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Returning Victorian Government will improve outcomes for vulnerable groups: Jesuit Social Services

Jesuit Social Services congratulates Daniel Andrews' Victorian Government on its emphatic victory in Saturday's state election, and looks forward to working closely with the Government to ensure positive outcomes for marginalised individuals and communities.

"The resounding election victory on Saturday shows that Victoria welcomes increased investments into vital community services such as education and health. We will work with Government to reduce barriers for marginalised people to participate in society, through inclusive policies, programs that can be tailored to individual needs and place-based approaches to improve outcomes for our most disadvantaged communities," says Jesuit Social Services CEO Julie Edwards.

"We congratulate the Government on its commitment to improve the mental health system by commissioning a Royal Commission, which will undoubtedly save lives."

In its recent election platforms spanning [adult justice](#), [youth justice](#), [housing](#), [mental health and wellbeing](#) and [settlement and community building](#), Jesuit Social Services identified some of its key priorities for the next Victorian Government including:

- Address the housing needs of people leaving prison by funding housing and support options for vulnerable cohorts and expanding the availability of affordable and appropriate housing options for women;
- Raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 years;
- Strengthen diversion opportunities for all young people at each point in the justice system;
- Further invest in Corporate Diversity Partnerships for culturally and linguistically diverse communities with high unemployment rates;
- Continue to expand investment in Navigator to meet growing demand and lower the age of eligibility to 10, to support vulnerable children at risk of disengaging from education;
- Increase access to social housing and build at least 2,000 new public housing properties each year over the next decade.

"These recommendations have been developed in consultation with our frontline workers, who are working with marginalized people and in disadvantaged communities every day," says Ms Edwards.

"It is also imperative that the Government invests in an evidence-based youth justice system that supports young people to reach their potential – and looks at international best practice when it comes to the new detention facility at Cherry Creek and the types of community supports and services that can get young people back on track.

"All Victorians deserve the chance to flourish and we look forward to working alongside Government to support this vision."

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