planting rice in the community and very eagerly shared her new-found knowledge with her community, soon establishing a network of 20 women and youth rice farmers.

“The drought resilient rice is sweet and nutritious, and tastier than the rice in store. I can now save money to buy other things that my family can benefit from.”

Rita demonstrated that rice can be successfully and sustainably planted, harvested, milled and consumed in the area. It has now become a viable economic commodity and the community sells their rice to purchase piglets, electricity and other household necessities. The addition of pigs has enabled the community to continue diversifying their livelihoods.

Thanks to Rita, her community has an increased understanding of agriculture, enhanced food and water security, more resilience in times of disasters, and an increase in the recognition of women in the community.

**Watch a video at [www.bit.ly/PNG-EI-Nino](http://www.bit.ly/PNG-EI-Nino)**

*This program was supported by the Australian Government, the Church Partnership Program and the New Zealand Government in 2017-18*

*“Three or four years ago no one bothered about being disaster prepared. But after the drought, and more recent earthquake, everyone now knows the importance of being disaster prepared”*

**MILTON KWAIPO, DISASTER RESPONSE COORDINATOR, CARITAS AUSTRALIA (PNG)**



AUSTRALIA

# Empowering Communities



In Cape York (left to right): Carl O'Sullivan, Caritas Australia; Edwin Ling, Mapoon Ranger; Murray Liddle, Centre for Appropriate Technologies; Lauren Bowyer, Aboriginal Carbon Fund; Rowan Foley, CEO, Aboriginal Carbon Fund. Photo: Lisa McMurray/ Caritas Australia

A traditional owner from *Yuku Baja Muliku* in the Cape York region, and an Indigenous ranger with a certification in conservation and land management, Lauren manages community development and marketing for Aboriginal Carbon Fund (AbCF).

A Caritas Australia partner, this Indigenous owned and run non-profit organisation, which honours Aboriginal traditional knowledge and is building wealth in remote Aboriginal communities, works to reduce the amount of carbon in the atmosphere and assists in preventing large wildfires.

This ancient practice has seen traditional owners actively manage the land for tens of thousands of years by making small fires in winter thereby preventing summer wildfires. In 2017-18, Caritas Australia worked with AbCF to implement an Indigenous to Indigenous verification approach, empowering local rangers to verify each other's projects.



Lauren with her Aunt Roslyn Serico's painting *Traditional Burning* © at her family's art gallery, Kuku Bulkaway Indigenous Art Gallery in Cooktown, Queensland. Photo: Irene Bowyer

**“Our aim is to be the forerunner in the carbon industry, the industry peak body”**

## Lauren's Story

“This role really entails what I'm passionate about – empowering Indigenous communities to become economically independent, sustainably developed and proud of their culture.

“All traditional owners across the top of Australia have a different reason for the importance of burning country, but the one thing all Aboriginal people have in common is that we've been managing country the right way. Burning country is nothing new, it's something we've been doing forever.

“And the government is finally starting to sit up and take notice that traditional management of country through burning is not only important, it's the only thing that's going to really nourish the land.

“By working closely with and assisting communities within the area, Aboriginal Carbon Fund (AbCF) is also ensuring intergenerational wealth and wellbeing, as the funds benefit whole communities. Traditional owners are more than capable to implement their own carbon project with their own governance, policies, lore and laws. The key principle of the Indigenous to Indigenous verification strategy is that the community and the rangers are building ownership and capacity development of the verification process. It's really putting that ownership back in their hands, rather than having somebody from outside tell them how things ought to be run.

“And this concept is generating interest all over the world. We have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the First Nations people from British Columbia and New Zealand. This is exciting as it means we can share and grow knowledge on an international level with developments such as the Maori Carbon Foundation.

“In January this year, I was diagnosed with cancer, but every day I am inspired by a great team of people who are leaders in their fields. I have a lot of learning to do but I feel that I am among the right people to build the career that I aspire to.”

[www.caritas.org.au/acf](http://www.caritas.org.au/acf)

*From October 2018, Aboriginal Carbon Fund will be known as Aboriginal Carbon Foundation*

# Our Year

Christian, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist and Quaker supporters of the Community Climate Petition gathered in Canberra to urge our political leaders to make a faster transition to a clean energy future. Photo: Daniel Nour/Caritas Australia



This year, our media analysis showed that the newsworthy topics that generated the most interest were 'climate change', 'refugees' and 'women'. Here is a snapshot of 2017-18 as we continue to work together for a just world.



Over 31,000 people joined the largest multi-electorate climate petition in Australia's history and presented petitions to 41 Australian MPs



6.7 million people in Somalia are in need of humanitarian assistance. Caritas continues to provide urgent food and water

Source: United Nations



Women make up approximately 50% of the world's poor. Our programs assist in promoting the equality and empowerment of women

Source: United Nations Women



## COMMUNITY CLIMATE PETITION

In an inspiring example of the power of 'ordinary' people working together for justice, last year tens of thousands of people joined the largest multi-electorate climate petition in Australia's history.

Through a 'Community Climate Petition' campaign supported by Caritas Australia and other faith groups, over 200 dedicated volunteers across Australia collected 'paper and pen' signatures within their federal electorate.

The petition called on MPs to support deeper reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, a faster transition to a clean energy future and more support for our poorest neighbours who are most affected by climate change.

**Petitioners raised an incredible 31,000 signatures in 110 electorates around the country. They met with 41 MPs to present the petitions, and 17 MPs made supportive speeches in Parliament.**

On 6 September 2017, representatives from Christian, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist and Quaker communities met politicians on the lawns of Parliament House in Canberra to convey this call for stronger climate action.

