

# VINNIES AND CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

**Catholic Social Teaching is the Catholic Church's guide to building a just and compassionate society, reflecting the Gospel values.**

Based on the writings of the Popes, other Catholic leaders and the Bible, Catholic Social Teaching isn't just a list of ideas; it's designed to help us respond to different issues.

Catholic Social Teaching challenges us to live out Jesus' message of love and compassion in today's world, turning our beliefs into action.

## HUMAN DIGNITY

### Everyone matters every day

Every human life is important and is made in the image of God.

At Vinnies, dignity is at the heart of our work. Homelessness, disadvantage and poverty strips away people's dignity. Staff and volunteers live out this teaching as they serve those most in need through conferences, community services and our social justice network.

Ensuring the dignity of all people is respected is at the heart of the other Catholic Social Teaching principles.



**What can you do to respect other people's dignity?**

## PREFERENTIAL OPTION FOR THE POOR

### We care for the most marginalised

Giving priority to the needs of people experiencing poverty and injustice.

This teaching is the whole reason Vinnies exists. We believe we are continuing the work of Jesus by caring for those who are struggling, alone or overlooked. We make a special effort to accompany those we assist and change the social structures that have marginalised them.



**Which groups in our society might be considered poor, vulnerable or neglected?**

## THE COMMON GOOD

### We are all connected

Looking past our own needs and interests to focus on what is best for everyone.

At Vinnies, our services and conferences are working in the local community to build a better society for everyone. We not only care for people who are experiencing poverty and disadvantage but we speak up to try and change the situations which have caused this disadvantage.



**Why is it sometimes difficult to put the needs of others before our own?**

# SOLIDARITY

## **When one person suffers, we all suffer**

We are part of one human family and stand in unity with one another.

At Vinnies, we stand with the disadvantaged not because we feel sorry for them, but because we want to show our love as fellow human beings. Our work challenges the causes of poverty and restores the dignity to those most in need, enabling them to be an active part of society.



**How does Jesus' teaching of "love your neighbour as yourself" relate to solidarity?**

# CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

## **We are all stewards of creation**

We are all responsible for looking after and protecting God's creation.

At Vinnies, stewardship means making wise choices that care for the environment. Our retail shops are an important way of reducing waste, by giving clothing, shoes, books and furniture a new home, with the money raised supporting our work.



**What does good stewardship of creation look like?**

# SUBSIDIARITY

## **Everyone deserves a voice in society**

Every person should participate in the decisions that affect their lives.

A strength of the Vinnies conference system is that people work to help people in their own local area. Our volunteers and staff work closely with people to ensure they have a say in how we can assist them and help them find solutions that give them a 'hand up'.



**How can you make everyone in your classroom/school/community feel respected, heard and included?**