

CARITAS NEWS

#156 | AUTUMN 2019



> **CARITAS
COMMUNITY**
Standing
together for
social justice

> **STREAMS
OF JUSTICE**
Communities
flourishing
through
water access

> **100% HOPE**
...stories from
Africa, the
Pacific and
Australia

PROJECT COMPASSION

Lives change when we all give 100%



End poverty
Promote justice
Uphold dignity

FROM THE CEO

Project Compassion is a galvanising force in the work of Caritas Australia. This Lent, the theme of 'Hope' is the banner beneath which Catholic community organisations, schools and parishes are gathering to pursue a just world, at peace and free of poverty, where all people live with dignity.



Here at Caritas Australia we are keenly aware of the way that communities work together when they share one common vision and purpose. It's in this same spirit that Caritas Australia welcomes the Plenary Council, an initiative of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. Over the past ten months, over 33,000 submissions from individuals and groups have been received, sharing their experiences of life, faith and church.

Caritas Australia is also deeply committed to a process of listening and collaboration, and we will carefully reflect on the outcomes of a supporter survey released over January and February. We will continue to work with you to pursue the holistic vision of social justice which has defined our work in the development sector for over fifty years.

This year our work has a particular focus on water, the natural environment and its wellbeing. Caritas has been relentless in its pursuit of programs which marry the needs of local communities and of the surrounding physical environment. To this same end we are launching the Generation Earth initiative (genearth.org.au) which, following the lead of various Catholic Bishops Conferences all over the world, assists Australian individuals and business leaders to promote the use of renewable energy.

Thank you once again for your support which enables us to work for the full realisation of human dignity and wellbeing for all people as the key way to end poverty and injustice.

Through careful stewardship of our financial resources and a deliberate focus on our Catholic identity, Caritas Australia continues to pursue a just world, at peace and free of poverty, where all people live in dignity.

Sincerely,

Paul O'Callaghan, CEO

FOR THE LATEST NEWS, EVENTS AND UPDATES HEAD TO:

-  Caritas Australia, 24-32 O'Riordan St, Alexandria NSW 2015
-  1800 024 413 (toll free) 9am – 5pm AEST Monday – Friday
-  questions@caritas.org.au
-  www.caritas.org.au
-  #projectcompassion
-  facebook.com/CaritasAU
-  youtube.com/CaritasAustralia



THANK YOU

We sincerely thank you for all your support in 2018. By helping our partners and the communities we work with, you are transforming marginalised communities, offering them the gift of hope.

For great resources and fundraising ideas during our major fundraising and awareness raising appeal Project Compassion go to www.lent.caritas.org.au

CONTENTS

- 03 PROJECT COMPASSION 2019
- 04 THANDOLWAYO FROM ZIMBABWE
- 05 TATI FROM INDONESIA
- 06 PETER FROM THE SOLOMON ISLANDS
- 07 MICHAELA FROM AUSTRALIA
- 08 SALMA FROM BANGLADESH
- 09 NGUYET FROM VIETNAM
- 10 CARITAS COMMUNITY: BUILDING AUSTRALIAN SUPPORT

Cover: Thandolwayo drinks from the newly installed water system.

Inset: Michaela is one of the recipients of Caritas Australia's support through the Purple House initiative. Photos: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia

Writer/Editor: Daniel Nour

Design: Three Blocks Left

All photos Caritas Australia unless otherwise stated.

MIX logo



Caritas Australia acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians, past and present, of the land on which all our offices are located. This edition may include images or words of indigenous people who may be deceased.



Caritas Australia is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID).



Caritas Australia is fully accredited by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Please note: some of the programs featured in this issue of CaritasNews are funded by Caritas Australia and the Australian Government.

'HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT...'

Hope spurs us on, gives us the strength to continue in spite of difficult times and liberates us from fear.

Hope, in spite of very real challenges, equips the communities where Caritas Australia works with the resilience and resourcefulness to overcome the challenges of inequality and to become the architects of their own development.

For Project Compassion 2019, which takes as its theme 'Hope', we are concentrating on the stories of six people, whose hope and strength in the face of danger, 'keeps us from discouragement; sustains us during abandonment, opens up our hearts and leads us to the happiness that flows from love.*



10.8 Million was raised for Project Compassion in 2018

... hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

– Romans 5:5



Thandolwayo walks with a friend to school where she can set herself on the path to becoming a nurse.