[www.bit.ly/action4climate](http://www.bit.ly/action4climate)

## VOICES FROM THE PACIFIC

In November 2017, Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, with contributions from our agency, published the *Caritas State of the Environment for Oceania 2017* report. Through the voices of people across the Pacific, the report shows how rising sea levels, food and water shortages and extreme weather events are wreaking havoc on people's lives.

**Our report ambassador, Erietera Aram, visited Australia to talk to politicians, the media and the public about how climate change is affecting the people of his home country, Kiribati. He then attended the UN climate summit in Germany to ensure his people are given a voice in determining future climate policy.**

Erietera and Caritas Australia are calling on the Australian Government to play a much stronger role in the global move to a clean energy future, including a commitment to no new coal mines.

[www.caritas.org.au/oceania-report](http://www.caritas.org.au/oceania-report)

## CAN DO (CHURCH AGENCIES NETWORK DISASTER OPERATIONS)

Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO) is a consortium of eight Australian based humanitarian church agencies that exists to build the resilience of communities, to strengthen the capacity of partners, and to enhance agencies' effectiveness in responding to disasters, especially in the Pacific.

"Cultivate with love the seeds of goodness, beauty and truth that God sows in every new generation"

POPE FRANCIS

A success of the consortium is that \$3.45m in funding has come to CAN DO from the Australian Humanitarian Partnership for the 2017-18 financial year.

[www.bit.ly/2PZkpr8](http://www.bit.ly/2PZkpr8)

## WOMEN FOR THE WORLD

On 10 May 2018, over 100 women gathered in Canberra for one of the annual Women for the World luncheons. Hosted by former ABC journalist and author Genevieve Jacobs, this year the focus was on raising awareness of the plight of refugees, particularly women and children.

In 1989, organiser, Lulu Mitshabu, was forced to flee the Democratic Republic of Congo. Today she works as Caritas Australia's Canberra-based Community Participation Leader and in the International Programs Team, on programs that improve women's lives.

**"Never before has there been a greater need to provide food, water and shelter to people fleeing famine, persecution and war," said Lulu.**

[www.womenfortheworld.org.au](http://www.womenfortheworld.org.au)

## #SHARETHEJOURNEY

In June 2018, our agency joined Pope Francis' call to #sharethejourney to promote the rights and the protection of refugees and migrants.

The Global Week of Action coincided with the annual Refugee Week celebrations in Australia and asked people to speak with a refugee or migrant to learn more about their experiences.

**"We invite you to sit down together with migrants and refugees living in your community, to listen to their stories and to share your own," said Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, President of Caritas Internationalis.**

[www.caritas.org.au/sharejourney](http://www.caritas.org.au/sharejourney)

## AFRICA EMERGENCY APPEAL

23 million people were on the brink of famine in South Sudan and other areas of Africa and Yemen. As a result, in 2017 we launched the Africa Emergency Appeal.

Donations have been helping Caritas Australia deliver life-saving food and water to countries most in need including South Sudan, Kenya, Malawi, Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia.

**In South Sudan** women and children are most at risk, where one million children are acutely malnourished, and 270,000 children are at imminent risk of death.

**In Somalia** the crisis has escalated over recent months, with 6.7 million people now in need of humanitarian assistance.

**This crisis may be the worst food crisis globally since the Ethiopian famine of 1984.**

[www.caritas.org.au/africa](http://www.caritas.org.au/africa)

Find out more about Caritas Australia's work throughout the year at [www.caritas.org.au/media](http://www.caritas.org.au/media)

# Where We Work

Thanks to your generous support, in 2017-18 Caritas Australia reached over 1.85 million people worldwide, including Australia. Through 101 partnerships, we supported 88 long-term programs in 27 countries. We assisted people affected by disaster or conflict in 22 countries. Read more at [www.caritas.org.au/where-we-work](http://www.caritas.org.au/where-we-work)

Development Program Countries  
Humanitarian Emergency Countries

## GLOBAL STAFF



149

Staff worldwide



8

Countries

**Offices in:** Australia, Timor-Leste, Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Kenya, Indonesia and Myanmar

## PROGRAMS AND EMERGENCIES EXPENDITURE

2017-18: \$23.86m  
2016-17: \$22.41m  
2015-16: \$24.88m  
2014-15: \$26.84m  
2013-14: \$25.47m

## HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES (HEG)



1,456,691

People reached during an emergency (includes disaster risk reduction, management and preparedness)



31

Emergency responses



\$7.53m

Spent

**Countries where we worked:** Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Nepal, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Peru, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tonga, Vanuatu and Venezuela

## LATIN AMERICA



4

Programs



12,695

People we worked with



\$0.44m

Spent

**Countries where we worked:** Brazil and Peru

## AFRICA



16

Programs



65,689

People we worked with



\$3.72m

Spent

**Countries where we worked:** Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe



## OUR DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

Grounded in the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, Integral Human Development promotes the dignity of the human person, equality among all people and the common good of the whole community.

[www.caritas.org.au/ihd](http://www.caritas.org.au/ihd)

## ASIA



42  
Programs



275,660  
People we  
worked with



\$8.29m  
Spent

**Countries where we worked:** Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and Vietnam



## AUSTRALIA



10  
Programs



20,214  
People we  
worked with



\$1.41m  
Spent

## PACIFIC



16  
Programs



21,247  
People we  
worked with



\$2.48m  
Spent

**Countries where we worked:** Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Samoa and Kiribati



The Caritas network is helping Rohingya children find a sense of community in Bangladeshi settlements. Photo: Christopher Riechert (CRS)/Caritas

## Our Programs

**This year, we spent \$16.33m on long-term development programs and \$7.53m on humanitarian emergency assistance. A total of \$23.86m was spent worldwide.**

Caritas Australia and our local partners further consolidated programs throughout the year, building on the strengths and capacities of poor and marginalised women, men and children. As we brought some engagements to a close, we channelled resources into priority countries and programs.

