



Church in Australia Initiatives



WELCOME TO THE
CATHOLIC CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

- The Catholic Church in Australia is divided into seven geographical Archdioceses which embrace twenty-one smaller Dioceses. Each Archdiocese and its smaller dioceses are grouped into Provinces.
- There are five other administrative non-geographical sections of the Church - the Chaldean, Maronite, Melkite and Ukrainian Rites, and the Military Ordinariate, which is responsible for those in the Australian Defence Forces.
- The Archbishops, Bishops and the leaders of the five non-geographical sections constitute the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

95 Australian Prisons

- * administered by individual states/territories
- * Separate jurisdictions
- * Individual policies

Detention Centres - Federal Administration

3 Australia

1 Christmas Island

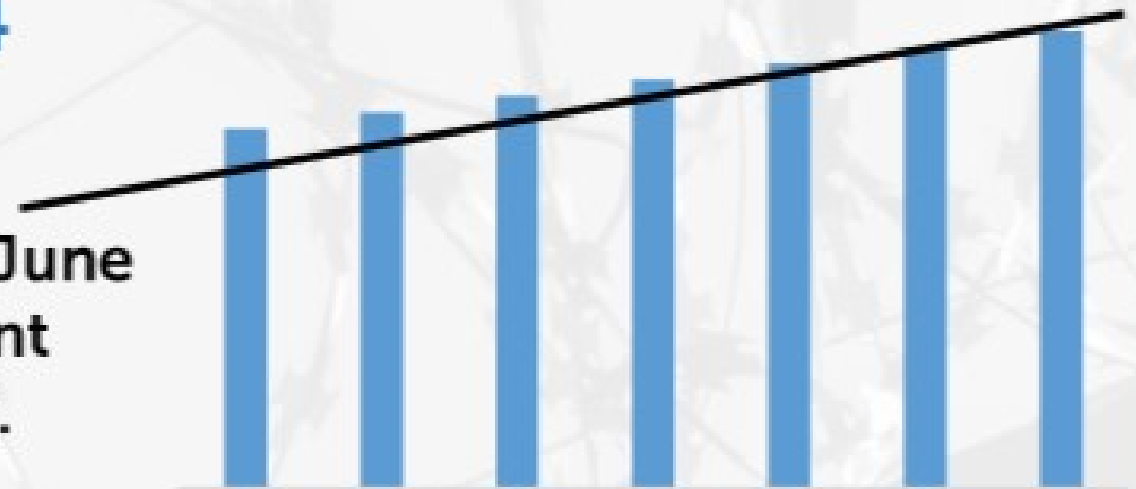
+ Off Shore

PRISON POPULATION

The number of people in Australian prisons has increased for the **seventh consecutive year**, according to figures by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

On the night of 30 June 2018, there were 42,974 prisoners in custody.

This was a **4% increase** from 30 June 2017 and represents a **40 per cent increase over the past five years.**



YOUTH DETENTION

On an average night in the June quarter 2018,
980 young people were in youth detention.



This equates to a rate of 3.5 young people aged 10–17 per 10,000.
The other detainees were aged 18 or older.

On an average night in the June quarter 2018, **3 in 5 (60%) young people in detention were not sentenced**—that is, they were awaiting the outcome of their court matter or sentencing. The remainder were serving a sentence. (ABS)

INDIGENOUS YOUNG PEOPLE IN DETENTION

In 2017–18, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (aged 10 to 17 years) in all Australian states and territories were detained in youth detention facilities at a higher rate than non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.

Western Australia had the highest rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth detention at 331.5 per 10,000 young people.

Western Australia also had the greatest difference in detention rates between the two groups; the rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people was approximately 27 times the rate for non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.

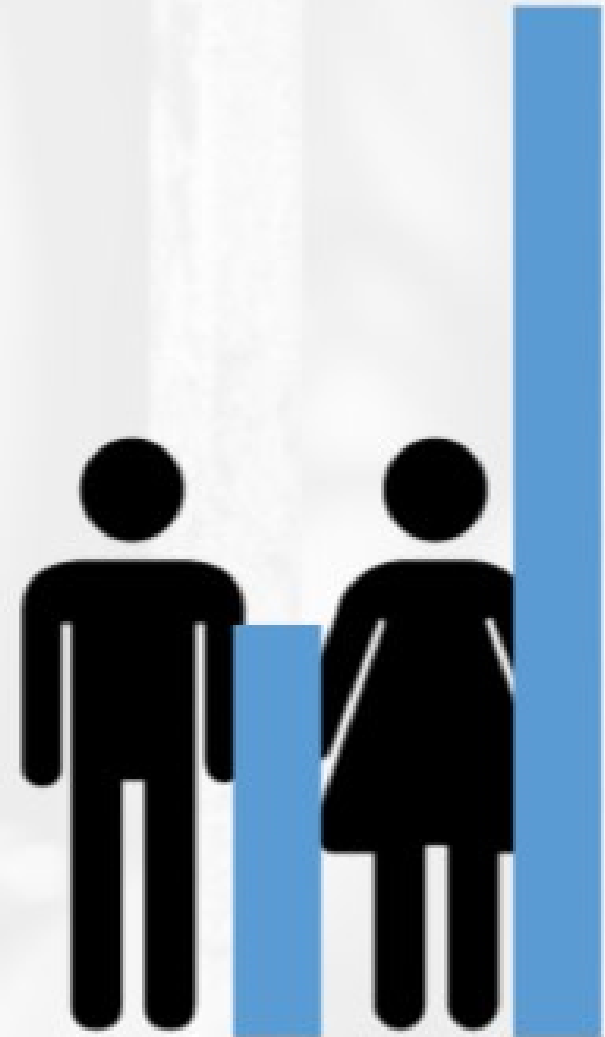
(Victorian Sentencing Advisory Council 2018)

WOMEN IN JAIL

Female prisoner numbers increased at a faster rate than male prisoners in 2018, up 10% (326 prisoners) from 30 June 2017 to a total of 3,625 prisoners.

Male prisoners increased 4% (1,438 prisoners) in the same time frame.

