

## MEDIA ALERT

19 January 2012

### **Reflections on a Just Society: Dr John Boffa, NT Australian of the Year**

In marking 35 years since Jesuit Social Services began, the organisation is holding the first event in its 'Reflections on a Just Society' series. The series of talks on social and public policy matters will take place over 2012.

The first will be held this Friday 20th January 2012 from 8.00-9.00am, with Northern Territory Australian of the Year, Dr John Boffa as the guest speaker.

Jesuit Social Services' vision is 'building a just society'. Today Jesuit Social Services works at the coalface in some of the most difficult and demanding areas of human service, including the areas of crime, addiction, mental illness, suicide bereavement, long-term unemployment and entrenched social disadvantage.

Jesuit Social Services looks for gaps in services - and stands by people, stands up for people.

Dr John Boffa, long term activist in Aboriginal health, recent winner of the Northern Territory Australian of the Year, and nominee for the soon to be announced National Australian of the Year award will speak on issues impacting on Aboriginal health, in particular his advocacy for alcohol reform and the role of early childhood development. Dr Boffa will also reflect on the influences of his Jesuit education in forming him for his work.

#### **MEDIA OPPORTUNITY**

Jesuit Social Services CEO, Julie Edwards

Enquiries to the Director, Office of the CEO - Catherine Neville 0407 318 832.

Dr John Boffa - 0418 812 141

#### **Reflections on a Just Society**

**Date:** Friday 20th January 2012

**Time:** 8am - 9am, 7.45am arrival

**Where:** The session will take place at Jesuit Social Services' central office - 326 Church Street, Richmond. You will find the building behind St Ignatius Church.

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