In our development programs we concentrated on three main areas of activity:

- **Fostering sustainable** ways for communities to produce food and generate income
- **Taking actions** to reduce the risks of future disasters
- **Protecting those** most vulnerable, especially children, women survivors of violence, and people living with a disability.

A trend of ongoing government funding reductions, increased emergencies and reduced community donations has meant our agency must become even more sustainable and agile.

In responding to emergencies, we concentrated our resources where we could make the most difference; where there was a strong partner presence in affected areas.

Other challenges included the effects of climate change, which puts already vulnerable communities at greater risk, conflicts that force people from their homes and land, and weather-related disasters that claimed lives and livelihoods.

### EVALUATIONS

To ensure our long-term programs are robust and deliver sustainable change for whole communities, while reflecting our values and principles of transparency, Caritas Australia regularly undertakes program evaluations. These are used to report how funds have been spent, to communicate these results with our donors and to adapt future program strategies.

For example, in Bangladesh we found that our partner's work with pregnant women was not having significant results in terms of family care for the mother and child. We then added motivational talks with the husbands, and this resulted in much better care in the home.

We also conducted a long-term impact study in Tanzania to determine the success of water, sanitation and livelihood initiatives that were supported by Caritas Australia between 2002 and 2008. The communities told us that access to local fresh water changed lives in many ways.

They now have time, for example, to spend growing produce, looking after their livestock and earning an income.

As well, they reported improvements in community health, nutrition, sanitation and access to education (as their children no longer need to collect water).

This year, we evaluated 9 programs in 6 countries:

- **Nepal:** Children and Youth Empowerment Program
- **Nepal:** Earthquake Recovery Phase
- **Democratic Republic of Congo:** CAFOD Livelihoods Project
- **Zimbabwe:** Hwange Integrated Community Development
- **Cambodia:** Maryknoll Seedling of Hope Youth
- **Cambodia:** Maryknoll Seedling of Hope Adults
- **Indonesia:** Integrated Village Development in East Nusa Tenggara

We conducted mid-term reviews for:

- **Timor-Leste:** Sustainable livelihoods and Disaster Risk Reduction
- **Timor-Leste:** Protection Program

*3,109 pregnant and lactating mothers reported that after the motivational talks from village and rural midwives, they received better care from their husbands*

Beauty (far right) enjoys fresh produce from the community garden.  
Photo: Nicole Clements/ Caritas Australia

## ZIMBABWE

# Our Community Garden



Caritas Australia has worked in Zimbabwe for many years. Three years ago, we began working with Caritas Gweru on a new local community project. When we asked the community what assets they had, they said they had land and wanted to start a community garden. They continued by saying they wanted to be able to feed their children, have easy access to water so they didn't have to spend hours collecting it everyday, and earn an income so they could send their children to school.

In 2015, a group of 26 women became members of the Kuzviriritira Garden community. They were trained in conservation farming techniques, so they could plant drought resistant crops and have food all year round. They were also trained in environmental issues and adapting to climate change, so they were aware of which crops to plant during which season.

The group studied and then worked tirelessly to fence their new plot and plant their seeds. In order to have access to fresh water, Caritas Australia provided extra funds for two water tanks and taps, a solar power pump and connected panels which the women installed. The group has since increased to 34 people (24 women and 10 men).

Sixteen members of the community (11 women and 5 men) then took part in Caritas Gweru's savings and lending scheme training. Every month each member contributes AUD \$10 from the sale of their vegetables. The income is used to purchase groceries in bulk such as oil, sugar, rice and flour which is then evenly distributed among the group.

**"I feel empowered and have a belief in myself that I never had before"**

## Beauty's Story

Beauty, 45, is secretary of the savings and lending scheme group. Married with four children aged 13 to 23, she has been a member of the Kuzviriritira Garden community since it began in 2015. Before this time, Beauty struggled to make ends meet. "I didn't have enough food to feed my children and my husband was not working."

Through growing and selling her produce such as tomatoes, onions and spinach, Beauty can now pay school fees and buy extra food for her family. She has recently bought blankets, pots, plates and new kitchen utensils.

"I am thrilled that I now don't need to ask my husband for money. It is he who is asking me for money. I feel empowered and have a belief in myself that I never had before. I am so grateful to Caritas Gweru for getting me started and including me in this project. I also want to thank the people of Australia for helping my family."

[www.caritas.org.au/zimbabwe](http://www.caritas.org.au/zimbabwe)

*26 women were trained in conservation farming techniques, environmental issues and adapting to climate change*



The word Kuzviriritira means self-sustaining, so it was a natural fit when naming the garden that benefits so many local people



Caritas Australia's Community Engagement team and Diocesan Directors at the 2018 Community Engagement Conference in Kincumber NSW. Photo: Nicole Clements/Caritas Australia

# Our Diocesan Network

**Our Community Participation Leaders, network of Diocesan Directors, committees and volunteers across the country are essential to Caritas Australia. Mostly volunteers, they regularly engage with the local Diocesan parishes, schools, Catholic networks and the broader Australian community.**

**In 2017-18 our Community Participation Leaders and Diocesan Directors were:**

## NATIONAL

Maronite Eparchy Secretary General: **Rev Fr Tony Sarkis**

Diocesan Director, Ukrainian Eparchy of Australia: **Very Rev Archbishop Michael Kalka**

Group Coordinator, Community Participation Leader Northern Region/ Qld; Diocesan Director, Archdiocese of Brisbane: **Lynda Mussell**