Males continue to comprise the majority of the Australian prison population accounting for 92% of total prisoners. (ABS)



COST OF CORRECTIVE SERVICES

A report by conservative think tank the Institute of Public Affairs (IPA) said despite spending an

estimated \$16 billion a year

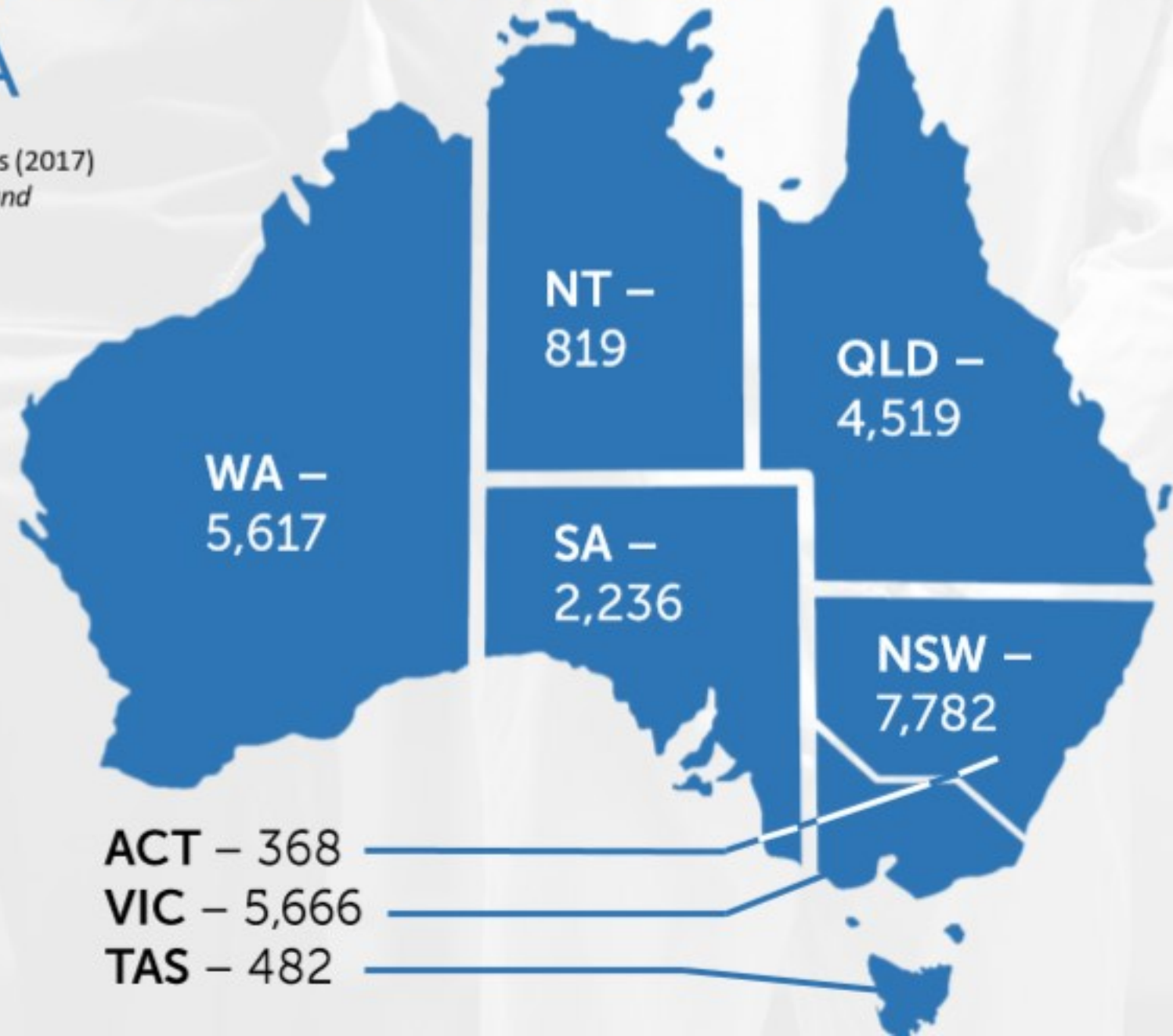
(\$110,000 per prisoner per year)

on our criminal justice system,

Australians felt less safe
than the citizens of many comparable countries.

CORRECTIONS EMPLOYEES IN AUSTRALIA

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2017)
2016 Census - Employment, Income and Education



Prison Populations

In June 2018 across Australia, 980 young people were in youth justice centres, 3 out of 5 of whom were unsentenced

Jurisdiction	Number	Rate per 10,000 Young People aged 10 to 17
Northern Territory	197	77.18
Western Australia	838	33.40
Australian Capital Territory	103	27.91
Queensland	1,064	20.99
New South Wales	1,476	19.78
South Australia	314	19.60
Tasmania	52	10.31
Victoria	523	8.94
Australia	4,567	19.33

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Youth Justice in Australia 2017-18*, Cat. no. JJY 120

Building Bridges, Not Walls

Prisons and the justice system



SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2011-2012



Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference

Building Bridges Not Walls

In the Social Justice Statement for 2011–2012, the Catholic Bishops of Australia urge all Australians to think about the conditions in our prisons, and to ask who are most likely to find themselves there and why.



Prisons have become the asylum's of the 21st century: homelessness, mental illness, trauma, drug and alcohol misuse.



60 % are victims of abuse, trauma or neglect (family violence).



27 % presented with mental health issues.



89 % have a history of alcohol and/or drug issues.



36 % had a parent or sibling with a history of imprisonment (generational trauma).



The poverty of prisoners in their lives in and out of prison.