Tati is being equipped with environmentally sustainable forest practices through the support of Caritas Australia. Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia

- October 2019 is the Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops of the Pan-Amazon Region. Pope Francis has called the Synod to discuss the preservation of the rainforest and the rights of rural and tribal communities connected to it.

- More than **60,000 people** are living with a disability in the Solomon Islands, according to the nation's office for disability. Find out how Caritas Australia is supporting the needs of those facing the challenges of disability by protecting dignity and encouraging resilience.

[FULL STORY ON PAGE 6](#)

- **An end to modern day slavery**

Pope Francis, with the support of people everywhere, is leading the charge to end slavery for the 27 million people being exploited today. Find out how you can do your part at acrath.org.au.

- **School climate strike**

On Friday March 15th students turned out in droves to lobby their Governments for harder action on climate change all over the world. In Australia 40 000 young people took to the streets. Caritas Australia's genearth.org.au campaign is one of the ways that Catholic school students and the wider community can engage in real, positive action to cut Australia's carbon emissions.

* Catechism of the Catholic church, 1818.

CARRYING EACH OTHER'S BURDENS

"The future does have a name... and its name is hope."

– Pope Francis

At Caritas Australia we believe in education as a way of breaking the inter-generational cycle of poverty. In Africa alone, a lack of water means women and girls need to collectively devote 40 billion hours a year to walking for its collection.*

For 12-year-old Thandolwayo, who lives with her grandparents in a village in North-West Zimbabwe, the burden of water collection prevented her full participation at school.

Every morning before school, Thandolwayo used to walk seven kilometres with the other women and girls to the Gwayi River and back again. Carrying a five litre container, she would traverse a rocky, mountainous path to collect contaminated water for her family and her teacher from the only available source.

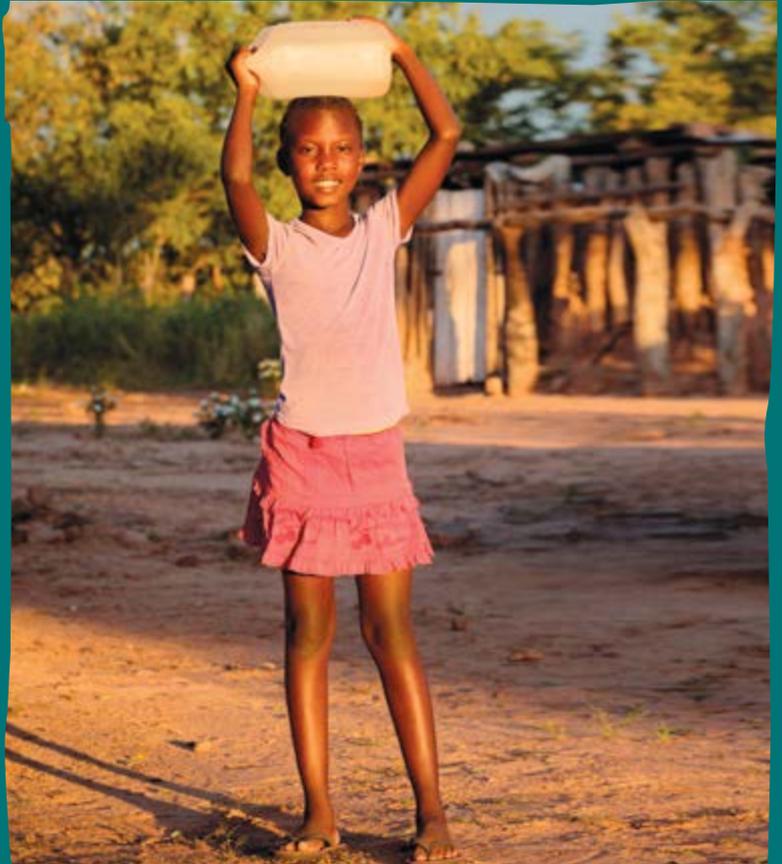
"Then when we got to the river, we were afraid of being attacked by crocodiles," Thandolwayo says. "I went to school tired after collecting water and my performance at school was low."

