

# **SUPPORTING THE HEALTH AND DIGNITY OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS**



## **HOW CAN WE, AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS, RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS WHO FACE CHALLENGES DURING HOSPITAL STAYS FAR FROM HOME?**

### **1. CLASS ACTIVITY: WE ARE ALL CONNECTED!**

#### **Set-Up**

- You will need a ball of string.
- Everyone stands in a circle.

#### **Instructions**

##### **Start the Web:**

- One person begins by wrapping the string around their wrist. They then share something they like or enjoy, such as a place they like to visit.

##### **Sharing Common Interests:**

- If others in the circle like the same place, they raise their hands. The person with the string then throws or rolls the ball of string to someone else who has their hand up, aiming to create a web by passing the string across the circle.

##### **Continue Passing:**

- Continue this process with other ideas or actions. For example, share something they do to care for creation (e.g., recycling, planting trees, reducing waste). If others have also done this action, they raise their hands and the string is passed to them.

##### **Building the Web:**

- The group continues to pass the string, creating a connected web of shared experiences and common values.

##### **Ensure Everyone Participates:**

- Make sure each person has a chance to hold and pass the string so that everyone feels connected and engaged.

##### **Reflection:**

Once the web is formed, take a moment to discuss the interconnectedness of everyone in the group. Reflect on how even small actions, shared values, and common experiences link us all together, just like the web of string.

## 2. CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS IN ACTION

### **SOLIDARITY**

Every person deserves to be treated with love and care

### **DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON**

Standing together with those in need

### **PREFERENTIAL OPTION FOR THE POOR**

Prioritising help for those who are most vulnerable

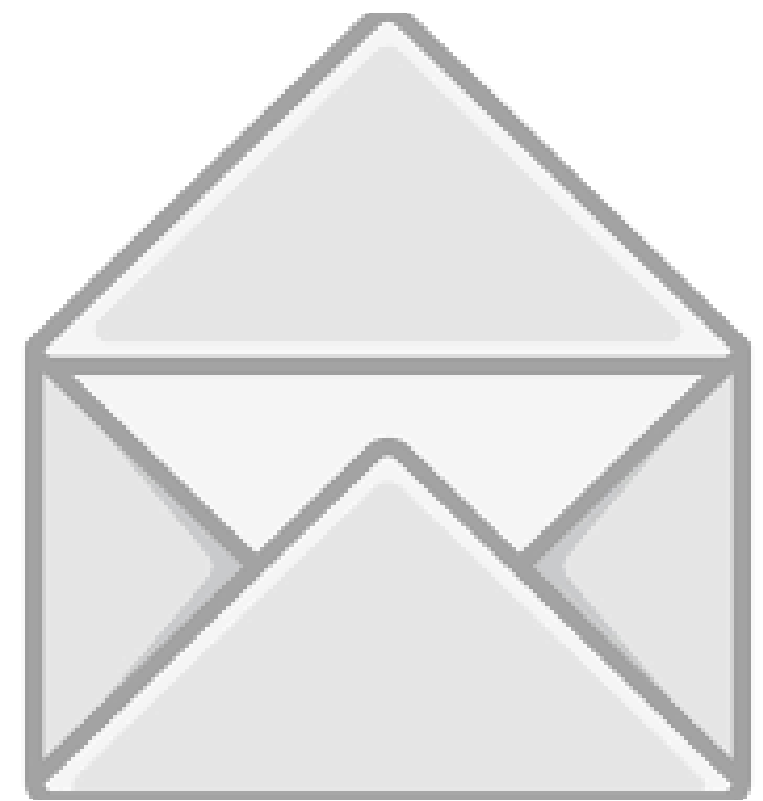
## 3. HOW CAN I RESPOND?

### **BY WRITING A LETTER OF HOPE**

Write a handwritten letter to be included in the NATSICC Hospital Bags.

NATSICC provides Hospital Bags with toiletry items for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are admitted to hospital – often without any basic items to make their stay more comfortable.

Your letter of hope and support could be a bright light in a difficult time. Send your letters to [admin@natsicc.org.au](mailto:admin@natsicc.org.au)



### **BY ADVOCATING FOR AND SUPPORTING LOCAL MEDICAL SERVICES**



## 4. WHAT HAVE I LEARNT?

- In what ways did this task help you put your faith into action? (Think about how it connected to values like compassion, service, or love for others.)
- How did this activity deepen your understanding of the challenges experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in accessing healthcare and support?