

Social Impact Program

Charter Document

Vision

The vision for the Social Impact Program is to co-contribute to the growth of vibrant and hopeful communities that value the dignity and worth of each person. Social Impact Program works in partnership with diverse groups in Tasmania's most marginalised and disadvantaged communities to strengthen and co-create individual and community wellbeing.

Background

Social Impact Program was created in 2016 as a Year of Mercy initiative, motivated by Pope Francis who challenged the Church to live a Gospel for the marginalised, to get out of a comfortable existence and go to the places, to the outskirts where people are denied the right to education, live in material poverty and experience a wounded humanity. Social Impact Program is auspiced by CatholicCare Tasmania and the Archdiocese of Hobart. It is a collaborative endeavor of the Tasmanian Catholic Community to respond to Pope Francis' challenge in specific locations in Tasmania.

Social Impact Program will focus on specific identified communities of need in Tasmania. These communities will be identified using research and data, including the *Dropping off the Edge Report 2015ⁱ*. This report mapped disadvantage across Australia on 21 social indicators including long-term unemployment, housing stress, criminal convictions, school reading levels and domestic violence. Indicators in the report show that complex and entrenched webs of disadvantage are experienced by a small but persistent number of local government areas across Australia.

Acknowledging the enmeshed nature of disadvantage, marginalisation and poverty, the Social Impact Program will work across seven interconnected domains: Emotional and Spiritual Care, Health and Wellbeing, Economic Stability, Housing, Community Engagement, Education, Safe Communities.

Social Impact Program will work alongside all groups, however priority will be given to children and young people (0-24 years) in recognition that this group in the community faces unprecedented uncertainty and risk, as well as holding the greatest potential for co-creating community well-being.

Principles

The Charter for the Social Impact Program is inspired by the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and is guided by Catholic Social Teaching and the following six principles of CatholicCare Tasmania:

1. Affirming the Dignity of the Human Person

The principle of the dignity of the human person recognises the sacredness of life and the dignity of each individual human person, independent of ethnicity, creed, gender, sexuality, age or ability. Poverty, hunger, violence, oppression and injustice make it impossible to live a life commensurate with this dignity. Social Impact Program works to affirm, celebrate and honour the dignity of all. The Program gives specific consideration to ways in which we can support and affirm those whose condition or situation puts them at the margins of society and who are therefore most vulnerable to discrimination, exploitation and exclusion and suffer a wounded humanity. The Social Impact Program is particularly mindful of the experience of Australia's First Peoples and the injustices that continue.

2. Excellence in Care

Social Impact Program is committed to delivering care that will enable long-term capacity development and sustainability in the areas it operates. The Program will utilise evidence based research, community engagement and best practice to ensure that excellence in care is achieved.

3. Strengthening Relationships, Marriages, Families and Communities

The Social Impact Program is focused on creating and strengthening authentic trusting relationships. The Social Impact Program will follow an asset based community development model which identifies and amplifies existing strengths to co-create stronger, more sustainable individuals and communities. The Social Impact Program specifically recognises that positive relationships within marriages, families and communities are the sacred foundation of vibrant and hopeful communities.

4. Good Governance and Stewardship

The Social Impact Program is guided by good governance and stewardship. A key component of good governance is subsidiarity which requires that decisions are made by the people closest and most affected by the issues, in our case the communities in which we work. Good governance and stewardship will determine the manner in which we use human and physical resources and deliver our services.

5. Ethical Integrity, Accountability and Transparency

Acknowledging ethical integrity, accountability and transparency are non-negotiable characteristics of how Social Impact Program will conduct relationships and make choices. This includes working in accordance with Church teaching and relevant legislation and regulations. Social Impact Program decision making will be characterised by trust, honesty and openness that embraces diversity of opinion and rigorous debate.

6. Working Collaboratively

Working collaboratively acknowledges that we are all one human family, one community, one body. The Social Impact Program acknowledges that just as one member, or community suffers, so the whole body suffers (1 Cor 12:26). To eliminate this suffering the Social Impact Program depends upon trusting collaboration and partnership between diverse individuals, communities, organisations, faiths and groups. Social Impact Program will ensure that at all times the key collaborative partner is the local community. Through collaborative partnerships, communities will be supported, promoted and developed to enhance their capacity to better respond to their own needs.

Social Impact Program Director

The Social Impact Program Director will be responsible for the operational delivery of the Social Impact Program Strategy, developed in collaboration with the Social Impact Steering Committee. The Director will work collaboratively and creatively on an asset based community development model to address entrenched locational disadvantage, poverty and marginalisation in the specified focus areas. The Director will report to the Executive Director of CatholicCare Tasmania and the Social Impact Program Steering Committee and hold a Senior Leadership role within CatholicCare.

Primary Objects:

The Primary Objects of the Social Impact Program are to provide and deliver on high quality asset based initiatives, programs and projects in identified disadvantaged communities, initially Brighton, Glenorchy and Derwent Valley, in collaborative partnerships including but not limited to the following aims:

1. To strengthen, form and grow authentic relationships with diverse groups and individuals.
2. To improve access to the opportunities in life that will enable people, and particularly young people to flourish: to complete their education, to get a job, to access safe and affordable housing, to raise their children in safe communities and to see the community thrive.
3. To enhance individual and community wellbeing across seven interconnected domains: Emotional and Spiritual Care, Health and Wellbeing, Economic Stability, Housing, Community Engagement, Education and Safe Communities.
4. To link relevant agencies, schools and parishes with individuals, organisations, governments and businesses on Social Impact Program initiatives.
5. To communicate across a variety of mediums in order to engage the community and wider Church in Pope Francis's Gospel for the marginalised.

Governance and Compliance Obligations

The main obligations in terms of governance and compliance are as follows:

1. To be effectively administered by the Social Impact Program Director, reporting to the Executive Director of Catholic Care and the Social Impact Program Steering Committee.
2. To ensure that the Social Impact Program Steering Committee, in accordance with the Rules of CatholicCare Tasmania and reporting to the CatholicCare Advisory Board, is subject to the general authority of the Archbishop in all matters not herein expressly provided for.
3. To ensure that the activities of the Social Impact Program comply with all relevant laws, regulations and statutes and that those activities maintain the highest standard of Catholic ethical teaching and commercial practice.
4. To be guided by those laws, regulations and statutes, either State or Federal, that would apply to a like organisation offering services similar to those offered by CatholicCare Tasmania, notwithstanding that those laws or statutes may not apply to CatholicCare Tasmania.

ⁱ *Dropping of the Edge Report 2015*, Vinson T, Rawsthorne M with A Beavis & M Ericson, Jesuit Social Services & Catholic Social Services Australia, 2015