

MEDIA RELEASE

JUST ACT

UN World Day of SOCIAL JUSTICE - Monday 20th February 2012

Jesuit Social Services is calling on everyone to do one thing today, the UN World Day of Social Justice that acknowledges social exclusion and injustice and make a personal commitment to act justly:

- don't walk past the person in the street begging
- talk to the person on the train/tram who looks 'different' or is talking to themselves
- make friends with someone who has re-settled in this country
- find out if someone in your neighbourhood is old, lonely or with no family
- speak up about something that feels wrong/unethical at work or home
- take time to talk to someone in the office you normally don't have time for
- ring a friend or family member who is ill or doesn't get out much
- challenge a racist/sexist comment or joke
- share your prosperity with others.

The UN General Assembly proclaimed 20 February as World Day of Social Justice in 2007, inviting Member States to devote the day to promoting national activities in accordance with the objectives and goals of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly. Observance of World Day of Social Justice should support efforts of the international community in poverty eradication, the promotion of full employment and decent work, gender equity and access to social well-being and justice for all.

Jesuit Social Services is a not-for-profit organisation which works to build a just society by advocating for social change and promoting the health and wellbeing of disadvantaged young people, families and communities.

Since 1977, Jesuit Social Services have been standing up for people's rights. Today we continue to work in some of the most difficult or demanding areas of human service including; **criminal justice, substance use problems, mental illness, homelessness, suicide bereavement, long-term unemployment, entrenched social disadvantage and settlement of refugees and new arrivals.**

Jesuit Social Services works with people with little supports who have a history of abuse, neglect, trauma and isolation and we look to fill gaps in services. We do not give up on people.

Building relationships is the heart of Jesuit Social Services work; our goal is to enable people to connect with others so they can take an active part in the community.

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