Community Participation Leader Southern Region/SA; Diocesan Director, Archdiocese of Adelaide: **Angela Hart**

Community Participation Leader Southern Region/Victoria; Diocesan Director, Archdiocese of Melbourne Deacon: **Jim Curtain**

Community Participation Leader Eastern Region/NSW; Diocesan Director, Archdiocese of Sydney – **vacant**

Community Participation Leader ACT/Canberra, Goulburn and Wagga Wagga; Diocesan Director, Archdiocese of Canberra/Goulburn: **Lulu Mitshabu**

Community Participation Leader Western Region/WA & NT; Diocesan Director, Archdiocese of Perth: **Rev Deacon Paul Reid**

## NEW SOUTH WALES

Diocesan Director, Armidale: **Naomi D'Arcy**

Diocesan Director, Bathurst: **Carmen Beard**

Diocesan Director, Broken Bay: **Cristina Gomez**

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

Maitland-Newcastle Team: Diocesan link **Theresa Brierley**; Parish Liaison **Patricia Bannister, Gayle Williams**

Diocesan Director, Parramatta: **Sr Louise McKeogh**

Diocesan Director, Wagga Wagga – **vacant**

Diocesan Director, Wilcannia-Forbes: **Kate Englebrecht**

Diocesan Director, Wollongong: **Monica Ward-McCann**

## VICTORIA

Diocesan Director, Ballarat: **Susan Searls**

Diocesan Director, Sale – **vacant**

Diocesan Director, Sandhurst: **Fr Rom Hayes**

Diocesan Coordinator, Sandhurst: **Kerry Stone**

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Diocesan Director, Broome: **Fr Christopher Knapman**

Diocesan Director, Bunbury: **Peter Williams**

Diocesan Director, Geraldton: **Rosemary Taylor**

## QUEENSLAND

Diocesan Director, Cairns: **Paul O'Connor**  
Diocesan Director, Rockhampton – **vacant**

Diocesan Director, Toowoomba: **Catherine McAleer**

Diocesan Director, Townsville – **vacant**

## NORTHERN TERRITORY

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

## TASMANIA

Diocesan Director, Hobart: **Fr Deva Dusi**

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Diocesan Director, Port Pirie: **Fr Paul Bourke**

Caritas Australia Community Engagement Manager: **Fr George Sigamoney**

[www.caritas.org.au/contact-us](http://www.caritas.org.au/contact-us)

# In our Own Words

This year we said goodbye to Joseph Foley and hello to Monica Ward-McCann.

## JOSEPH FOLEY

**ROLE:** Group Coordinator, Community Participation Leader Northern Region/Qld; Diocesan Director, Archdiocese of Brisbane (November 2012 to January 2018)

### MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT:

visiting Nepal, as it provided me with an insight into the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. I remember arriving at an isolated village in the Himalayas and marvelling at how funds that we'd raised were helping this community draw on their strengths and create a stronger, more vibrant future.

**CATHOLIC COMMUNITY:** I was always impressed by the generosity of the parishes, schools and individuals. Each time an appeal was initiated, they supported us without hesitation.

**BIGGEST CHALLENGE:** keeping the vital work of Caritas in the forefront of people's minds. I believe the challenge of the future will be ensuring the stories are shared in an inclusive way while maintaining community and individual dignity.

**IMPORTANT QUOTE:** "The strength of a community might well reside in our ability to stand in awe at what people have to carry rather than in judgement at how they carry it" – Gregory Boyle

**I WILL MISS:** without a doubt, the people who work for Caritas Australia.

**MY NEXT CHAPTER:** In January, to discern a call to religious life, I will be entering the Jesuit Novitiate in Sydney for six months.



## MONICA WARD-MCCANN

**ROLE:** Diocesan Director, Wollongong NSW (started January 2018)

**AS A YOUNG CHILD:** every year during Lent, our Project Compassion box would sit in our kitchen. I remember looking at the faces, their surroundings and the work they were doing and thinking how different their lives were to mine.

**I HAVE AN:** undergraduate Arts degree with studies in Environment Management, Community Development, Social Ecology and Human Ecology; I am also a teacher with postgraduate qualifications in Religious Education and Theology.

**I AM AN:** advocate for social justice and social change. I know that the work of Caritas brings hope and peace to so many people and that inspires me.

**SINCE MY ROLE BEGAN:** I have enjoyed visiting schools and parishes and meeting other social justice advocates along the way, including those with Caritas Australia.

**I LOOK FORWARD TO:** hearing more about the programs and work of Caritas Australia and the stories of our faces of Project Compassion.

**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** "Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy." Proverbs 31:9. I am also inspired by Pope Francis' Laudato Si'.



Caritas Global Village volunteers, Holly Roberts and Lachlan Brennan.  
Photo: Daniel Nour/Caritas Australia

## OPEN NEW HORIZONS FOR SPREADING JOY

The 2017 Australian Catholic Youth Festival brought together young people from across the country. For three days Sydney Olympic Park played host to this event which was established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and which takes place every two years.

In 2017, Caritas Australia held an engaging and vibrant exhibit which was a hit with thousands of festival-goers. 'Caritas Global Village' offered workshops based on the experiences of Project Compassion 2018 feature persons, Janaki and Rattanak, online quizzes and water challenges, virtual reality opportunities, and talks from Indigenous Elders and Caritas Australia partners Uncle Tom Powell and Uncle Richard Campbell.

Staff and volunteers said they felt the young people were authentically connected with our work.

