



## **CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES NATIONAL CONFERENCE: FOSTERING UNITY FOR THE COMMON GOOD**

18 December 2023

Catholic Social Services Australia and Catholic Social Services Victoria are delighted to announce the upcoming national conference, a key event scheduled to take place from 21-23 February in Melbourne.

Under the theme “Commons, Commonality, Common Good,” this event aims to bring together social services experts, inspire conversations, unity, and positive action for the common good.

The Conference boasts an exceptional line-up of speakers, headlined by the esteemed Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, who will deliver a keynote address on the first day. Other distinguished speakers include Dr Julie Edwards, CEO of Jesuit Social Services, Claire Victory, former National President of St Vincent de Paul Society, and Prof. Mark Considine, a leading public policy specialist. Prof. Considine’s recent book, “The Careless State – Reforming Australia’s Social Services,” was featured on the 2023 Prime Minister’s Summer Reading List, compiled by the Grattan Institute.

The event will be a convergence of minds, fostering discussions on critical issues facing our society and exploring innovative solutions to contribute to the common good. Attendees can expect engaging sessions, though provoking presentations, and opportunities for networking with like-minded individuals committed to making a positive change in our community.

Monique Earsman, Executive Director of Catholic Social Services Australia said “Given the high cost of living and the challenging housing market, it’s clear that many in our communities are currently looking for more support. Our Conference provides a unique opportunity for us to come together, exchange ideas, and collaborate on practical solutions. It’s a chance to innovate and make an even greater impact in the lives of those most in need.”

Josh Lourensz, Executive Director of Catholic Social Services Victoria, invites all individuals interested in social justice, social change, and best practice service delivery to attend. “This conference is a unique opportunity for us to come together from a wide variety of experiences – be that organisational leadership, volunteering, pastoral care, social work, or parish ministry to learn and engage in meaningful conversations about social issues that affect us all – and how we can be a part of meaningful and positive change in our own contexts. We extend an open invitation to those working in Catholic health, education, and parishes – but also to others working in faith and values-based organisations, to come and be involved in this conference and its learnings.”

“If you are passionate about making a positive impact on society, join us for a wonderful few days of challenge, thinking, and learning.”

CSSA and CSSV call on all members of the Catholic community, as well as individuals and organisations dedicated to social justice, to participate actively in making this conference a resounding success. Your involvement is crucial in spreading awareness and fostering a spirit of engaged and vibrant Catholic community.

Peter Monaghan, Chair of CSSA and CEO of Marist180, states, “As we gather at the Catholic Social Services Conference, let us recognise the power we hold to effect positive change. Together, we can create outcomes that make a real difference in the lives of those facing hardship.”

To register: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1101016>

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