

# Catholic Social Teaching in the aid and development work of Caritas Australia

## WORKSHEET

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Principle of Catholic Social Teaching	How is this evident in the work of Caritas Australia?
<p><b>Human Dignity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Every human being is created in the image and likeness of God. Every person has inherent dignity and every life is sacred.</li><li>– The women, men and children most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice should not be hindered from living a life equal to their dignity.</li><li>– Caritas Australia works to uphold and to value the unique human dignity and potential of every person.</li></ul>	
<p><b>The Common Good</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– The human person is both sacred and social. We realise our dignity and rights in relationship with others, in community.</li><li>– We believe every person is entitled to share in society's resources and every person is responsible for sharing our society's resources with others.</li><li>– Caritas Australia works with communities to fulfil individual and social rights and responsibilities, and to promote and protect the common interest of all communities in which we work.</li></ul>	
<p><b>Preferential Option for the Poor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– We are called to be companions to women, men and children who are in vulnerable circumstances.</li><li>– We recognise that extreme poverty is not inherent but constructed in societies and cultures; we are called to expose the institutions and structures which create and perpetuate inequality and hold them to account.</li><li>– Caritas Australia's mission is to accompany people in communities that experience poverty, that are vulnerable, marginalised or oppressed. We learn from them, walk with them in their experiences, and confront the injustices they face.</li></ul>	

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Principle of Catholic Social Teaching	How is this evident in the work of Caritas Australia?
<p><b>Solidarity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Standing ‘with’ others.</li><li>– We are one human family regardless of ethnic, cultural, religious or political difference.</li><li>– Love of thy neighbour has local and global implications.</li><li>– Solidarity helps us to recognise that we are all interdependent and what affects one of us affects us all, both nearby and far away.</li><li>– Caritas Australia believes we are part of one human family and have a responsibility to help each person achieve their full potential.</li></ul>	
<p><b>Participation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Everyone has a right and a duty to participate in society.</li><li>– Everyone has the right to participate in those institutions necessary for human fulfilment, such as work, education, and political participation.</li><li>– Caritas Australia commits to ensuring that both men and women participate in community development and decision-making activities recognising that all people are architects of their own progress.</li></ul>	
<p><b>Subsidiarity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– All people have a right to participate in decisions and activities that affect their lives.</li><li>– Subsidiarity requires decision-making to occur at the lowest level possible by the people most affected by the decisions and activities. When the needs in question cannot adequately be met at the lower level, then it is not only necessary, but imperative, that higher levels of government intervene.</li><li>– Caritas Australia works with local communities to support, promote and develop their capacity in decision-making and development to adequately respond to their needs.</li></ul>	

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Principle of Catholic Social Teaching	How is this evident in the work of Caritas Australia?
<p><b>Care for our Common Home</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– We have a duty to care for the earth’s resources responsibly, as stewards rather than consumers.</li><li>– Caritas Australia works for the integrity of creation in ways which assist the world’s poorest communities to have access to a greater share of the earth’s resources, encouraging environmental sustainability and equity, and respect for the environment.</li></ul>	
<p><b>Promotion of Peace</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Peace goes beyond the idea of the absence of war or violence.</li><li>– The desire for peace is more than an aspirational goal. Peace is a fruit of justice; and requires a respect for human dignity of all, and a society which is directed towards the common good.</li><li>– Caritas Australia works together with communities to promote peace through right relationships that embody respect, justice and collaboration.</li></ul>	
<p><b>Economic Justice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Economic activity is not meant solely for profit, but rather in service of the entire human community.</li><li>– Economic justice means not placing money in the centre or prioritising profit and financial wealth over people’s dignity and wellbeing.</li><li>– Caritas Australia works with people so that they can provide for themselves, their family, and contribute to their community. The goal of development is the good of the whole person and the wellbeing of the entire community.</li></ul>	