In 2017, Caritas Australia partnered with Caritas Hwange to help the community to install two solar-powered pumps to draw the water up from the river, as well as two 10,000 litre storage tanks.

Thanks to Caritas' support, water is now on tap in the village - benefitting the whole community and allowing girls like Thandolwayo to excel in class because they are less tired.

"Life has really changed as a result of the tap because now I can bathe every day," Thandolwayo says.

"The distance to collect water for the family has been drastically reduced. We now drink clean, safe water and diseases are no longer affecting us".



Thandolwayo outside her home holding a five litre water container she uses to collect water.
Photo: Richard Wainwright

"Hope is important because it makes me work harder so that I achieve what I want to be when I grow up. I want to live a good life in the future," Thandolwayo says.

There are also hopes that the new, reliable water source will draw more families back to her remote village and create new micro-enterprises like fisheries. School attendance has already increased and there are plans for a secondary school.

Your donation to Project Compassion can help to transform the lives of children like Thandolwayo.

> ACT

By hosting your own Caritas Ks trek, you can stand in solidarity with the millions who are forced to collect water from faraway sources to survive and raise money for Caritas. Visit lent.caritas.org.au

*United Nations

PLANTING IN HOPE, REAPING IN LOVE

"Land is not a commodity, but rather a gift from God."

– Pope Francis

Deforestation is an ongoing challenge in many parts of the world, but through Caritas Australia's partnership with local communities, forests are being preserved, bringing economic and environmental sustainability.

Tati is a Dayak woman, living in Indonesia's forest of West Kalimantan. Like all Dayak people whose values and culture are deeply linked to the rainforest, Tati's family has relied on it for sustenance for generations.

Before Tati joined the Caritas program, she and her husband mainly earned their income from rubber tapping and raising chickens.

"The challenge is that family expenses increase every year – and I have to go to the forest to tap rubber and it's hard to manage the care of my children," Tati says.

Over the last few years, communities which depend on the native forests have seen them shrink, along with vital habitats for endangered orangutans, rhinos and tigers.

Caritas Australia, with its partners Caritas Indonesia – KARINA and the Diocesan Caritas are working with local communities to create new hope for a better future, by helping teach local people English and long-term, sustainable eco-tourism activities.

So far, 40 people, including Tati, have been trained in areas including: identifying tourist attractions, managing accommodation, playing traditional musical instruments and making souvenirs, such as necklaces, shawls and orangutan dolls from local resources.

Since taking part in the training, Tati has increased her family income ten times over, by cooking for tourists and making souvenirs. Around 600 people have directly benefited from the program – with hopes that it can be expanded to other districts!

> LEARN

... about how communities are working to preserve their rainforests as well as achieve economic sustainability, through your support of Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. www.caritas.org.au/tati

Tati on the veranda of the eco-tourism project long house showing a woollen orangutan doll she made to sell to tourists. Photo: Richard Wainwright

WATER IS ESSENTIAL FOR LIFE

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."

– St Teresa of Calcutta

Dirty water: it's an insidious threat in rural communities. Over 600 million people globally do not have access to clean water and in the Pacific waterborne disease can kill.

Peter's childhood has been challenging. His mother left the family when he was little and has since passed away. As he grew older, Peter developed a musculoskeletal disorder, and now walks with the aid of a stick.

Groundwater sources at Peter's school in the district of Honiara dried up and rainfall was too unpredictable to rely on. Water in surrounding wells and boreholes often made students sick or gave them rashes.



Peter uses water from a well about a kilometre away from his school on Malaita Island, in the Solomon Islands. Photo: Cassandra Hill/Caritas Australia

"Water is part of our culture, a symbol in our dancing and our drumming. Lau means people who live in the islands," says Peter.

Through your support, Caritas Australia, with our network on the ground, Caritas Solomon Islands (CASI) and the Solomon Islands Government Rural Water Sanitation and Hygiene division (RWASH), teamed up with the school community to tackle the problem.

We provided a 90 kilo-litre water tank, electric pump and technical advice, while the Malaita Provincial Government contributed labour. Staff and students took part in training, dug trenches, carried equipment and are helping to develop a water management plan. The school now has a safe, reliable water system that has the capacity to service around 1,000 people, including students.

"I used to have to walk one kilometre every day to source water from the well," says Peter.

