



Catholic Social Services
Australia

MEDIA RELEASE

1 February 2012

A Major Step Forward for Community Workers

Catholic Social Services Australia welcomes today's Fair Work Australia ruling in the equal pay case for community sector workers.

"The ruling recognises the historical under-valuation of Australia's community sector workforce. For CSSA's national network of agencies, this means recognition for many thousands of staff who make a big difference in the lives of disadvantaged and marginalised Australians" said CSSA Executive Director Paul O'Callaghan.

"The FWA ruling provides a long overdue wage adjustment and should lead to a more sustainable basis for workforce hiring and development over the coming decade, as long as Federal, State and Territory governments respond appropriately."

"The ruling identifies that much depends on the financial response of Federal, State and Territory governments to this decision. We call on governments to respond by committing to full funding supplementation, rather than part contributions."

"The ruling also identifies one category of services at potentially high risk. This is the category of social service programs which are "self-funded" by social service agencies themselves. Even if the transition is handled well, the continuity of many of these services could be at risk. We ask that all levels of government address the exposure of such services as a priority in their consideration of future funding decisions," he said.

CONTACT: Paul O'Callaghan 02 6285 1366 / 0434 142 069

www.catholicsocialservices.org.au