

HOPE IN ACTION: CSSA NATIONAL CONFERENCE TO FORGE A PATHWAY TO SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL SERVICES

10 February 2025

Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA) warmly invites our members, supporters, and media to attend the highly anticipated **CSSA National Conference**, taking place **19-20 March 2025** at the Commonwealth Bank Head Office, 11 Harbour Street, Darling Harbour, Sydney.

Inspired by the Catholic Church's 2025 Jubilee, this landmark event will bring together Catholic religious leaders, academics, practitioners, and advocates from across Australia to highlight **"Hope in Action,"** a theme rooted in Catholic Social Teaching which is dedicated to advancing human dignity and the common good.

The Conference features an outstanding lineup of speakers, including **Professor David Gilchrist (Director, UWA Centre for Public Value)**, whose pioneering research on sustainable social services examines the critical challenges posed by poor service pricing and funding indexation as a barrier to success in the sector. Drawing on insights from his paper, *Challenging the Indexation Framework* ([read more here](#)), and his research commissioned by CSSA, Professor Gilchrist will delve into the real costs and real impacts of poorly resourced social services.

At the Conference, Professor Gilchrist will release a new report on the real cost of government funding shortfalls impacting social service providers across Australia. His presentation will spotlight the key cost pressures threatening the sector's ability to deliver sustainable support to vulnerable Australians. He offers actionable strategies to ensure a thriving and equitable future for the social services sector in the interests of those Australians that need its support.

Dr Jerry Nockles, CSSA Executive Director said, "For a long time, government funding and indexation models have fallen short of key economic and environmental factors – perhaps unintentionally - but with significant consequences for sustainable social services upon which Australia's most vulnerable people rely. A properly resourced social services sector is a critical element in building an equitable Australia. We are thrilled to have Professor David Gilchrist share his expertise and insights for a fairer, holistic and sustainable approach to funding".

The Chair of CSSA and the CEO of Marist180, Mr Peter Monaghan added, "Many social services organisations across Australia are grappling with the growing challenge of delivering more support with fewer resources. This is a critical moment to address the systemic issues undermining the sector's sustainability. Our collaboration with the University of Western Australia (UWA) represents an important step toward understanding how we can future-proof the social services sector."

Don't miss this opportunity to engage with leading experts, forge meaningful connections, and explore practical solutions that embody hope and action.

MEDIA RELEASE



Secure your place today and join the conversation shaping the future of social services in Australia. For more information and to secure a place at the Conference, visit <https://bit.ly/40UxPIk>

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Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA) advocates for the Church's social service ministry. It is the national peak body for Catholic social service providers. The CSSA's network operates across all Australian States and Territories and has a combined total of over 700 sites.

The national network of Catholic social services

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