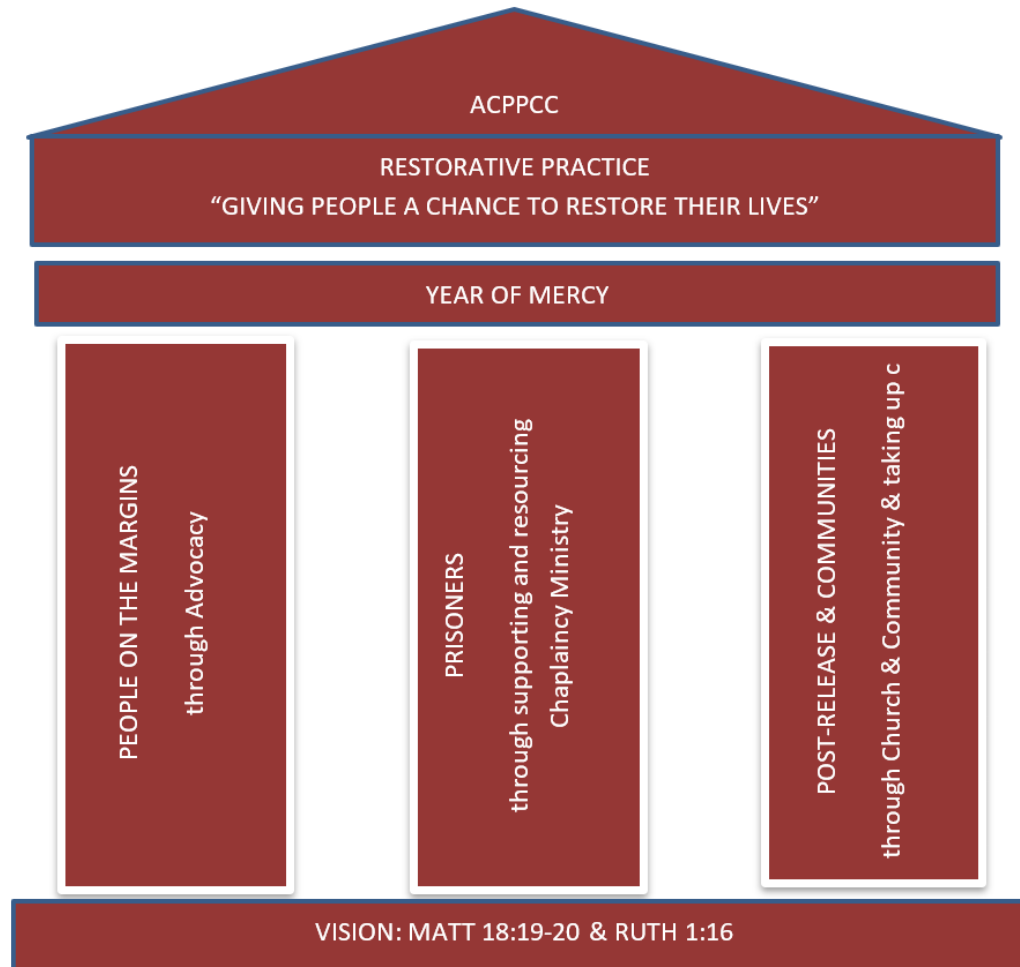
The violence, stress and lack of services in the 'society' that is behind the jail walls



The post-release gap in care



ACPPCC: STRATEGIC PLAN FEBRUARY 2016-2019



Our strategic plan has 3 pillars with high level details. These 3 inter – connected strategies deliver our goal of Restorative Practice.

2015

National Catholic
Prison Chaplains
Gatherings

ACBC support

2019

2017

Australian Catholic Prisoners Pastoral Care Council

Liaison with Youth Council Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2017



Juvenile Justice



The Australian Catholic Youth Festival is a national gathering of Catholic young people established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. It exists to provide young people with opportunities to:



Deepen their relationship with Jesus;



Be empowered to be disciples in the world today, and



Encounter and celebrate the vitality of the Church in Australia



An audio introduction to the Catholic faith

Hearing God's Call

Catholic Enquiry Centre

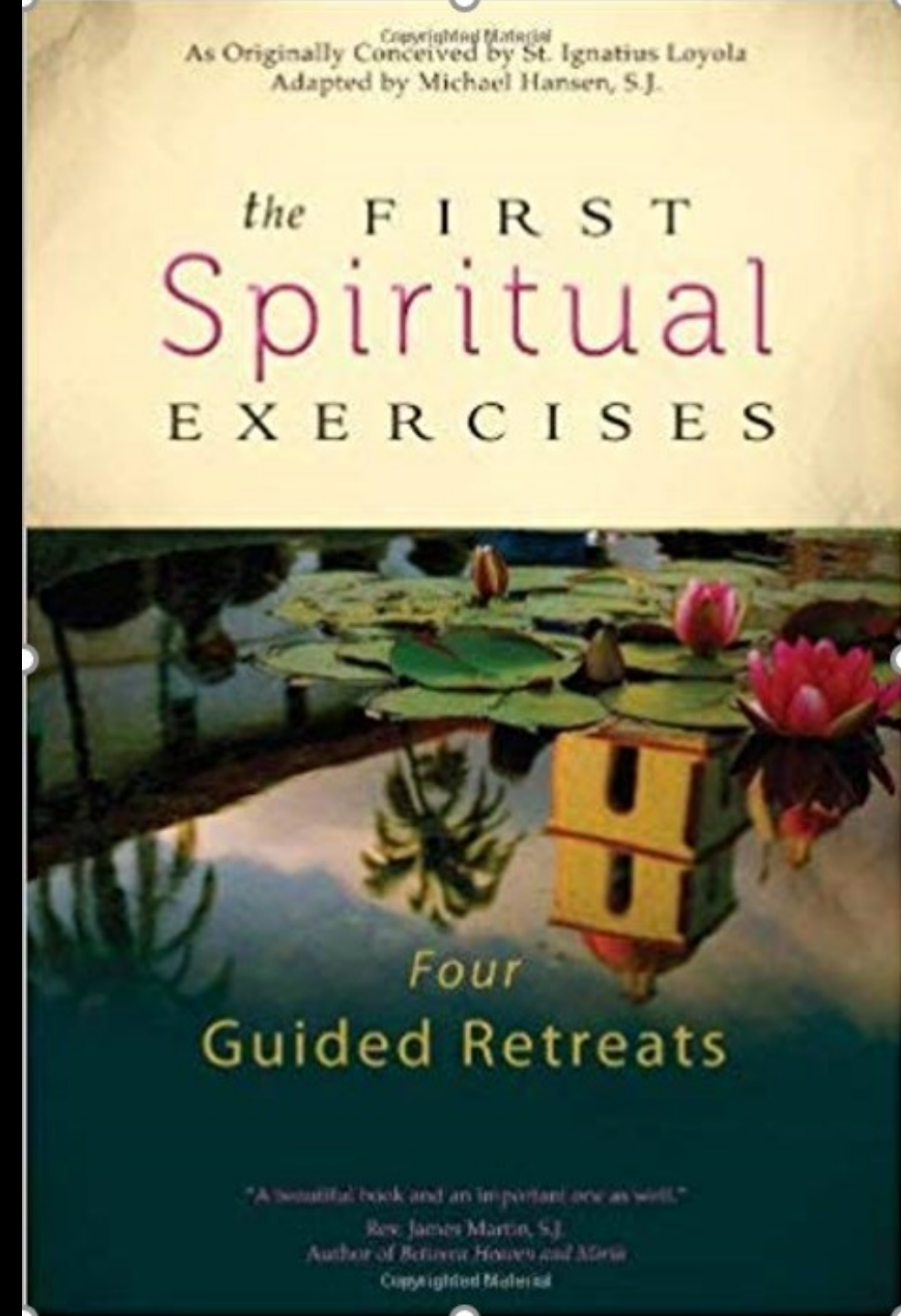


Seasons for Growth is an innovative, evidence-based change, loss and grief education program that draws on the metaphor of the seasons to understand the experience of grief. It builds the knowledge and skills necessary to strengthen social and emotional wellbeing following significant loss by:

- Exploring the impact of change and loss
- Learning about effective ways to respond and adapt

Participants learn that they are not alone in their experience of change, loss and grief, and are able to build their communication, decision making and problem solving skills within the context of a safe and supportive peer group learning environment.

