

THE HON MALCOLM TURNBULL AC TO DELIVER MCCOSKER ORATION AT CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES AUSTRALIA'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY GALA DINNER

19 July 2026

Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA) is honoured to announce that **The Hon Malcolm Turnbull AC** will deliver the prestigious McCosker Oration at CSSA's 70th Anniversary Gala Dinner, to be held at the Australian Parliament House in Canberra on 12 August 2026.

The McCosker Oration pays tribute to the legacy of Monsignor McCosker, whose commitment to social justice and the common good continues to inspire CSSA's work across Australia.

CSSA CEO Dr Jerry Nockles spoke warmly about Mr Turnbull's participation, highlighting the significance of this moment:

"We are truly honoured that Malcolm Turnbull will join us for this important occasion. His leadership and thoughtful engagement with the challenges facing our nation bring a depth and resonance that will greatly enrich the evening."

"The case for a Common Good Accord has never been stronger. As our nation faces entrenched poverty, disadvantage, marginalisation, and a breakdown in social cohesion, we must heed Pope Leo's call to 'get our hands dirty on the construction site of our time.' These are not abstract challenges – they demand practical, courageous action from all sectors of society," Dr Nockles said.

"Malcolm Turnbull is uniquely positioned to speak to these critical issues. His leadership and insight will provide invaluable perspectives as we seek to build a more just and compassionate Australia. We look forward to hearing what he has to say at this landmark event."

Dr Nockles also emphasised the vital role of Catholics in public discourse amid a shifting political landscape:

"With a new political dynamic emerging and significant policy questions ahead – none of which are consequence-free – it is more important than ever for Catholics to speak clearly and courageously into the public square. As we approach critical state elections in Victoria and New South Wales, our voices must contribute to shaping policies that uphold human dignity and the common good."

The Gala Dinner, themed “**Building for the Common Good,**” will also coincide with CSSA’s 2026 Parliamentary Advocacy Summit, a key event that brings together Catholic social service providers, government representatives, and community leaders to advocate for policies that reflect Catholic Social Teaching and promote the dignity and well-being of all Australians.

CSSA is the national peak body representing Catholic social service providers across all States and Territories, advocating on behalf of vulnerable Australians to Federal, State, and Territory Governments.

The Gala Dinner and Summit offer a unique opportunity to engage with CSSA’s vision for a society where the common good is central to policy and practice.

Registrations are now open:

- For the 70th Anniversary Gala Dinner: <https://cssa.org.au/cssas-70th-anniversary-gala-dinner/>
- For the 2026 Parliamentary Advocacy Summit: <https://cssa.org.au/cssas-2026-advocacy-summit/>

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About CSSA

CSSA is the national peak body for Catholic social service providers. CSSA's network of forty-two member agencies runs across all Australian States and Territories with a combined total of over seven hundred sites, delivering essential services to vulnerable and disadvantaged Australians.

The Honourable Malcolm Turnbull AC

Australia's 29th Prime Minister (2015-2018) had international careers in law, business and the media before entering politics at the age of 50.

As Prime Minister, he reformed Australia's personal income tax, education and childcare systems, oversaw the legalisation of same sex marriage and announced the construction of Snowy Hydro 2.0 the biggest pumped hydro scheme in the southern hemisphere. Mr Turnbull embarked on the largest peacetime investment in Australian defence capabilities and set out Australia's first national cybersecurity strategy.

Globally, Mr Turnbull played a leading role in reviving the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP-11 or CPTPP) after the United States withdrew. He also struck deals with US Presidents Obama and Trump to accept refugees who tried to arrive in Australia illegally by boat.

As a young lawyer, Mr Turnbull successfully defended former MI5 agent Peter Wright against the British Government in the 1986 "Spycatcher" trial before entering business where he ran his own investment banking firm for a decade before joining Goldman Sachs as a partner in 1997. Both before and after his political career, Mr Turnbull has been a successful venture capitalist. He co founded OzEmail Limited, the first Australian tech company to be listed on the NASDAQ.

Since leaving politics, Mr Turnbull has resumed his business career. He is a senior adviser and an investor in many Australian technology businesses. He is President of the International Hydropower Association. Mr Turnbull speaks and writes on a range of issues including cyber security, geopolitics and renewable energy.

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