"Now we can stay at school to wash and not interrupt our classes, it makes our life much easier."

Peter hopes to help others in the future by one day working for an aid and development agency like Caritas, himself.

"I would like to thank the people of Australia and hope for Caritas to do more things for us, for our school," says Peter.

663 million
people worldwide do not have
access to fresh drinking water.*

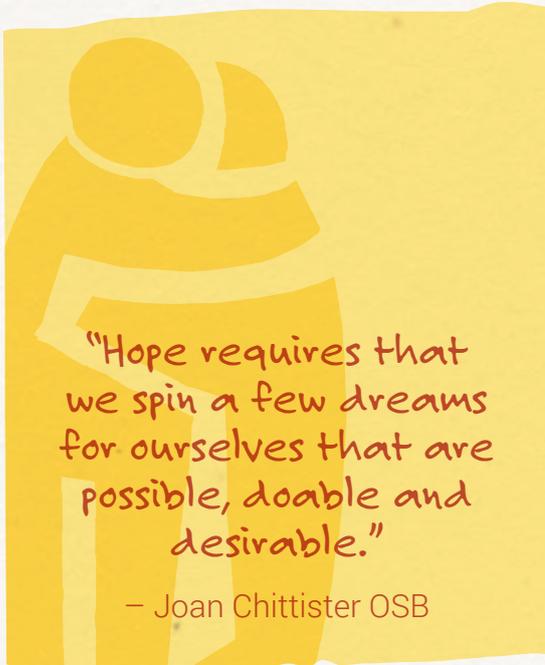
*World Health Organisation

> ACT

It's easy to organise your own Caritas fundraiser, like a Caritas KS or Caritas kitchen. Your financial support of Project Compassion is what enables community development in the Solomon Islands.

Visit www.lent.caritas.org.au

A HEALTHY SENSE OF COMMUNITY



First Australians are twice as likely to experience chronic kidney disease, and four times more likely to die from it than other Australians.

Caritas Australia is working with First Australian communities and its partner organisations, including Purple House in Central Australia, to put an end to these unacceptable inequalities.

The Purple House in Alice Springs is a 'home away from home' for First Australians who are suffering from chronic kidney disease and have to travel far from their traditional lands to receive treatment.

21-year-old Michaela is helping to build a social enterprise for the people who come to stay at the Purple House. As a Purple House trainee, she completed a Certificate IV in business management and was recently promoted from administration trainee to permanent employee, working on The Wellbeing Program.

The young Alywarr woman cares for patients as they receive dialysis and helps them to feel at home and remain hopeful during treatment. Patients in turn pass on traditional knowledge to Michaela.



Michaela McLaughlin-Liddle outside the colourful walls of the Purple House where she is a trainee. Photo: Richard Wainright

Sarah Brown, CEO of The Purple House says there is good evidence that people on dialysis in Central Australia are doing much better and surviving longer than elsewhere in Australia.

Sarah explains that for people living on country, "Dialysis used to be a one-way ticket to Alice Springs. Sick, homesick, miserable. Missing family, country, waiting for dialysis, waiting to die. Now people have things to do, plans to make, grandkids to teach, country to visit."

"It makes me feel very happy that I can help and I can spend time with the patients and learn from them. Also, I love making the bush medicines because that's another part of my culture." Michaela says.

Profits from the business are invested back into supporting dialysis patients receiving remote care and help to get people on dialysis back on country.

> DONATE

Just \$100 will provide First Australians with nutritional local foods for a community bush picnic to strengthen cultural bonds to community and country. Visit lent.caritas.org.au

A MOTHER'S LOVE

"The human heart is always drawn by love."

– St Catherine of Siena

Salma lives with her husband, Masud, in a rural community two hours from Bangladesh's bustling capital.

She was 18 years old, pregnant and fearful for her life and that of her unborn child, when she featured in Project Compassion 2013.

In Bangladesh, maternal and infant mortality rates are still tragically high. During her first pregnancy, Salma was very sick, she experienced abdominal pain and couldn't eat. She sought the help of a midwife called Pronoti, trained by Caritas Australia's Safe Motherhood Program.

Pronoti helped Salma safely through two pregnancies, thanks to her comprehensive training in midwifery, antenatal and postnatal care.