- A radically innovative way to make the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises, the classic retreat of Catholic spirituality, this creative and easy-to-use guide presents four retreats on inner peace that are, for the first time, accessible to anyone without getting away from ordinary life or meeting daily with a spiritual director.



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As Originally Conceived by St. Ignatius Loyola
Adapted by Michael Hansen, S.J.

the FIRST
Spiritual
EXERCISES

Four
Guided Retreats

"A beautiful book and an important one as well."

Rev. James Martin, S.J.
Author of *Between Heaven and Hell*
Copyrighted Material

*Fusion Team
Melbourne*



Why this unwanted ministry?

Many young people in youth justice do not necessarily easily identify with a particular faith background. Many are open and searching, and perhaps some of the most frequent questions asked are around forgiveness as they consider things that have happened in their lives, in many cases the actions that have led to them being in custody. For this reason, often the role of a chaplain in Youth Justice is to simply be present and open to opportunities to explore this with young people. This takes place through the chaplain joining them in different 'spaces' within the custodial environment - school classes, time on units, offering prayer opportunities and more.





- Correspondence Courses provide non-academic adult faith education to prisoners free of charge across New South Wales.
- Each course is an independent unit, although it is recommended to do an introductory unit before embarking on more detailed work.

DOTE2015

DROPPING OFF THE EDGE

2015

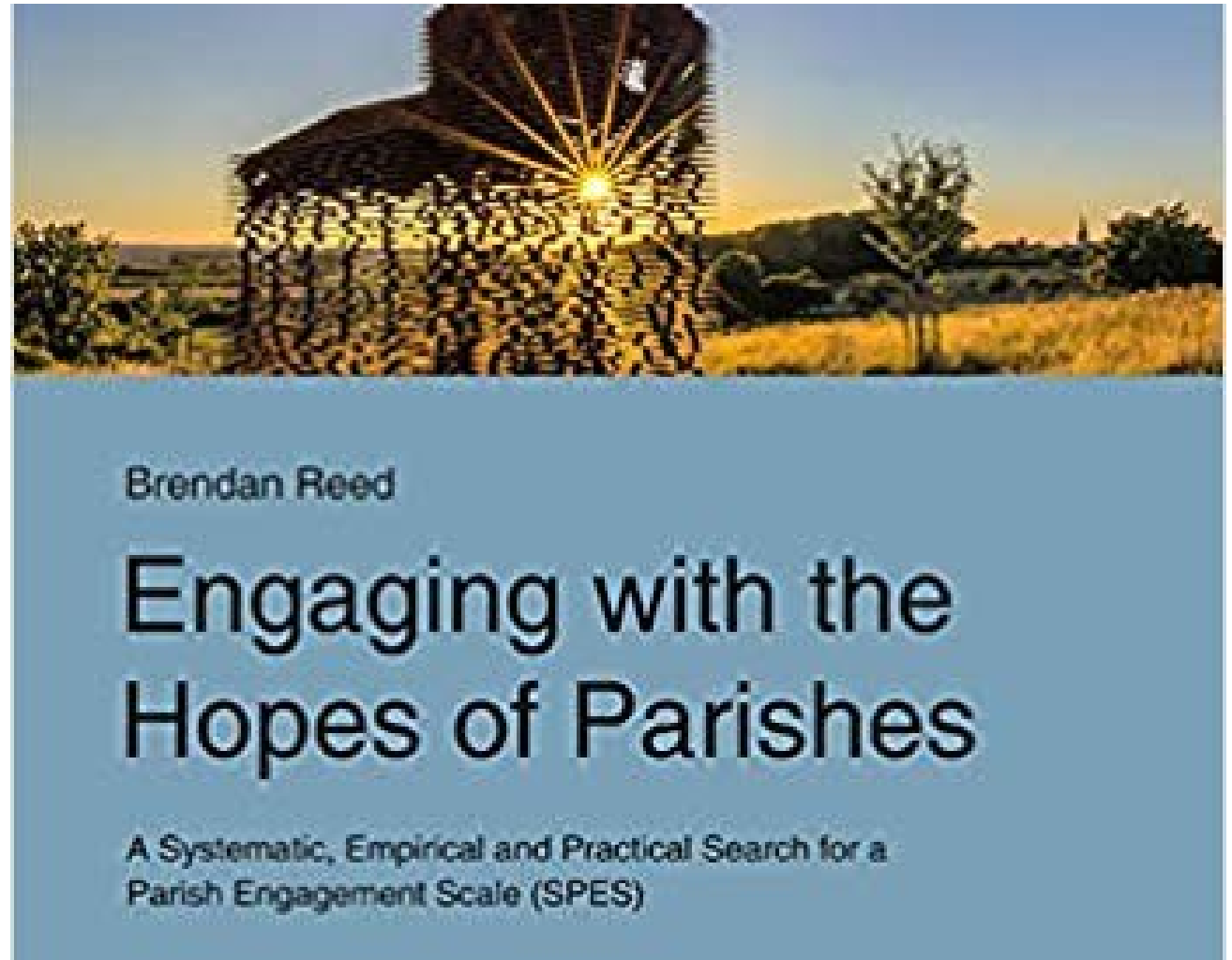
Persistent
communal
disadvantage
in Australia

For more on

This report studies population areas in every state and territory of Australia to identify pockets of location-based disadvantage and the unique web of challenges faced by these communities.

Welcoming Prisoners

- Sacred Heart Parish,
Tatura, Victoria
- St Mary's,
Mooroopna, Victoria



St Vincent's
Correctional
Health,
Sydney,
commenced
operations at
Parklea
Correctional
Centre

31 March 2019.
Some key
information as
follows:

- Currently SVCH provides healthcare to approximately 1,160 male inmates
- It is a primarily remand prison so they can have a short or unpredictable length of stay
- It is a primary health model providing the following:
 - Mental health
 - Drug and alcohol
 - Infectious Disease
 - General Dentistry
 - General Practice

St Vincent's Correctional Health

- Radiographer
- Pharmacist
- Nursing
- Radiographer
- Aboriginal Health Worker
- In the first 6 month of operations we have provided the following:
 - Screened over 2130 new patients to the centre
 - Over 112 patients have been commenced on hepatitis C treatment
 - The Aboriginal Health Worker sees around 99 patients a month

St Augustine's

A wonderful team of dedicated staff who provide amazing care for those who are often marginalised and dealing with multiple issues.