*"Young people should care because Caritas is different. It promotes the development of communities, so they can work on their own futures and be empowered to make change themselves"*

Holly

*"The hashtag #wearecaritas is a message of unity and solidarity"*

Lachlan

#wearecaritas



NEPAL

## A Fruitful Harvest



Anusha (middle) harvesting cabbage with her friends.  
Photo: Caritas Nepal

A first-year Bachelor of Agriculture student and participant of the Student Farmer Field School at the College of Natural Resources in Nepal, Anusha, 19, has learnt a new way to grow food and is excited about the future of farming.

Last year, the Student Farmer Field School, an initiative of Caritas Nepal and Caritas Australia, engaged 50 students (24 female, 26 male) as part of the Integrated Pest Management program. During the 22-week course they learnt to grow and sell organic cabbage, cauliflower, potatoes, beans and garlic, making NPR 30,000 (AUD \$369) for their school.

This successful program, which has been running since 2005 and is implemented in 28 Districts of Nepal, uses local organic materials and techniques that promote the preservation of insects and other organisms that are beneficial to production, and control those that harm crops.

*"I'm very glad that my daughter received such a beautiful opportunity to participate in training ... I also got the chance to learn from her"*

PUSHPARAJ LAMICHANE

**"I feel this program is very effective for agricultural students. I am very thankful to Caritas Nepal and the facilitators"**

### Anusha's Story

"Before the training, we were ignorant regarding the use of local resources. We always preferred to buy chemicals, rather than make organic pesticide. I never realised the negative effects of pesticide to human health and the environment, and I never did the calculations and comparisons of cultivation costs in chemical intensive farming systems.

"[Since completing the training] my technical knowledge and leadership capacity has increased. I feel this program is very effective for agricultural students. I am very thankful to Caritas Nepal and the facilitators."

As Anusha still lives at home, her father, Pushparaj Lamichane, a small farmer, also spoke with Caritas Australia partner, Caritas Nepal.

"Before the training, Anusha was not able to teach us about vegetable cultivation practices. We used pesticides to control pests. Immediately after the start of her training, she discouraged us from using pesticides.

"Anusha told us about techniques to control pests and how to engage in organic farming to get higher production. She taught us about the use of locally available materials to make compost and liquid manure for fertilisers. This really controls pests, and the soil becomes more productive by using natural materials. This also helps us to carry out organic farming which is beneficial for our health too.

"I'm very glad that my daughter received such a beautiful opportunity to participate in the training. This not only widened her knowledge, but she has also become capable of sharing her ideas with others and to society, hoping this will change the system of agriculture in our village toward organic farming. I also got the chance to learn from her.

"Now our vegetable production is higher. I have grown beans, tomato, cucumber and spinach using the techniques she taught me.

"I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Caritas for providing Anusha such a good opportunity and hope she gets more opportunities to develop in this field."

[www.caritas.org.au/nepal-ipm](http://www.caritas.org.au/nepal-ipm)

*This program is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP)*

# Working through the Drought



Since 2015, to assist communities affected by conflict and drought, sister agencies of Caritas Australia and members of Caritas Internationalis, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development in England and Wales (CAFOD) and Trócaire (Ireland) have been working together in South Sudan as CTP (CAFOD and Trocaire in Partnership).

By working together on the ground alongside the South Sudanese local partners, our network has supported the local women, men and children in a number of different ways. Caritas South Sudan is assisting with peacebuilding efforts; recently holding a three-day peacebuilding and conflict resolution course which was attended by 76 local villagers (39% female). While local partner, Caritas Diocese of Rumbek is helping to deliver much-needed provisions such as emergency food (beans, sugar, salt, cooking oil and maize flour), seeds (including maize, onion and kale), farming tools and watering cans, clean water, sanitation, cholera prevention campaigns and hygiene supplies.

An important aspect of emergency humanitarian assistance is access to fresh clean water. For this reason, CTP and Caritas Australia have funded the restoration of water borehole and hand pumps in the area. Committee members are then trained to ensure the equipment is properly used and maintained.

As women are responsible for water collection in most rural households, the majority of committee members are women. Villagers have reported that the restored boreholes have reduced thirst and waterborne diseases in the community, and it means women don't have to travel far for water.



The Caritas network is working widely throughout South Sudan to restore livelihoods in the aftermath of terrible drought. Photo: Caritas/©CTP 2018

**“My responsibilities include supervising the group members, disseminating information and taking a lead on productivity issues”**

## Rebecca's Story

For three days each week, a group of women come together to work on their communal farm. CTP and the Caritas Diocese of Rumbek have worked with this group by providing seeds and tools to enable them to produce food for consumption and to provide an income. “We have planted tomatoes, maize, onion, okra and other seeds,” says Rebecca.

Rebecca is the leader of this group. “My responsibilities include supervising the group members, disseminating information and taking a lead on productivity issues. We have received training how to plant the different crops. The Caritas Diocese of Rumbek staff have worked with us to develop plans for the farm, such as an activity timetable.

“This project has enabled our group to grow and sell produce, which has enabled us to pay for a fence that protects our crops from animals. We also grow vegetables at our homes which provides our households with some income.”

Rebecca continues to describe how the group operates. “The group looks after members, providing food for anyone who needs it, and paying medical fees if any one falls sick, so they don't have to struggle alone. In the future we hope to expand the farm, develop the fencing and buy oxen so we can plough more land.”

Rebecca has a message for supporters: “I thank you so much, to donors, CTP and Caritas, for the seeds. I want to extend my appreciation and thanks. Without this help, we cannot do these things.”

[www.caritas.org.au/south-sudan](http://www.caritas.org.au/south-sudan)



The restored boreholes have reduced thirst and waterborne diseases in the community

# Your Support

Support for Caritas Australia comes in many forms – from individuals, schools, parishes, community groups and businesses.

