

MEDIA RELEASE

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Minister Shorten Opens New Jesuit Social Services Head Office

Jesuit Social Services' new head office in the Melbourne suburb of Richmond has this morning been opened by the Hon Bill Shorten MP, Minister for Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Financial Services and Superannuation.

Speaking at the launch, Jesuit Social Services CEO Julie Edwards thanked the Minister and noted the important work that will be carried out in this new office, "The facilities which have been opened today will provide vital support to our staff who each and every day are working with disadvantaged people and communities across Australia so that they can live to their full potential."

"Jesuit Social Services' vision is to build a just society. We endeavour to make this a reality through our work with adults and children in the criminal justice system, asylum seekers and refugees, people battling mental illness and drug and alcohol addictions, families bereaved by suicide, people excluded from education and employment, and with disadvantaged communities in Melbourne, Western Sydney and Central Australia."

Noting the historic links of the new head office to the Australian Jesuits Ms Edwards said, "Our new offices are in the former school building of St Ignatius primary school which sits next to the iconic St Ignatius Church from which Jesuits have served the Richmond and Melbourne communities for nearly 150 years.

"The school building in which we now work provided care and primary education to generations of Melbournians, from the children of factory workers during the early years of the 20th century through to recently arrived migrants from Europe and South East Asia in the 1970s and 1980s. It is fitting that Jesuit Social Services' work to build a just society will be based in a building that has a long history of working with disadvantaged young people so that they could realise their hopes and aspirations in life."

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.

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