- 10 bed secure medical unit at St Vincent's Hospital, Victoria
- provides acute medical and surgical care
- patients who are transferred from various prisons with Corrections Victoria.

St Augustine's

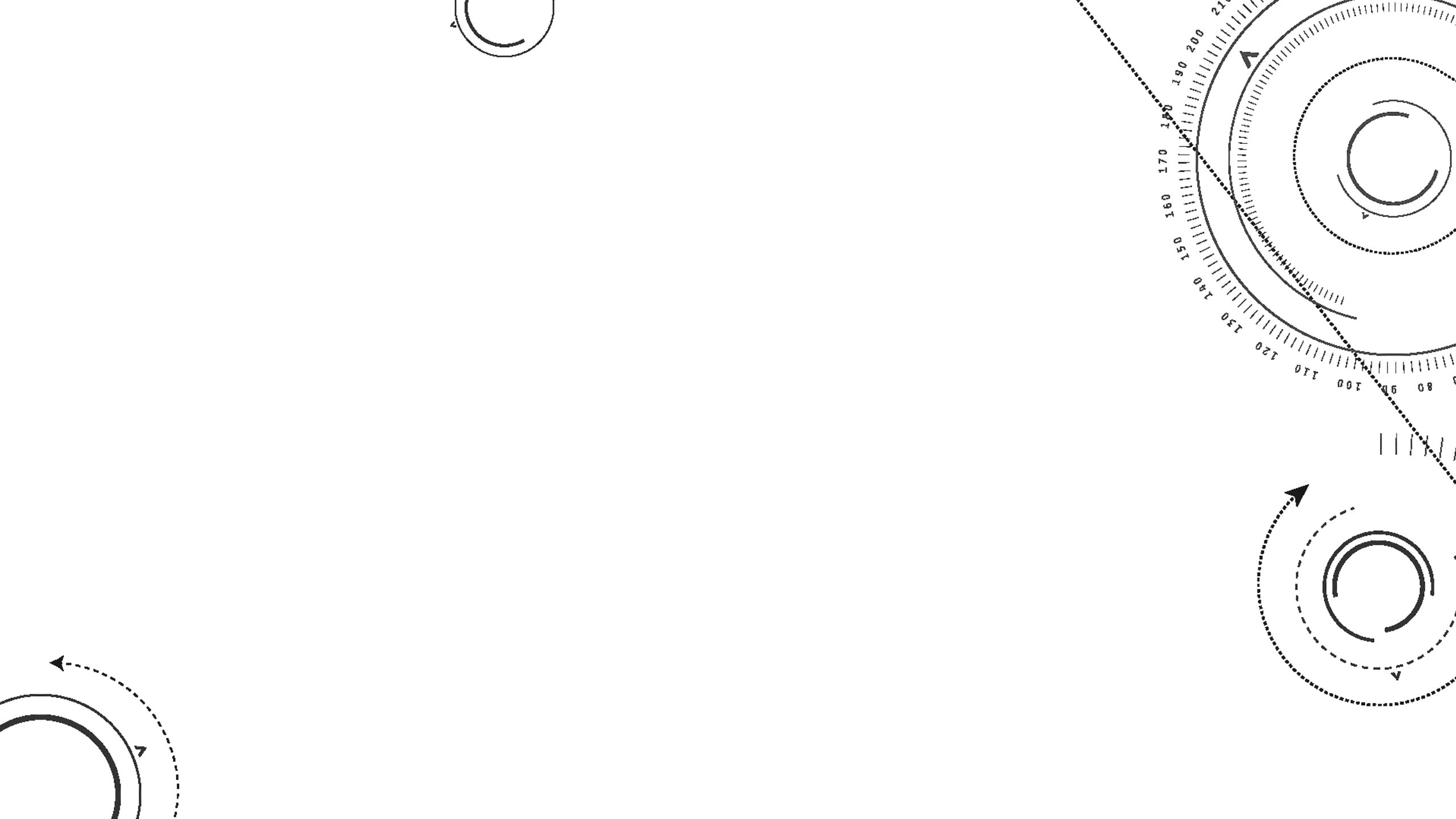


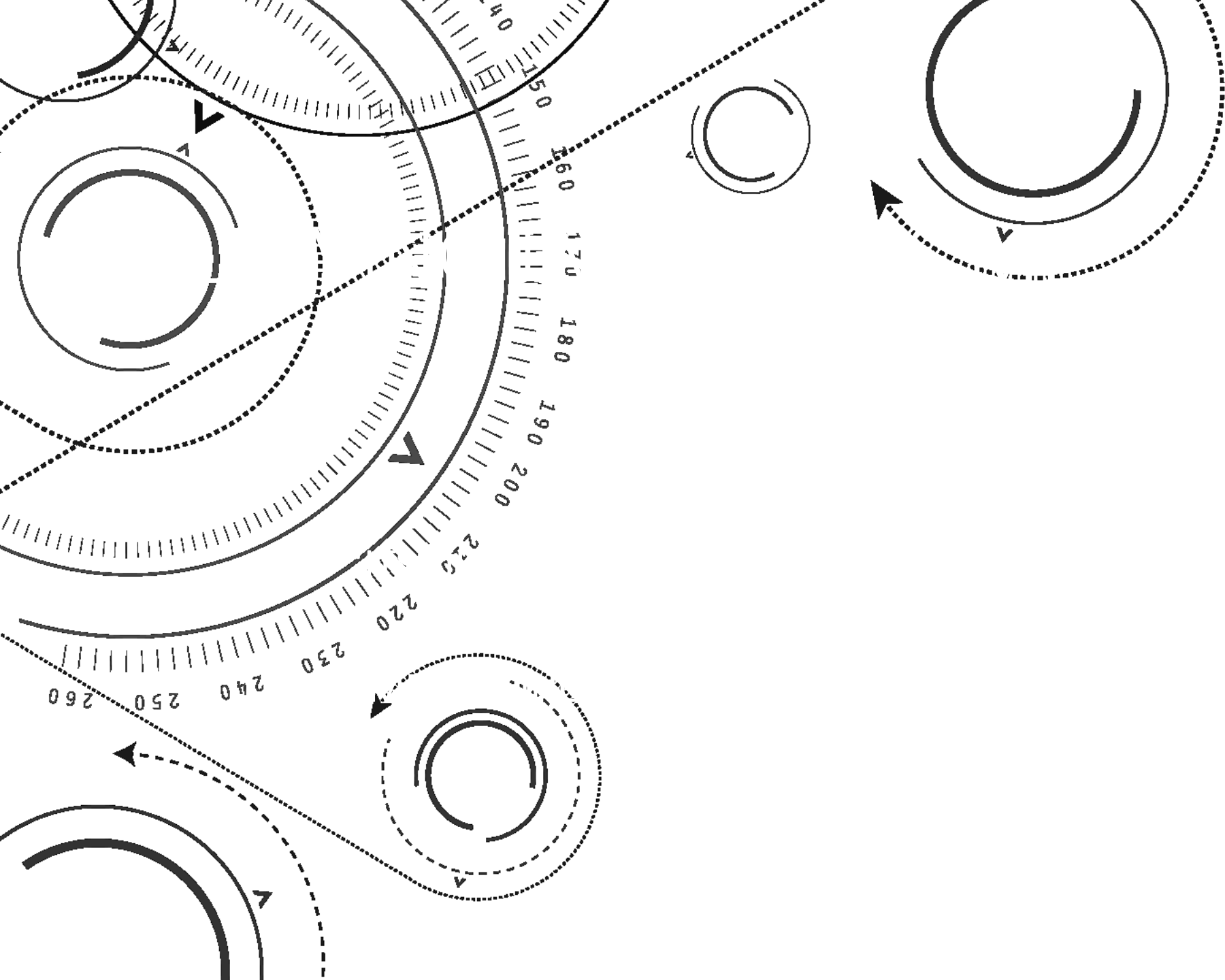
*Tyson with
100 year old
Sr Josephine
who prays
daily for
Tyson*

Welcoming Prisoners

Sacred Heart Parish, Tatura, Victoria

St Mary's, Mooroopna, Victoria





EASTworks Program

EAST:

- Education/Employment, Accommodation, Spirituality and Transitional Support are vital to our lives.
- East also holds scriptural meaning from the Wise who followed the 'star in the East'.
- We can draw inspiration from the stars in our lives and the ways we find companions to journey to our "East".

works: because we've been doing this a long time and know it works!





Bridge Community
A Post-release space.....
to find voice
and direction

Photos: Juliet Darling

Maximilian Kolbe Prison Ministry Special Works Conference

