
Strategic Directions and Goals 2018 -2022

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand is the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference agency for Justice, Peace and Development. The mandate for the organisation specifies our work of development, humanitarian relief, education, advocacy and volunteer placements throughout the world, and in particular in Oceania.

Caritas works in partnership with Church, secular and other faith organisations across the world to achieve positive change in vulnerable communities. Working in partnership is a primary expression of solidarity and of the healing power of relationships in transforming our world.

As a part of the Catholic community of Aotearoa New Zealand, Caritas is part of the Church's mission. We will promote active and prayerful participation in every parish and Catholic school and with the individuals who support Caritas to raise awareness, take action and resource this shared mission.

Given the challenges facing the world, the need for effective communities of change makers working to overcome poverty and injustice will only increase. As part of strong Catholic movements in support of positive change for the poorest and for the earth, Caritas will play an active role within the Catholic community internationally.

The call to healing relationships extends to the earth and all parts of creation. The strategies we adopt and the ways in which we work must reflect the needs of the earth and the interconnectedness of all creation (Laudato Si', Ch. 4, Integral ecology) in the achievement of integral human development.

Our Mission

Caritas will be known as love in action. We unite with communities, especially in the parishes, colleges, marae, religious orders, schools and other Catholic agencies of Aotearoa New Zealand and Oceania to overcome poverty, protect lives and relieve suffering.

Our Vision

Caritas enables lives of dignity and hope by eliminating injustice and poverty, inspired and guided by the Gospels of Jesus and Catholic Social Teaching, and a loving personal encounter with people in need.

Our Values

Catholic Social Teaching promotes the dignity of each and every person, along with their responsibilities, regardless of culture, ethnicity, gender or religion. Our work is shaped by these values, and in particular the principles of:

- Human dignity – *Te tapu o te tangata*
- Solidarity - *Whakawhanaungatanga*
- Subsidiarity - *Mana whakahaere*
- Preferential option for the poor and vulnerable - *He whakaaro nui mō te hunga rawakore*
- Participation - *Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou*
- Stewardship - *Kaitiaki*
- The Common Good - *He painga mā te katoa.*

Our approach

Within Caritas and in all our work, we seek to be the hands, ears, eyes and mouth of Christ; formed by his love and heart, we are ready to serve, to forgive and to speak with patience, wisdom, gentleness and perseverance. At the core of our work is the relationships with each other and our partners in this work.

The Strategic Directions

- **A recognized prophetic voice**

Our statements and actions will be formed and informed from our encounter with communities and people who are in the margins and are disadvantaged. We will listen to and be challenged by Catholic Social Teaching, our supporters, parishes, schools and *Tangata Whenua*. We will make time to listen to the Holy Spirit. Then, with courage and compassion, we will speak out and respond appropriately. Our actions will give effect to our discernment.

- **Positive change for people and communities in the margins and peripheries**

We will work to reduce the impact of poverty with a focus on girls and women, refugees and migrants, and indigenous peoples. All our programmes and activities will be a response to the question "how will this empower people on the margins and peripheries to achieve positive changes in their lives?"

Our discernment process in identifying responses will be based on our understanding and experience of:

- Being a Church of the poor, for the poor
- The mission of the church
- Caritas' role in the church
- Our relationships, networks and knowledge

- **Focus on Oceania**

Oceania is our *tūrangawaewae*. Geographically and culturally we are based in Oceania. Our programmes and activities will recognise and prioritise this. This will be demonstrated through authentic partnership and deep relationships.

From our place in the world, our home, our *tūrangawaewae*, we will contribute to the well-being and flourishing of communities in other parts of the world. Our interconnectedness means that the well-being of Oceania is the well-being of the world. In solidarity, we will stand with all others in our One Human Family.

- **Agents of change through justice, peace and development**

The inter-relationship and interdependence of peace, justice and development are integral elements for the healing of relationships. As noted in *Laudato Si'*, healing relationships also extend to the earth and all parts of creation. Our activities and programmes will take this interdependence into account.

The Strategic Goals

Annually Caritas will identify, plan and deliver programmes that focus on the following strategic goals (which are inter-related and in no particular order):

- **Goal 1: Advocate and ensure the healing of relationships with the earth and all of creation**
- **Goal 2: Protect the dignity of marginalised people and those affected by violence and crises**
- **Goal 3: Strengthen our relationship with *Tangata Whenua* of Aotearoa**
- **Goal 4: Inspire and empower Catholics in Aotearoa New Zealand to work for peace and a world free of injustice and poverty**
- **Goal 5: Increase the effectiveness and resilience of our organisation**

This means that we will:

- a) Address environmental problems and injustice, focusing on climate change and freshwater, and the impact on the most vulnerable in the Oceania region. We will take into account how our activities assist in healing relationships with the earth and all creation.
- b) Focus on integral human development which empowers communities to tackle the causes of poverty and achieve justice, social transformation and ecological sustainability.
- c) Continue to support the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference to be seen to be advocates for, and visibly in solidarity with, the poorest of Aotearoa New Zealand.
- d) Support communities at risk of and affected by natural disasters/ emergencies or conflict to save lives, restore dignity, build peace and resilience. We will reduce the impact on the most vulnerable of natural and environmental disasters and conflict. We

will seek out the forgotten and hidden emergencies, and respond to them. We will ensure that disaster risk reduction is a cross-cutting theme in all programmes. We will communicate quickly and effectively with our Caritas network, Catholic community and general public about our response to an emergency.

- e) Continue to respond to the issues and concerns raised by the needs of refugees and migrants, through support of the work of Caritas agencies and their partners and refugee family reunification in New Zealand.
- f) Advocate for the needs of resettled refugees and their families in New Zealand, and liaise, where appropriate, with dioceses in their refugee responses.
- g) Maintain an effective working partnership with the *Te Rūnanga o te Hāhi Katorika o Aotearoa* and with Māori Catholic communities.
- h) Continue to make connections and deepen relationships with indigenous communities to strengthen our responses and deepen our understanding.
- i) Listen to indigenous ways of being and seeing so that our work is more effective.
- j) We will generate community response to issues of poverty through on-going advocacy and education programmes focused on the parishes, schools and the general public in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The ways in which we will work

We will achieve this by working closely with communities and other social agencies, primarily in Oceania (including Aotearoa New Zealand) but also across the world.

We will be an accountable organisation and will operate in accordance with Caritas Internationalis management standards. We will seek to learn lessons, to be innovative and improve. We will be financially viable, and our income will come from a diverse range of sources including individual supporters and donors, parishes, schools and government. We anticipate that we will deliver our advocacy, education, development and humanitarian programmes to the value of \$5-8 million per year and that no more than 40% of our funding will be provided by MFAT (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade). Funding received from all sources will be applied to projects that comply with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

We will be excellent stewards of resources, connecting with our communities through effective communication. We will be a great employer of between 20-25 FTE (Full time-equivalent) staff members within the following work areas:

- Catholic Volunteers Overseas
- Community Engagement
- Advocacy and Research
- Development and Humanitarian Programmes
- Operations Support (including *Kaihāpai Māori*)

We will continue to be inspired and challenged by the teaching in “Deus Caritas Est” (Para 31).