

CSSA 2026 Parliamentary Advocacy Summit and 70th Anniversary Gala Dinner Program

Day One – Wednesday, 12 August 2026

Event 1: Catholic Social Services Australia: Mission Formation, Governance and Celebration

Member only event

9.00am	Welcome, Prayer, Acknowledgement of Country	Haydon Hall St Christopher's Pastoral Centre 55 Franklin St Manuka
9.15am	Session 1: The Role of Lay Leadership in the Australian Catholic Church Today - Loving God, Loving your Neighbour	Martin Teulan <i>Executive Director of the Association of Ministerial Public Juridic Persons (AMPJP)</i>
10:30am	Morning Tea	
10:45am	Session 2: Is Mission more important than Governance?	Kathleen Donnellon <i>Author of 'Deep Governance Matters: The World of Community Service and Mission'</i>
12:00pm	Walk to St Christopher's Cathedral	
12:15pm	Mass	

12:45pm	Lunch	
1:15pm	Session 3: CSSA Member Presentation From Mission to Impact: Using practice governance to ensure our services make a difference	Melissa McSeveny <i>Evidence, Impact, and Research Manager CatholicCare Sydney</i>
2:15pm	Session 4: CSSA supporting Mission, Introduction to the Social Justice Statement: “Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division”	Katie Walsh-Smith <i>Director of Strategic Engagement and Mission, Catholic Social Services Australia</i>
3:00pm	Close	
4:30-4:50pm	Arrival at Parliament House and security screening <i>*Note: Guest photo ID required</i>	Australian Parliament House
Event 2: Pre-Dinner Reception in Speaker’s Courtyard		
5:00-6:00pm	Presentation of the ACBC Social Justice Statement: <i>‘Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division’</i>	Pre-Dinner Reception with the Hon Milton Dick MP Speaker’s Courtyard, Australian Parliament House

Event 3: CSSA 70th Anniversary Gala Dinner and McCosker Oration		
6:00pm	Gala Dinner Canapes, Music and Networking	Mural Hall, Australian Parliament House
6:30pm	Opening of Gala Dinner	Mural Hall, Australian Parliament House
7:00-7:10pm	Introductory Address	The Hon Ged Kearney MP <i>Assistant Minister for Social Services, Assistant Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence</i>
7.45-8:15pm	McCosker Oration	The Hon Malcolm Turnbull AC Australia's 29th Prime Minister
8:35-8.45pm	Presentation of CSSA's Lifetime Contribution Award	Mural Hall, Australian Parliament House
9:00-10:00pm	Post-Dinner Networking	Mural Hall, Australian Parliament House
Day Two – Thursday, 13 August 2026 Catholic Social Services Australia: Building for The Common Good <i>Member only event</i>		
7:15am	Arrival at Parliament House and security screening <i>*Guest photo ID required</i>	Australian Parliament House

Event 4: CSSA Parliamentary Advocacy Summit Breakfast		
7:30am	Breakfast Opening and Acknowledgement of Country	Tangney Alcove, Australian Parliament House
7.45am	Welcome Address Guest Speaker (tbc)	Tangney Alcove, Australian Parliament House
7.50-8.10am	Guest Speaker Address <i>'Building for the Common Good through a Trust Agenda'</i>	The Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP <i>Assistant Minister for Productivity, Competition, Charities and Treasury</i>
8.45am	Breakfast concludes	Tangney Alcove, Australian Parliament House
8:50am	Group photo in Atrium	APH Atrium
Event 5: Official Summit Opening and Morning Parliamentary Sessions		
9:30am	Official Summit Opening	Tangney Alcove, Australian Parliament House
9:40-9.55am	<i>'Building for the Common Good: 'Unity in troubled times'</i>	The Hon Peter Khalil MP <i>Assistant Minister for Defence and Former Special Envoy for Social Cohesion</i>
9.55-10.10am	Morning Tea	Barker Room, Australian Parliament House

10.10-10.30am	Building for the Common Good: <i>‘Unity in troubled times – a human rights perspective’</i>	Ms Zaneta Mascarenhas MP <i>Chair, Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights</i>
10.35-10.50am	Building for the Common Good: <i>‘Unity in troubled times’</i> <i>The Opposition’s perspective</i>	Senator Dave Sharma (NSW) <i>Shadow Assistant Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs</i>
10.55-11.55am	Building for the Common Good: <i>‘Leading in turbulent times’</i>	Panel Discussion: Ms Allegra Spender MP <i>Federal Member for Wentworth</i> Sen. Jacinta Nampijinpa Price (NT) <i>Senator for the Northern Territory</i> Sen. David Shoobridge (NSW) <i>Senator for New South Wales</i> Ms Dai Li MP <i>Federal Member for Fowler</i>
12.00-12:20pm	Building for the Common Good: <i>‘Delivering Social Services in a Cost-of-Living Crisis’</i>	Ms Louise-Miller Frost MP <i>Chair, Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs</i>
12.20-12.35pm	Building for the Common Good: <i>‘Delivering Social Services in a Cost-of-Living Crisis’</i> <i>The Opposition’s priorities</i>	Ms Melissa McIntosh MP <i>Shadow Minister for Families and Social Services, Women, and the NDIS</i>

12.35-1:05pm	Lunch	Barker Room, Australian Parliament House
Event 6: Faith in the Public Square Panel Session		
1:10-1:50pm	Faith in the Public Square: <i>‘Guiding Principles for Collective Action’</i>	Panel Discussion: Sen. The Hon Matthew Canavan <i>Leader of the National Party, Shadow Minister for Trade, Investment and Tourism</i> The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP <i>Federal Member for New England</i> Sen. Deborah O’Neill <i>Senator for New South Wales</i>
Event 7: Keynote Speakers and Afternoon Parliamentary Sessions - Continued		
1:55-2:20pm	<i>‘A Pathway to Social Cohesion through Social Inclusion’</i>	CSSA Member Presentation: Mr Fabio Forgione Operations Manager, House of Welcome (St Francis Social Services)
2.20-3.00pm	<i>‘Mapping Social Cohesion 2025 Report’</i>	Ms Anthea Hancocks CEO, Scanlon Foundation Research Institute
3:00-3:25pm	Building for the Common Good: <i>‘Journeying with First Nations communities’</i>	Tangney Alcove, Australian Parliament House

	Speaker - tbc	
3.30-3.50pm	Building for the Common Good: <i>‘Supporting Families’</i>	The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP <i>Minister for Social Services</i> <i>(includes 5 min Q&A session)</i>
3:55-4:00pm	Closing Remarks and Thanks Summit Ends	Tangney Alcove, Australian Parliament House