



In response to the Call of our respective Chapters, we are invited by the Australasian Josephite Justice Network to consolidate the issues that we have focused on over the past few years.....

Keep the Momentum Going

MAKE INDIGENOUS POVERTY HISTORY

Remember

Food for thought

- Approximately 45% of all Indigenous people are in Australia's lowest income group.
- Only 16% of Indigenous people are in the highest two income groups in Australia.
- Indigenous households in the lowest income group are most likely to be one parent families with dependent children (37%).
- Indigenous Australians earn 62 % of the income of non—Indigenous people.
- The median weekly gross individual income for Indigenous peoples is \$278 or 59% of the medium income of non-Indigenous people (\$473).
- Indigenous people tend to be employed through CDEP or in more menial jobs.
- Within occupational categories Indigenous people earn less. For example, Indigenous managers earn 82 % of their non-Indigenous counterparts.

Almost all remote Indigenous communities lack basic services that are available to other Australians. Many such communities look more like Third-World refugee camps than part of one of the richest countries in the world. They lack basic facilities taken for granted elsewhere in places of similar size elsewhere. Meanwhile, in rural and urban Australia alike,

Quotation

'I know you think you should make a trip to Calcutta, but I strongly advise you to save your airfare and spend it on the poor in your own country. Its easy to love people far away. It's not always easy to love those who live right next to us.'

Recognise

Imagine yourself living in a community where on average 17 people live in each house, in sweltering conditions without adequate health care (though chronic diseases are rife) and where children beg and steal for food.

Where on the earth are you?

Answer: right here in Australia, in Wadeye (Port Keats) in the Northern Territory...

The Week of Prayer for Reconciliation (27th May to June 3rd), and National Sorry Day which opens the week of the 26th May, remind us of unfinished business concerning the needs of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia. Christ calls us

Rectify:

Pray for our indigenous brothers and sisters:

Holy God of Holy Wisdom, in Jesus Christ You call us from our foolishness to be your children, coming amongst us like a Kookaburra, singing the song of a new day. Give us that same spirit of solidarity which was in Christ Jesus, that we may bear your easy yoke, casting our burdens upon You and resting in Your love. In the power of the Holy Spirit who leads us all into a new future. **Amen.**

Write to : The Honourable Tanya Plibersek
Parliament House, CANBERRA ACT 2600
Email: Tanya.Plibersek.MP@aph.gov.au

To request that she

- address the systemic issues that keep Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in poverty
- put in place a credible national indigenous representative mechanism

Knowing that we as Josephite are in a privileged position on this planet, we acknowledge the obligation we have that

ALL may have life and have it to the full.