

## 2018 National Week of Prayer and Action

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20 – 31 August 2018

CAPSA invites your school to participate in this year's National Week of Prayer and Action.

As a practical expression of Pope Francis' message to welcome, protect, promote and integrate migrants and refugees (recently distributed by the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office in their toolkit to promote Migrant and Refugee week), we are asking for your support in facilitating action. From the 20<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> August CAPSA members and supporters will join with schools across the country to advocate and raise awareness for people seeking asylum in our communities.

We are focusing activities on the recent cuts to basic material and case management support for people seeking asylum. The Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) includes basic income support, access to some case management, and access to torture and trauma counselling. Between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of August approximately 1500 individuals and families who are seeking asylum will lose this support. An estimated 5000 more will lose this same basic support before the end of the year..

### Actions Your School Can Take:

Here are some clear and simple actions your students and colleagues can participate in during these weeks. Please don't feel that these are your only options, be as creative as you wish, or modify these to suite your situation. We are all responsible for what our government does in our name. We must let them know we want positive change.

- **'30 Days Notice' reflection activity:** How would you feel if you were given 30 days notice before your sole source of income was cut? How would you look after yourself, or your family? Get your class and colleagues to complete this activity and we will deliver your reflection to key politicians and policy makers. The more the better!
- **Host a [Circle of Silence](#):** This is a vigil-type event where students and/or staff gather in a silent circle to recognise the injustice faced by many refugees and people seeking asylum. This can be as public or as private as you wish. Take a photo and CAPSA will bring these actions together. Great at lunchtime at school, or before/after mass.
- **[Class/Assembly outside](#):** Students and staff can act in solidarity for those who will no longer have a #roofovermyhead, due to losing their SRSS support.
- **Arrange a [Speaking Event or Forum](#):** Invite speakers along to give insight for students to what the refugee process is like in Australia. Consider combining this with a large school photo or a letter writing campaign
- **[Pray for Refugees, Migrants, and those seeking asylum](#):** We can reflect and be present together or alone.
- **Coordinate your own activity** and let us know what you are doing via the [registration form](#) or email.
- **[Sign the CAPSA Petition regarding SRSS cuts](#)**
- **Sign up for CAPSA updates and calls to action:** Put your details in the form (scroll down to the bottom of this webpage) to stay in touch and be a part of coordinated efforts across the country.

The CAPSA team are on hand to support in any way we can! We will collate actions from across the country and make our collective voice heard by key decision makers. Please send us completed activities, and any photos or videos of your activity. More information and resources for the week can be found [here](#).

[Register](#) your school's involvement today, and be a part of the Catholic community's voice for human dignity.