

## 14-20 JUNE REFUGEE WEEK FACT SHEET

# HOW YOU CAN HELP IN THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY

COVID-19 has affected so many within our community, but has greatly impacted people seeking asylum within our diocese. Many have no access to any safety net of support.

This Refugee Week, you can make a difference and support people in desperate need. Many seeking asylum and their families:

- Are excluded from JobKeeper, JobSeeker, Medicare or income assistance
- Have lost their jobs
- Cannot pay their rent and are facing homelessness
- Struggling to feed their families
- Facing a winter without heat
- Are facing destitution

### WITHIN OUR DIOCESE\*:

 **400%** **EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**

Emergency assistance calls increased by 400%

 **77%** **FOOD BANK** 

77% increase to request for food bank items

  **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Increase in domestic violence incidents

  **MENTAL HEALTH**

Dramatic increase in mental health support needed



**EVICTON NOTICES**

Eviction notices given to asylum seekers including those with families, some living in informal, difficult situations



**REDUCED VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS**

Services facing a reduced level of volunteers and donations

**430** **FOOD BAGS NEEDED WEEKLY**

**1100** **PEOPLE FED WEEKLY BY SERVICES**

House of Welcome & Jesuit Refugee Service need to provide 430 food bags that feed 1100 women, men and children weekly

### WE ARE CALLED TO ACTION:

"In the faces of the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick, strangers and prisoners, we are called to see the face of Christ who pleads with us to help,"

**Pope Francis**

*Message of His Holiness Pope Francis, for the 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, 2020*

*\*Statistics provided by House of Welcome and Jesuit Refugee Service*

# HOW YOU CAN HELP IN THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY

## WHAT WE CAN DO:



### RUN A FOOD DRIVE WITHIN YOUR PARISH

## DONATE

### HOUSE OF WELCOME

[stfrancis.org.au/house-of-welcome/make-donation-house-welcome](https://stfrancis.org.au/house-of-welcome/make-donation-house-welcome)

OR

### JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE

[jrs.org.au/donate-now](https://jrs.org.au/donate-now)

## ADVOCATE

Sign the petition to make sure no one, including people seeking asylum, gets left behind during COVID-19:

[change.org/nooneleftbehind](https://change.org/nooneleftbehind)

## ITEMS NEEDED

- New winter blankets
- Basmati Rice
- Cooking Oil
- Long life milk
- Tinned tuna, red kidney beans, lentils, chickpeas and fruit
- Biscuits & muesli bars
- Oats & cereal
- Tinned tomatoes
- Tea & Coffee

## TOILETRIES

- Nappies (large sizes)
- Toothpaste & toothbrushes
- Shampoo
- Sanitary pads & napkins
- Razors & shaving foam
- Deodorant (male & female)
- Soap

## HOW TO RUN A FOOD DRIVE

1. Select a co-ordinator
2. Select drop-off point & time
3. Share what's needed with your community as well as when and where people can drop off items
4. Co-ordinator & team collects items & drops-off items to House of Welcome or Jesuit Refugee Service

## TO ARRANGE DROP-OFF OF ITEMS COLLECTED CONTACT

### HOUSE OF WELCOME

✉ [office@houseofwelcome.com.au](mailto:office@houseofwelcome.com.au)

### JRS

✉ [amelia.savage@jrs.org.au](mailto:amelia.savage@jrs.org.au)

✉ [zoe.grant@jrs.org.au](mailto:zoe.grant@jrs.org.au)