

We begin by acknowledging the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation as the traditional custodians of the land on which we are gathered.

We acknowledge that we are living and working on land that has been inhabited and cared for by the Wurundjeri people for tens of thousands of years.

We pay our respects to elders past and present, and acknowledge the continuation of cultural, spiritual, and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



OUR MISSION

Inspired by the spirit of the Daughters of Charity, St Mary's House of Welcome seeks to further social justice by standing with people who are disadvantaged offering support, solutions, and hope.



OUR VALUES

RESPECT Each person is a unique creation of God. Respect is a building block to authentic relationships and engendering of hope.

RELATIONSHIPS are essential for building trust and are a basis for wellbeing and spiritual fulfilment.

WELCOMING brings to life the acknowledgement and celebration of the dignity and worth of each person.

RESPONSIVENESS is a Gospel imperative which pursues positive social change and challenges us to reflect on and evaluate what we do.

HOPEFULNESS Hope gifts us with the vision to realise the potential in our lives, encourages us to achieve, and sustains us in difficult and challenging times.



OUR ETHOS

SMHOW takes its values and ethos from the teachings and examples of St. Vincent de Paul, a Christian and social reformer who co-founded the Daughters of Charity in 1663 with St. Louise de Marillac.

Central to this ethos is a belief that action, rather than words and hands on service to vulnerable people is required.



OUR WORK

St Mary's House of Welcome is a not-for-profit open access centre in the heart of Melbourne providing basic essentials services to people who are homeless and experiencing poverty, severe and persistent mental health issues, and those who are extremely isolated and socially marginalised.

Many of those who come to St Mary's House of Welcome for help experience multiple issues such as sleeping rough, drug addiction, poverty, childhood trauma, mental illness, institutionalisation and street drinking, all of which result in chronic social and health problems.

Our open access policy means that anyone who needs help can come and be welcomed for practical assistance. Whether it's a hot meal, a shower and a change of clean clothes or other material aid, or more specialist information, referral to access other homelessness agencies support legal support and emergency relief. At St Mary's House of Welcome, we open our doors to those in need.