MEDIA RELEASE

Catholic Social Services Australia

CSSA Congratulates Jess Wilson on emphatic election victory in Victoria

29 November 2026

Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA) congratulates Jess Wilson and the Victorian Liberal-National Coalition on its emphatic win in the Victorian state election. The people of Victoria have spoken overwhelmingly for change, signalling a clear mandate for new leadership and direction.

Dr Jerry Nockles, CEO of CSSA, said; "Victorians have expressed a powerful desire for change, and we acknowledge the responsibility this places on the new government. But change is not only needed in policy – we must change how we see and treat one another. We must see each other, not as different or divided, but as human beings endowed with inherent dignity and deserving of respect."

"Inspired by the words of Pope Leo XIV, we are called now more than ever to build for the common good – the sum of social conditions that allow every person to flourish. This means a special focus on the last, the lost, and the least among us.

"We appreciate Premier Wison's acknowledgement of her Catholic faith and the witness it brings. We pray she can live that faith through her leadership, working for the betterment of all Victorians."

Dr Nockles continued, "The Wilson Government has been elected with a clear mandate to lower expenditure, and we recognise the crippling impact inflation has on Victoria's most vulnerable people. We support responsible measures to reduce public spending at all levels of government. However, we must be clear: Victoria's and Australia's most vulnerable cannot be the shock absorbers of budget repair."

"CSSA looks forward to working collaboratively with Premier Wilson and her government to ensure that fiscal responsibility does not come at the cost of human dignity and social inclusion. We need to build a society where every person is valued, supported, and given the opportunity to thrive."

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CSSA remains committed to advocating for policies and programs that uphold justice, inclusion, and compassion, grounded in Catholic Social Teaching and the Gospel call to care for "the least of these."

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About CSSA

CSSA is the national peak body for Catholic social service providers. CSSA's network of forty-two member agencies runs across all Australian States and Territories with a combined total of over seven hundred sites, delivering essential services to vulnerable and disadvantaged Australians.

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