

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES BACKS STIMULUS, BUT URGES PRUDENCE

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Catholic Social Services Australia says governments and other key institutions have a duty to respond to the coronavirus challenge with a focus on pursuing the common good.

“At a time of social and economic uncertainty, we need concrete measures that support our economy,” CSSA chief executive officer Ursula Stephens said.

“The targeted \$750 cash payment to families and those on pensions and allowances such as Newstart is an important step in injecting vital cash into the economy.”

However, the Federal Government’s move to assist small business and protect jobs must be broadened to include the charity sector, which Dr Stephens said remains vulnerable to a slowing economy.

“Giving charities and social services access to cashflow support will provide greater certainty around their business continuity at a time when many regional and rural communities continue to be affected by drought and bushfires,” she explained.

“CSSA supports the Government’s moves to protect the economy, however it is not right to expect governments and workers to carry the burden of a softening economy while market traders seek to shore up their capital returns and mitigate their risk.”

Dr Stephens said stock market traders also have a responsibility to think carefully about their current actions and the harm they are causing to public confidence.

“We are a resilient nation. Many Australians have suffered greatly because of drought, bushfires and now the coronavirus. It is important that we remain calm and ensure that our collective actions serve the common good,” Dr Stephens said.

Catholic Social Services Australia is a national network of more than 60 agencies working in 650 communities, supporting over 500,000 people and employing 15,000 staff and volunteers.

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The national network of Catholic social services