The Conference aim is to assist with the Spiritual needs of the men while inside by the supply of Study Bibles, rosary beads, Holy cards and prayer booklets.





Maximilian Kolbe Prison Ministry

An initiative of St Vincent de Paul, this ministry works with chaplains to assist prisoners who having completed their sentence and need immediate crisis accommodation upon release.



Mackillop Gate Ministry

Understanding the connection between homelessness and incarceration as well as the fact that the first seventy-two hours are important as the person transitions back into society these bags contain items to enable the person to survive till they can connect with other services.

Mackillop Gate Ministry



The project began in November 2014 and yearly distributes around a thousand bags through out QLD Correctional Centres.



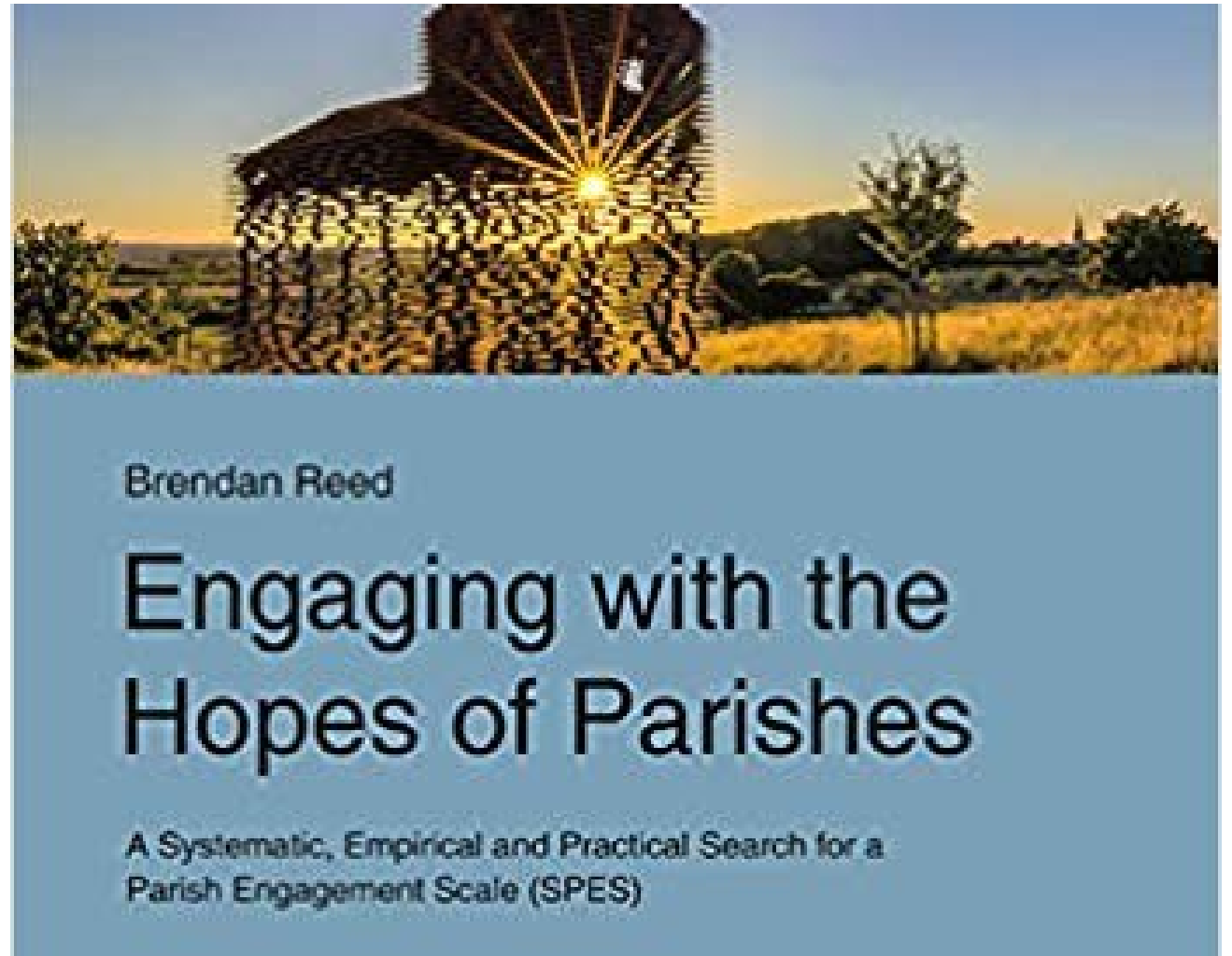
This ministry has attracted grants from the QLD Religious Leaders, from QLD Corrections Service and financial donations from small groups and individuals.