## BEQUESTS

In 2017-18 we received \$5.43 million from 54 separate bequests. Thank you for leaving an enduring legacy of love to the world's poor. While there are some benefactors who wish to remain anonymous, please let us extend our dearest thanks to all.

William Wallace Appleton  
Francis Patrick Brady  
John Patrick Brandenburg  
Eric John Connolly  
Maureen Veronica Ellis  
Ronald Walter Burdett Harden  
Alphonsus Philip Mariot  
Maree Josepha McCann  
Martin Richard Morris  
Graham Hampden Murphy  
Sr Marie Antonietta Russo  
EM Thomas  
Margaret Littledale Tutton  
Kevin Francis Whelan

## MAJOR SUPPORTERS

Blessed Sacrament Congregation  
Delron Foundation  
Drs Vincent and Michelle Fernon  
Mr and Mrs Mike and Rosemary Gibbings  
Keady Investment Trust  
BT and B Lawrence  
Mr Thomas Lyons  
J and M Nolan Family Trust  
The Noel and Carmel O'Brien Family Foundation  
Mr Vincent Scanlan  
Mrs and Mr Virginia and Gerald Stack  
Skellern Family Foundation  
KF Stewart Family Trust  
Mr and Mrs Peter and Catherine Tobin

## CORPORATE PARTNERS

Dunmarra



## Michelle's Story



Long-time Caritas Australia supporter and Women for the World Committee Member, Michelle Fernon with Sr Leonor Montiel.  
Photo: Peter Brennan

**Inspired by her Catholic faith and passion for social justice, Michelle Fernon has decided to place Caritas Australia in her Will. She tells us why.**

**I'm leaving a gift because** as a doctor I see that life is precious and fragile. Most of us rush through life but nowadays people are talking more about what kind of legacy they'd like to leave. This is about living the Gospel.

**I support Caritas Australia** as I have great faith in their ability to end poverty for many people, and to protect people's dignity. Caritas Australia doesn't tell their partners what to do, but rather, they work alongside them. I also know that with Caritas Australia I'm giving in the right way, to a place that has good governance, which spends minimally on administration and which gives me options to decide where I want to give most.

**It's very easy to give.** Caritas Australia likes to partner with all sorts of people, including those who have much to give as well as those with minimal means.

*"Caritas Australia doesn't tell their partners what to do, but rather, they work alongside them"*



# People and Culture: Looking Ahead

Many communities around the world are impacted greatly by war and conflict, environmental disasters and climate change. Our agency is committed to being agile and ensuring that staff are well-trained and equipped to respond.

Ensuring the safety of our staff and everyone involved in the delivery of Caritas Australia's programs, and safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, continues to be of paramount importance to our agency. This is reflected in our policies and procedures, the training programs that we deliver and our continued commitment to educating our staff, partners and the communities we serve.

## SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding refers to the policies, procedures and actions that create and maintain a culture of safe and protective environments for all, including our staff, volunteers, contractors, partners and program participants; particularly those that are most vulnerable to exploitation, abuse or exclusion.

Safeguarding includes prevention, mitigation, response and feedback and complaints handling mechanisms. Our commitment to safeguarding flows from Gospel values and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, including respecting and protecting human dignity.

Caritas Australia is committed to the prevention of any forms of exploitation, abuse or exclusion, and has a sound framework of safeguarding policies, procedures and practices.

Our agency complies with safeguarding standards set by Caritas Internationalis, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), and the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID). We recently revised a number of key policies and procedures and will continue to educate, support, inform and monitor progress with partners, contractors and others we engage with. In 2017-18 we re-issued the following:

- Child Protection Code of Conduct
- Child Protection Policy Statement
- Child Protection Guidelines and Procedure
- Working With Children Checks Procedure
- Whistleblower Protection (Employee Protection) Procedure
- Respectful Workplaces: Procedure for Resolving Workplace Concerns



We have  
85 employees  
based in Australia,  
60 overseas staff  
and 5 expatriates



Our gender  
balance for  
Australia based  
staff is 66%  
female and  
34% male



In 2017-18, 22 staff  
members reached  
milestones of 5  
years, 10 years  
and 20 years of  
service

## CARITAS 2020+

An agency-wide initiative, Caritas 2020+ is designed to ensure that Caritas Australia's systems and work practices are operating at peak efficiency and that our staff are comprehensively trained and equipped to meet future challenges that may arise.

To guide the various initiatives that are being implemented throughout our agency, **Five Work Streams** have been established. Each led by a member of the Leadership Team, these streams have involved extensive communications and consultations with staff members. The streams are:

- **Strategic Work Stream:** is focusing on key strategic issues including determining the geographic footprint with regards to the regions and countries in which Caritas Australia will provide future programs.
- **Operational Work Stream:** is focusing on reviewing and optimising Caritas Australia's accompaniment and partnership approaches, promoting greater self-sufficiency and higher performance. This includes identifying opportunities for lowering costs as well as lifting the capacity of staff and partners in achieving our shared mission.
- **HR and Structures Work Stream:** is focusing on organisational structures within Australia and in-country to determine the most appropriate model.
- **Finance and Data Work Stream:** is focusing on strengthening and streamlining our financial management requirements across Caritas Australia operations, as well as planning an online program information system for our International Programs operations.
- **Revenue and Growth Work Stream:** is focusing on strengthening our funding mix and income diversification, while strategically growing our supporter base, brand awareness, and the alignment of resources to deliver Caritas Australia's 2020 strategic goals.

# Our Governance

## Caritas Australia is an agency of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC). All operations are conducted in accordance with the ACBC policies and mandate.

