



In our community there are many people who belong to the Catholic faith and who do tremendous work to help others. Through the new Living Catholic brand, we are aiming to draw attention to these people and the good work they do.

There are elements of the Church's life that are subject to criticism and there are people who talk negatively about our lives. This can sometimes affect the way that we, ourselves, think about the life of the Church.

At the same time, tens of thousands of Catholic people are doing really wonderful things every day; unheralded, they quietly go about reaching out to people through organisations and individually.

The Living Catholic brand is simply a reminder to us, and to other people in the community, of the really great things that we do to care for and help people in our ordinary lives. Living Catholic is a reminder to us of the real power of this faith that we belong to and the great opportunities there are for all of us to step up and do what we can in the name of the Lord. This is what gives meaning to our lives and is the essence of the Gospel.

The Living Catholic brand is about showing people that as a community we are here and present, acting in the name of Christ. It helps people to understand that we are the people of Jesus and He has given us the responsibility to be His workers as we live in the world today. That's a great privilege and a real honour, something that should make us really humble but at the same time, it should also make us very proud.

Archbishop Philip Wilson

The Catholic faith in action

Every year, the local Catholic community here in South Australia provides:

- \$350,000 for groups supporting the most vulnerable in our community through Catholic Charities;
- \$555,000 through Caritas Australia/Project Compassion for overseas aid and development;
- \$328,000 for Catholic Mission, which helps spread the Gospel in Australia and overseas;
- \$200,000 plus for the St Vincent de Paul Society, as well as thousands of volunteers for the Society's home visitation program, Vinnies shops and Fred's Van.

The Church, its agencies and other Catholic-inspired organisations make a significant contribution to South Australia in the areas of education, social welfare, accommodation and care for the elderly, health services and palliative care.

Nationally, the Catholic Church is the largest non-government welfare provider. 6,600 people are employed through 63 member organisations and 500 different services who cared for 1.1 million people in 2010.

St Vincent de Paul is the largest and most extensive volunteer welfare network in the country, four times larger than the Salvation Army.

Catholic Health Australia is the umbrella organisation for 66 Catholic hospitals with 8,900 beds.

In Church-owned aged care facilities there are 21,458 residential aged care beds, making us the second largest non-government provider of aged care.

Across Australia the Catholic Church operates eight dedicated hospices with palliative care services, making us the largest non-government provider.

Catholic homes for the elderly manage 5,393 retirement and independent living units and service apartments for seniors and low income residents.

Nearly 30 per cent of all children in Australia are educated in our 1,690 Catholic schools with 58,979 staff.