The program has reduced maternal and infant mortality in the area by almost 70 percent. Over 400 women have been trained in midwifery since 2008 – and they have given over 28,000 women antenatal checkups and delivered more than 15,000 babies.

Now 24, Salma smiles as she watches her one-year-old boy and six-year-old daughter play together. She is pleased that they are growing up strong and can focus on their hopes for the future.

"If the Safe Motherhood Program had not trained midwives like Pronoti, many of us would have to go to the private clinics 11 kilometres away," Salma says. "Some of us women and our babies might die because of that."

"We are poor and so it is easy to get discouraged about the future. However, if we have hope, we have the courage to try and do things that seem difficult or impossible at the time."

> LEARN

... more about the Safe Motherhood Program and its potential to save lives at www.caritas.org.au/safemotherhood



Salma, a stay at home mother, makes handicrafts to supplement her income. Photo: Richard Wainwright

OVERCOMING BOUNDARIES

"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

– St Francis of Assisi

Strength. It's what sets young women like Nguyet apart: equipping them with the endurance they need to bear up under years of physical pain.

Born with a disability, Nguyet's story of trauma and ongoing rehabilitation is common in her native Vietnam, where, according to the Vietnam Disability Association, there are over five million people (about 5.8% of the population) with cognitive, physical and visual disabilities.*

Through physical rehabilitation, community meeting spaces and regular visits from staff and therapists, Nguyet has moved beyond the years of isolation and the lack of education which defined her childhood.

One of the reasons that disability is perpetuated at such a high rate in Vietnam is because of the inter-generational effects of dangerous chemical residue, widely used in the Vietnam war, which have poisoned water ways and soil and which are passed down genetically from mothers to their children.

Caritas Australia in partnership Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is working to strengthen and equip communities, families and individuals living with disability in Vietnam, still suffering from the results of Agent Orange, widely used in the Vietnam War.

*Agent Orange in Vietnam
American Journal of Public Health, Oct 2014, Vol. 104 (10), pp.1857-60



Nguyet playing outdoors with friends. Photo: Nguyen Minh Duc

Implemented by Caritas Australia's partner, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Caritas is standing with disabled Vietnamese through the Capacity Building for Parent Associations Supporting Children with Disabilities (CBPA) program.

Through the program, Nguyet was offered a home-based education, health services, new social interactions with other children and a creative outlet she is good at.

Two years after she featured in Project Compassion 2017, Nguyet has built a successful online business selling t-shirts, accessories and home-cooked snacks made by her sister. She is also more confident in communicating with people and is riding a motorbike she bought from her profits!

"I can go out independently now," Nguyet says. "I visit my grandmother who lives four kilometres away and my friends' houses and I ship merchandise to my clients who live near here."

"We've increased our early detection screening of disabilities which has led to more successful rehabilitation and integration into educational services," says Ms. Dinh Thi Nguyet, Program Manager, CRS.

"Educating parents about the best ways for their child to learn also gives these young people the best chance at living a dignified life."

Nguyet has great hope and a real commitment to succeed in her future. She hopes her story will inspire others to see what is possible for a person once isolated and unheard.

"I would like to have my own shop in the village one day. And I hope that other people with disabilities in Vietnam will receive help like I did," Nguyet says.

> DONATE

Your support of Caritas Australia's work in Vietnam ensures the survival of Capacity Building Programs like this.
Visit lent.caritas.org.au

**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

**GIVE
LENT
100%**

A NATION-WIDE MOVEMENT OF HOPE

PROJECT COMPASSION 2019

Caritas Australia's supporters celebrated the launch of Project Compassion with events in schools and parishes all over the country. Here's how communities put 'hope' into action: creating a better world by standing together for the communities which Caritas Australia helps globally.

BRISBANE – HOPE IN FULL COLOUR

In Brisbane, 500 students and teachers celebrated the theme of hope in technicolour. Archbishop Mark Coleridge launched Project Compassion on March 5 with the reading of a liturgy at St Stephen's Cathedral.

"At the heart of Caritas is a simple philosophy: we help people to help themselves. Since it began in 1965, Project Compassion has been vital to our capacity to fight poverty, tackle injustice and uphold dignity," said Kerry Drysdale, Caritas Australia's Brisbane based Justice Educator.