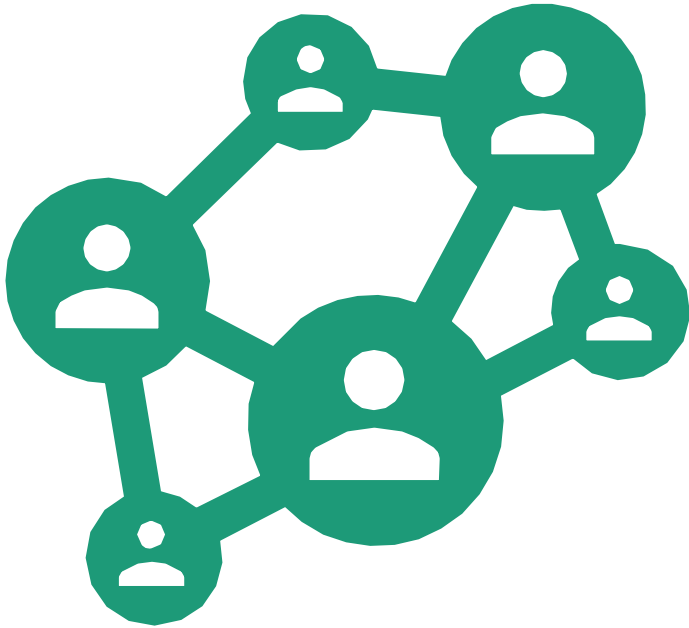
Many catholic parishes, school, and individuals are involved in collecting donations in kind for the bags .Several volunteers are involved in packing the bags.

Welcoming Parishes

- St Francis Xavier, Perth WA
- St Mary's, Erskineville, NSW



Gratitude for parish support...



Identifying Locational Drivers of Entrenched Disadvantage project



- More than 20 Catholic social service providers have joined with researchers from the Australian National University to commission new research into entrenched disadvantage.



'I was in prison...'

An exploration of Catholic prison ministry in Victoria



'I was in
prison.....'



The purpose of the study was:



to provide information and insights into the ministry



to increase awareness within and beyond the
Catholic community about this Ministry



to stimulate and provide a basis for further work to
be undertaken



the dearth of literature available in Australia about
the efficacy or otherwise of prison chaplaincy.

* Prison chaplains should be better known as these inspirational people are responding to the Gospel call in a way that is not an option for many, but which is essential to the People of God as a whole...

* Chaplaincy needs our support: it is from the broader Church that chaplains and the volunteers who work with them emerge, and are supported

* Greater awareness of the work of chaplaincy in prisons will lead to greater support for this ministry from governments and prison authorities, without whose support chaplains cannot carry out their work.

Australian
Catholic
University

Dr Ruth Webber

***Caring for older prisoners:
peer caregiving practices in Victoria***



The Heart of the Matter – Influencing transformation in people's lives outside of prison

Netty Horton
Chief Executive Officer, CatholicCare Melbourne



Results of the Program

Families have improved communication and conflict management skills and remain engaged with and supportive of the family member via:

- Family outreach
- Pre-release work to manage expectations of prisoners
- Pre-release management of expectations with families
- Post release group sessions for ex-offenders and families
- Improved relationships between returning parents and their children
- Improved access to family and individual support services



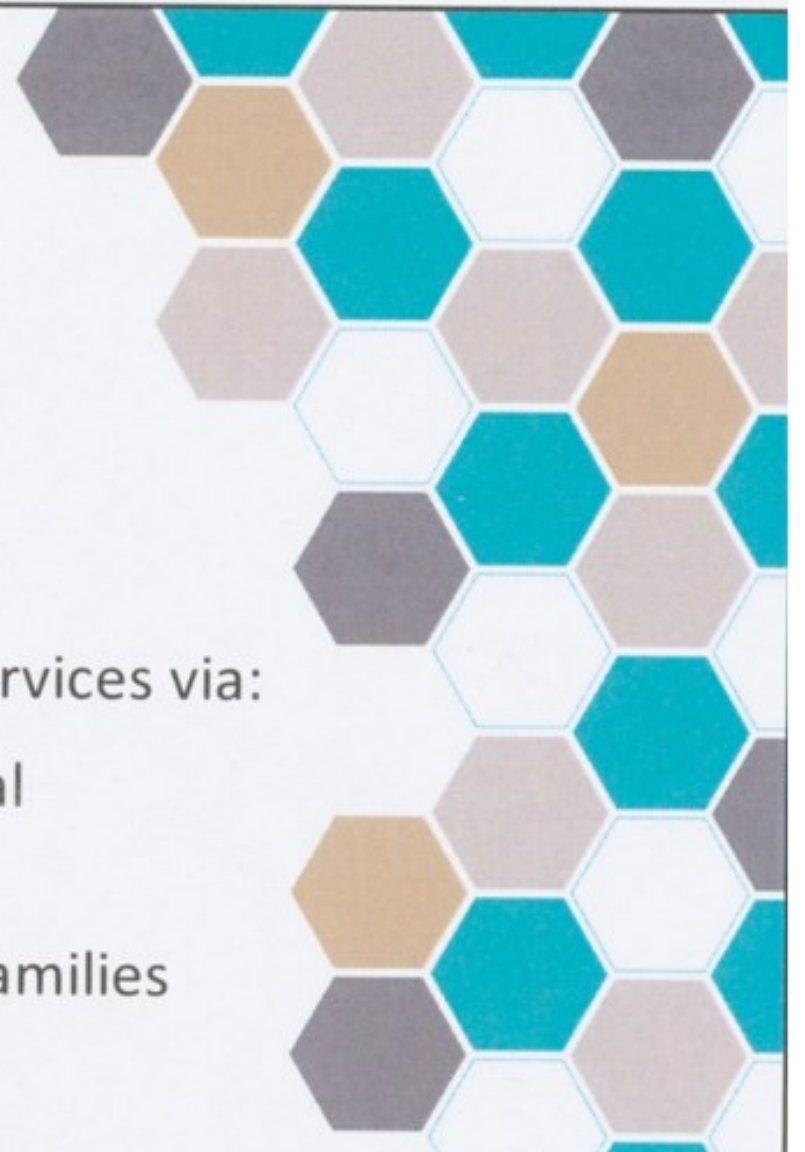
Results of the Program

Improved relationships with their children via:

- Post release parenting program for ex-offender parents and children
- Outreach parenting services

Improved access to family and individual support services via:

- Referral to other CatholicCare services or external providers
- Development of interactive online resource for families



Jesuit Social Services

**Experts demand
overhaul of
youth justice
system**

- Jesuit Social Services is among a coalition of mental health experts and community groups demanding an overhaul of Victoria's youth justice system so that it focuses on early intervention, rehabilitation and support.



National Catholic Digital Platform

Juvenile Justice

Northern Territory

The Royal Commission into the Detention and Protection of Children in the Northern Territory was established to enable the swift inquiry into the treatment of children detained in detention facilities and child protection in the Northern Territory.

The Final Report of the Royal Commission was tabled in Parliament on 17 November 2017.

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

The report into Youth Justice Centres in Victoria was tabled in parliament 2nd April, 2017

The inquiry found a shortage of experienced and trained staff, inadequate crime-prevention strategies and a punitive approach to justice are all hindering the rehabilitation of young people in detention.

Juvenile Justice

Bishop Terry Brady, Bishops' Delegate to the Australian Catholic Prisoners Pastoral Care Council and chair of the Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life, said youth detention systems in some Australian states and territories were under significant stress, leaving vulnerable young people without the services they need to turn their lives around.

“At any time, for example in Victoria, there are around 200 children and young people, aged between 10 and 24 years old, incarcerated in youth justice centres. The Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory last year also highlighted the need for fundamental reform in detention and child protection systems in the Northern Territory,” he said.

Asylum-seekers moved to Port Moresby 'forced into poverty'

Asylum-seekers who were transferred from Manus Island to Port Moresby are being “forced into poverty”, according to an advocacy group. Source: *SBS News*. In recent months, dozens of asylum-seekers on the island took up an offer from Papua New Guinea authorities to move to the capital, with the promise they would “continue to receive services like those currently available to them”.

Refugee youth face cycle of homelessness

An Australian Catholic University study of young refugees has found many go through a period of homelessness because of the lack of appropriate resettlement services.

Source: *Melbourne Catholic*.

Youth work academic Jen Couch followed 24 refugee young people over five years as they moved through a series of insecure, unsafe, temporary places to sleep.

While a few managed to stay in school or work, most lost education and work opportunities because of lack of secure housing.

Indigenous people of Australia are grossly over-represented in the prison statistics

- A royal commission in 1987 investigated Aboriginal deaths in custody over a 10-year period, giving over 330 recommendations. Its recommendations are still valid today, but very few have been implemented. Every year, Aboriginal people continue to die in custody.



Chaplain sustainability considerations

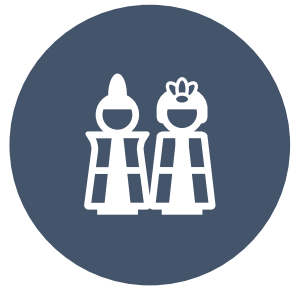


- Professional development
- Mentoring
- Supervision
- Salaries
- Resources
- Companionship
- Healthy work environments

Ongoing Ecclesial Challenges



- The invisibility of prisons for many parishioners who might get involved in prison ministry support if they were made aware and given avenues to do so



- How to minister to prisoners of all stripes as part of a chaplaincy team of all stripes, while holding fast to one's own faith tradition?



- Being inclusive, pastoral and flexible in ministry while trying to respect canon law



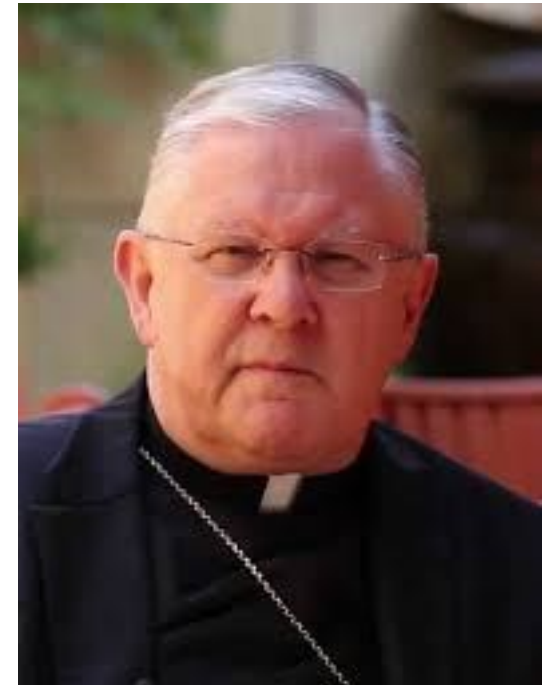
- How to administer jail chaplaincy better when overseen by dysfunctional bodies the Church has little power to remedy?



Church continues to strengthen child safety practices

Archbishop Coleridge, the president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, said the Church's ongoing response to its "shameful" history has marked major milestones on the anniversary of the National apology to survivors and victims.

"Work is progressing on a review of Church governance, as well as the development of new national policy guidelines to strengthen and standardise Church authorities' responses to historical and contemporary concerns and allegations of abuse," Archbishop Coleridge said.



In 2018, the entire People of God in Australia began preparing for this historic moment by listening to God, by listening to one another's stories of faith.

More than 222,000 people participated in listening and dialogue encounters and contributed 17,457 submissions during the first stage of preparation for the Australian Plenary Council. The voices of the faithful help all of us to understand something of the historical experience and the current reality of the Catholic Church in Australia.



Plenary Council 2020

'Listen to what the Spirit is saying...' REV 2:7

Discernment phase, continue
to seek
the wisdom of the
Holy Spirit.

**How is God
calling us to be a
Christ-centred
Church that is:**

- Missionary and evangelising
- Inclusive, participatory
- Prayerful and Eucharistic
- Humble, healing and merciful
- A joyful, hope-filled and servant community
- Open to conversion, renewal and reform

thankyou