During the 2017-18 financial year, ACBC President was the Archbishop of Melbourne, Most Rev Denis J Hart and the Vice President was Archbishop of Brisbane, Mark Coleridge BA DSS.

The ACBC's Bishops Commission for Justice, Ecology and Development (BCJED) oversees and reports on the activities of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference in the areas of justice, ecology, international aid and development and peace, including Caritas Australia's activities. The BCJED appoints from among their membership, the Chair of the National Council of Caritas Australia.

The Chair of the BCJED and Caritas Australia was Bishop Greg Kelly SJ AM. The Caritas Australia Deputy Chair was Bishop Peter Stasiuk CSsR DD AM, the Eparch of Saints Peter and Paul of Melbourne for Ukrainian Catholics in Australia and New Zealand.

### NATIONAL COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

The National Council comprises 10 lay members. It is responsible for the overall governance of the organisation and meets four times a year.

The National Council has three standing committees. They make recommendations to the BCJED where appropriate.

- **Audit and Risk Management Committee:** Michael Burnett and Clyde Cosentino
- **Remuneration Committee:** John Bouffler, Sean Parnell and Kate Fogarty
- **Nominations Committee:** Emeritus Prof. John Warhurst and John Bouffler

### LEADERSHIP TEAM

## The Leadership Team provides direction to our agency's core functions and informs National Council decisions.

In March 2018, after nine years with our agency, we said goodbye to Head of International Programs, Jamieson B. Davies and welcomed Frank Elvey as acting Head. In June 2018, we said goodbye to Head of Engagement and Sustainability, David Armstrong and welcomed Richard Landels.



#### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Paul O'Callaghan**

Appointed: December 2013  
National Council Member since 2013



#### CHIEF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS OFFICER

**Rocky Naickar**

Appointed: June 2013



#### HEAD OF MISSION

**Sr. Anne McGuire**

Appointed: February 2015



#### ACTING HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

**Frank Elvey**

Appointed: March 2018



#### SENIOR MANAGER PEOPLE AND CULTURE

**Steve McNab**

Appointed: January 2017



#### HEAD OF ENGAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

**David Armstrong**

Appointed: July 2016

# National Council

The National Council is responsible for ensuring the good governance and effective implementation of Caritas Australia's mandate.

In 2017-18, the National Council remained as a team of 12 members.



**CHAIR**  
**Bishop Greg O'Kelly SJ AM**  
Member since 2012  
Meeting attendance: 4 of 4



**DEPUTY CHAIR**  
**Bishop Peter Stasiuk CSsR DD AM**  
Member since 2015  
Meeting attendance: 2 of 4



**Michael Burnett (TAS)**  
Member since 2012  
Member of Audit and Risk Committee  
Meeting attendance: 4 of 4



**Louise Campbell-Price (NSW)**  
Member since 2009  
Meeting attendance: 2 of 4



**Clyde Cosentino (QLD)**  
Member since 2014  
Member of Audit and Risk Committee  
Meeting attendance: 4 of 4



**John Bouffler (WA)**  
Member since 2015  
Member of Remuneration Committee  
and Nominations Committee  
Meeting attendance: 4 of 4



**Emeritus Prof. John Warhurst AO (ACT)**  
Member since 2015  
Member of Nominations Committee  
Meeting attendance: 4 of 4



**Sean Parnell (NT)**  
Member since 2015  
Member of Remuneration Committee  
Meeting attendance: 4 of 4



**Kate Fogarty (VIC)**  
Member since 2016  
Member of Remuneration Committee  
Meeting attendance: 3 of 4



**Patrice Scales (VIC)**  
Member since 2016  
Meeting attendance: 4 of 4



**Sarah Gowty (ACT)**  
Member since 2017  
Meeting attendance: 4 of 4

View our organisational structure and read detailed profiles of our National Council and Leadership Team at [www.caritas.org.au/org-structure](http://www.caritas.org.au/org-structure)

The construction of the spillway has changed their community for the better. Photos: Chanthea Nou/Caritas Australia

## CAMBODIA

# A Healthy Yield



Eighty percent of the local population in the Pursat province work as rice farmers, and the surrounding 540 hectares of rice fields are totally reliant upon water.

With a natural stream located behind the village, water should be plentiful. However, for years, with no irrigation installed and the water flowing downstream, the farmers felt increasingly discouraged and food security was low.

The local committees knew that if they built a spillway, they could irrigate their fields easily and cross the stream safely. Together they submitted a proposal to Caritas Australia's partner, Anakut Kumar.

After a thorough assessment, in 2017 at a cost of USD \$16,000 (AUD \$21,760), a 66-metre spillway was constructed. The local community provided labour, local resources such as plywood and machinery, and contributed USD \$1,000 (AUD \$1,360). The rest of the funding came from Caritas Australia (known in Cambodia as Australian Catholic Relief, ACR).

A successful project, the spillway can now store enough water for agriculture and livestock, and there is more fish in the stream. Additionally, to assist farmers in transporting their produce from field to market, the Cambodian Government constructed a red soil road through the Provincial Department of Rural Development.

**"Farmers are no longer worried, because they have enough water for their rice fields for the whole season"**

## Rous' Story

Local farmer and father of five, Rous, 57, says that before the spillway was built he earned money by working as a labourer, living hand to mouth. Although he owns half a hectare of rice field, he says that a lack of water made life very difficult as the farmers could only cultivate one paddy at a time. For this reason, many of the rice fields were abandoned.

After construction of the spillway, the rice fields yielded more than two tonnes per hectare; doubling the amount previously. And some farmers are now planting cash crops such as corn and watermelon, thereby increasing their income.

"Previously, farmers were worried about the planting season and insufficient water and rainfall. Now farmers are no longer worried because they have enough water for their rice fields."

