

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – MAY 21, 2019

## **Incoming Federal Government must ensure no Australian is left behind: Jesuit Social Services**

Jesuit Social Services congratulates the Coalition on its re-election, and says the returning Federal Government must ensure its policies give all Australians, including those on the margins of society, a chance to flourish.

“Prime Minister Morrison talks about Australians ‘getting a go’ and this is needed more now than ever. More than three million Australians are living in poverty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to face poorer outcomes than non-Indigenous people and many people seeking asylum are facing destitution in the community as a result of funding cuts to the Status Resolution Support Service,” says Jesuit Social Services CEO Julie Edwards.

“An Australia where everybody gets a go is one where policies are designed to lift people up, not bring them down – and it is the responsibility of our elected Government to realise this vision.”

Jesuit Social Services welcomes the Federal Government’s 2019-20 Budget commitments into a youth mental health and suicide prevention strategy, funding for remote housing in the Northern Territory, more than \$300 million into family violence, and \$528 million for a Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with a Disability.

“These investments are welcome, and a positive step towards supporting those most in need. We will continue to advocate for evidence-based policies and investments in support of the type of society we want.”

Jesuit Social Services outlined key priorities across a range of interconnected social policy areas in its Federal Election Platform [A more compassionate Australia](#).

Key recommendations include:

- Developing and committing to a National Youth Justice Strategy
- Raising the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 years in all states and territories
- Raising the rate of Newstart and Youth Allowance by a minimum \$75 per week
- Increasing public and community housing stock by 500,000
- Ending offshore detention and abolishing temporary protection visas

“We look forward to working with the Federal Government to ensure every Australian and every community has the chance to thrive.”

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