Students came together to create, learn and pray in support of the work of Caritas Australia.



Students come together for Project Compassion at Stephen's Cathedral in Brisbane. Photo: KISS photography

ADELAIDE – YOUNG AND OLD UNITE FOR PROJECT COMPASSION

Students from St Joseph's, Tranmere, were full of joy and 'hope' at launch of Project Compassion in Adelaide on February 26th. Through learning and prayer activities students learnt about the work of Caritas.

Cynthia Thompson said social justice and ecological issues were "immensely important" for the school and that the 2019 student Just Leadership Team was motivated to promote Project Compassion's theme of 'hope'. A liturgy was led by Father Philip Marshall. Young and old came together at this exciting Project Compassion event in South Australia.

Thanks St Joseph's Tranmere for always stepping up and giving 100% for Caritas Australia!



Students at St Joseph's School Tranmere, Adelaide. Photo: Cynthia Thompson

SYDNEY – STUDENTS LEARN HOW WATER ACCESS CHANGES COMMUNITIES

In Sydney Project Compassion kicked off with an immersive educational simulation. A tippy-tap water system was used to show students a common and precious means of water access all across the developing world.

Lenten Speaker Super Dube from Zimbabwe, spoke to students at St Ursula's College in Kingsgrove about how Caritas is working in communities across Zimbabwe to create improved access to water through better infrastructure.

After the talk, there was a commissioning ceremony where Caritas Australia's Justice Educator for the Eastern Region and NSW, Chris Nolan, inspired students to take the 'spirit of Project Compassion' out into the world and the wider community.

"The students were challenged to be ambassadors within their school communities, using their gifts and resources to promote dignity, raise awareness of injustice and give 100% to change lives," Mr Nolan said.



Students from High Schools around Sydney came to St Ursula's College in Kingsgrove to celebrate the work of Caritas Australia at Project Compassion. Photo: Nicole Clements

MEET BASKORO!

PROJECT COMPASSION 2019 LENTEN SPOKESPERSON

Yohanes Baskoro (Baskoro), Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2019 Indonesian spokesperson has been traveling the country talk about essential community development projects and to kick off Project Compassion for 2019.

Here's some of what he had to say.

In Kalamantan in Indonesia we help Indigenous people protect their forests from deforestation.

With Caritas we give locals (like Tati, this year's Project Compassion spokesperson,) training in small scale economy so they can run and manage their own daily livelihoods as well as eco-tourism.

Tati can now earn ten times more than she used to before Caritas entered her community.

Thank you Caritas Australia and Australian community for this essential support!

Find out how you can support Caritas Australia's Project Compassion campaign by donating, conducting a Caritas Water challenge or hosting a Fish Friday for Caritas Australia. Visit www.caritas.org.au



Yohanes Baskoro (Baskoro) at the Caritas Australia office. Photo: Daniel Nour/Caritas Australia



This Lent, what you give can create a hope-filled future for a child like Thandolwayo

Please donate to Project Compassion 2019 to provide water and a brighter future for vulnerable communities.

YES, I will donate to Project Compassion:

- \$45** could buy essential school supplies for students like Thandolwayo
- \$125** could help build toilets in villages and rural districts
- \$215** could help install water tanks to provide clean and safe water for families
- My choice of: \$ _____

YES, I will become a monthly supporter:

I would like to provide ongoing monthly support as part of the Caritas Neighbours program:

- \$18** MONTHLY
- \$27** MONTHLY
- \$51** MONTHLY
- OR My choice of: \$ _____ per month

MY PAYMENT DETAILS

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Expiry date: _____ / _____

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Date: _____ / _____ / _____

BANK TRANSFER to Caritas Australia – Bank: Commonwealth – BSB 062 438 – Acct 10072432 – Ref. AU19NL

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BSB: _____ Account no. _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Before payments commence, Caritas Australia will provide you with a full Service Agreement and confirmation of your details regarding this arrangement. Payments will be deducted on the 15th of the month or the next normal business day.

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Title: _____ Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Mobile: _____

Suburb: _____

Email: _____

- I would like my receipt sent to my email address to help save administration costs and make sure more of my donations goes where it is needed most.
- I would like to receive information about leaving a Gift in my Will to Caritas Australia.
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