The spillway has become an eco-tourism hot spot, attracting villagers from other provinces. To cater to the weekend tourists, Rous' family constructed a grocery stall which earns them up to USD \$120 (AUD \$163) per month. The sale of food and drink has provided new revenue for the entire community. In addition, Rous attended a chicken training course and is now raising chickens at home.

With a guaranteed income from rice cultivation and selling groceries, he is increasingly positive about the future. "I can now support my two grandsons at school. I also plan to save money to build an appropriate house and expand my rice field because there is now enough water for both the dry and raining seasons."

[www.caritas.org.au/cambodia](http://www.caritas.org.au/cambodia)

*This program is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP)*

*"We are very happy that Anakut Kumar collaborated with the community to construct the spillway for catching water to irrigate the rice fields. It also provides good road access"*

**SAN CHHEAPLY, VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

# Strategic Plan 2018-2020

We believe in empowering people to create their own change and to do this we have set in place 5 Strategic Goals which continue to build on the previous strategic plan.



## GOAL 1.

### Deepen Catholic Identity

To actively uphold and take leadership in living out Gospel values and Catholic Social Teaching principles in our communities and workplaces, and with our partners and supporters, the Catholic community and the Australian public.



## GOAL 2.

### Full Human Development

To achieve full human development outcomes by working alongside the most marginalised so that they are empowered, resilient and self-sufficient.



## GOAL 3.

### Justice and an End to Poverty

To advocate and act for a world free of poverty and injustice by effectively amplifying the voices and stories of the people and communities we serve.



## GOAL 4.

### Careful Stewardship

To be effective stewards of resources in order to maximise Caritas Australia's program impact, and to sustainably grow our community support and carefully manage our human, financial and physical assets.



## GOAL 5.

### Organisational Agility

To be an agile and creative organisation that is led and supported by talented and committed people at agency, diocesan and country level and where sound practices, policies, systems and infrastructure ensure service quality, a high level of competence and a culture of continuous learning.

Read more about Caritas Australia's Strategic Plan 2018-2020 at [www.caritas.org.au/strategy](http://www.caritas.org.au/strategy)

# Ways to Help

Rolling bicycle wheels through a South Sudanese camp where 5,000 people are living. The international Caritas network has played a key role in delivering food, shelter and water. Photo: Caritas Internationalis



## Our work is only possible because of our generous supporters. You can help in many ways.

**Make a monthly donation.** Donations of \$2 or more tax deductible. Call 1800 024 413 or donate securely at [www.caritas.org.au/donate](http://www.caritas.org.au/donate)

**Organise or attend an event.** Head to [www.caritas.org.au/womenfortheworld](http://www.caritas.org.au/womenfortheworld) to host your own Women for the World event or to set up your own fundraising page!

**Volunteer.** Call 1800 024 413, email [jobs@caritas.org.au](mailto:jobs@caritas.org.au) or find your local diocesan representative at [www.caritas.org.au/contact-us](http://www.caritas.org.au/contact-us)

**Workplace Giving** is one of the most cost-effective and simple ways to donate. Head to [www.caritas.org.au/workplace-giving](http://www.caritas.org.au/workplace-giving) for more.

**Leave a gift in your Will.** If you are able, we encourage you to consider leaving a legacy that will live on. Call 1800 024 413 or visit [www.caritas.org.au/livingcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/livingcompassion)

**Keep up-to-date.** Sign up to the Caritas eNewsletter at [www.caritas.org.au/subscribe](http://www.caritas.org.au/subscribe) and receive monthly updates, or read our quarterly publication, *CaritasNews*, at [www.caritas.org.au/caritasnews](http://www.caritas.org.au/caritasnews)

**Get active.** Join us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, read our media releases at [www.caritas.org.au/media](http://www.caritas.org.au/media) or comment on our blogs at [www.caritas.org.au/blog](http://www.caritas.org.au/blog)

**Speak up for justice.** Stand up in solidarity with the world's most vulnerable people and have your voice heard at [www.caritas.org.au/act](http://www.caritas.org.au/act)

# Accountability and International Standards

## 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)

## 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.

In 2017-18, Caritas Australia received support through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), the Australian Humanitarian Partnership, the Church Partnership Program and the Bougainville Youth Initiative in Papua New Guinea.

Caritas Australia is also the lead agency of the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO). This network of church agencies, which receives funding from DFAT, collaborates to enhance community resilience to disaster and conflict.

## 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
- Caritas Internationalis Management 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

## CHARITY STATUS

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

## OTHER FUNDING

Caritas Australia generates income from various streams including the Australian Government and other International governments including the New Zealand Government through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT). We also acknowledge the funding contributions from our Caritas Internationalis sister agencies all over the world including Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Catholic Agency for Overseas Development in England and Wales (CAFOD), Trócaire and Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand (CANZ).

## FEEDBACK AND COMPLAINTS

We welcome feedback about our organisation. To provide feedback, make a compliment or lodge a complaint, call 1800 024 413, write to Caritas Australia, GPO Box 9630 in your capital city or send an email to [questions@caritas.org.au](mailto:questions@caritas.org.au)

Complaints alleging breaches of the ACFID Code of Conduct can be made to the ACFID Code of Conduct Committee via [www.acfid.asn.au/code-of-conduct/complaints](http://www.acfid.asn.au/code-of-conduct/complaints)

## 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

## BANKERS

Commonwealth Bank

## AUDITORS

Pitcher Partners

*"See the world through the eyes of God the Creator:  
the earth is an environment to be safeguarded,  
a garden to be cultivated"*

**POPE FRANCIS, EARTH DAY**



The Catholic agency  
for international aid  
and development

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Alexandria NSW 2015



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