

We believe in the dignity of each person.

We believe that every person can be the architect of change in their own life.

And we believe that by taking action, a more just and fair world is achievable.

Caritas Australia Summary

Caritas Australia is the international humanitarian relief and development agency of the Catholic Church in Australia. Through our relationships with the Church, local partners and communities in the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Pacific and Australia, Caritas Australia helps to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. Our programs, advocacy and education initiatives promote the dignity of every person, regardless of religious, political or cultural beliefs. We envisage a world in which children, women and men most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice are architects of their own sustainable development.

Our development programs promote and build on the existing skills and resources of people to help them improve access to food, clean water, education, healthcare and income, regardless of their religious, political or cultural beliefs. Caritas Australia is part of Caritas Internationalis, one of the world's largest humanitarian networks. Our emergency relief programs work with communities to respond to disasters, develop strategies that build resilience, and reduce the risks and impact of future disasters.

- Our work is guided by the principles of Catholic Social Teachings, a holistic approach to development with human dignity at its centre – explore our guiding principles here: <http://www.caritas.org.au/learn/catholic-social-teaching>
- Our Strengths Based Approach helps communities to identify and build upon their strengths, abilities and assets. This approach creates sustainable, community-centric change and empowers everyone in a community to participate in building a better future. Explore how this works in practice here: <http://www.caritas.org.au/learn/strengths-based-approach>
- Caritas Australia works with local partners in 35 countries around the world – explore our reach here: <http://www.caritas.org.au/learn/where-we-work>

END POVERTY



Esther, a widow and mother of five children, worked hard to realise her vision of a secure future for her family. She now has access to clean water and can grow enough food for her family.

"Since my husband died, life was very difficult especially with food." But Esther now describes her days with more optimism, "I wake up in the morning... make sure the kitchen is clean and then set the fire and make breakfast, which is different to how things used to be."

With support from Caritas Australia, Esther has learnt new agricultural techniques. She now has access to clean drinking water and has a new irrigation system in her field of maize, providing food security and an income.

PROMOTE JUSTICE



Pa Bros, who is deaf, grew up in a small rural village in Cambodia. After learning to communicate with hearing and non-hearing people, he has opened his own barber shop.

"When I was smaller I didn't have any sign language. I couldn't hear - I only had gestures. It was like living in prison. I wanted to get an education, so I found out about joining the program."

Through the Maryknoll Deaf Development program in Cambodia, Pa Bros and other program participants learnt to read, write and sign in Khmer. He smiles as he explains that he can now communicate confidently and shares his plans for the future.

UPHOLD DIGNITY



Karimah gained confidence and self-esteem from the Red Dust Healing Program in Australia. She is now able to support her whole community, as well as herself.

"I'm so independent now, I'm so happy. I'm not scared anymore, I'm not afraid to do anything by myself. I'd just been living in fear."

Based on an Aboriginal philosophy of healing, Red Dust recognises and confronts problems, hurt and anger. Armed with cultural healing tools, Karimah transformed her life and is now a confident and inspiring leader for young people in the Kimberley region. *"I just can't stop thanking Red Dust for giving me that confidence."*