

MEDIA RELEASE

11 September 2019

AIHW REPORT

The National Council of the St Vincent de Paul Society welcomed the release today of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's flagship report *Australia's Welfare 2019*.

CEO Toby oConnor said the snapshot of the nation's wellbeing provides a rich source of data that helps to describe the outcomes achieved from the Government's existing income support initiatives and its extensive range of social services that are delivered by a combination of government and the NGO and private sectors.

'The AIHW's new format which includes a summary report, short data insights and access to detailed data via a portal is a good move forward.

'This approach makes the data more accessible to the public and social policy analysts.

'Access to quality data is essential for groups like St Vincent de Paul as we help shape future public policy to help Australians in need.

'Access to this data provides a valuable tool for analysing the impact of current social policy and helps provide context around the shortfalls in social services and supports being experienced by many of the individuals and families assisted by the Society.

'The report helps to measure the performance of existing social welfare service delivery and will help design more efficient social supports in the future.

'We are mindful that in turn this will drive the dollar further as the Australian population ages and the tax base comes under increasing pressure to continue to provide for the needs of the community.

'The Society is keen to work with the AIHW and with the Commonwealth Department of Social Services to design and build on effective services that address disadvantage.

'We are particularly interested in advancing the NGO sector's understanding of outcomes-based paradigms as these apply to local intervention strategies,' Mr oConnor said.

The Society of St Vincent de Paul consists of 60,000 members and volunteers who operate on the ground through over 1,000 Conferences located in individual parishes across Australia.

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