

# Serving Communities with Courage and Compassion

26 – 28 February 2020  
Melbourne

[www.css.org.au](http://www.css.org.au) | #ServingCommunities

## CONFERENCE KEYNOTES, FORUMS, PANELS AND BRIEFINGS IN DETAIL

**Wednesday 26 February**  
**6:30pm – 8:30pm**

**Forum: Beyond Surviving to  
Truthfully Thriving: Continuing  
our Journey of Listening in  
Truth and Justice**

**Sherry Balcombe  
Helen Christensen  
Peter Hudson (Chair)  
Helen Kennedy  
Henry Williams**

*This plenary will draw on the enduring wisdom, strength and resilience of our First Peoples. It will capture the lessons learned from the past ten years of Closing the Gap and will address how each of the targets are interconnected. The next phase of Closing the Gap needs to be guided by the principles of empowerment and self-determination, which are so closely aligned with the mission of Catholic social services.*

**Thursday 27 February,**  
**9:20am – 10:25am**

**Keynote: Margin Call – The Risk  
of Integrity**

**Francis Sullivan**

*What is the root of our calling? What are the deep vision and challenges, the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties? This keynote will present a challenging overview of the state of Australian society and the Australian Catholic Church. In the context of the Church's current standing, how do we creatively and courageously traverse our way through the minefield of damage so that we can seize the opportunities for growth, truth and renewal?*

**Thursday 27 February**  
**10:50am – 12:00pm**

**Panel: Putting Courage and  
Compassion into Action**

**Jocelyn Bignold  
Bishop Vincent Long OFM  
Conv  
Josh Lourensz (Chair)  
John McCarthy QC**

*This will be an engaging and inspiring panel conversation, which presents a number of case studies that demonstrate where and how those working in the Catholic social services sector have shown great courage and compassion to address a particular need.*

**Thursday 27 February**  
**12:00pm – 12:45pm**

**Briefing: Responding to Natural  
Disasters**

**Janet Cribbes  
Jack de Groot  
Josh Lourensz (Chair)  
Ursula Stephens**

*The recent bushfires in Australia have highlighted the need for a collaborated, national effort from the Catholic Church and its agencies to provide assistance. This plenary will explore the learnings from the 2009 Black Saturday fires, the current response and will outline the establishment of the new Catholic Emergency Relief Australia.*

**Friday 28 February**  
**7:30am**

**Breakfast Briefing: Plenary  
Council 2020 Update**

**Trudy Dantis  
Denis Fitzgerald  
Cath Garner  
Gabrielle McMullen (Chair)  
Lana Turvey-Collins**

# Serving Communities with Courage and Compassion

*This session will inform participants on what has been happening in the 'Listening and Discernment Stage' of the Plenary Council, how they can still contribute, what the Working Groups are doing, what is in the Diocesan reports, and who will be attending the First Council Session in October. There will be input from speakers and then a chance for participants to discuss the input and how the themes emerging from the listening, discussion and discernment stages might impact upon the provision of Catholic social services, and vice versa.*

**Friday 28 February**  
**9:05am – 9:30am**

**Briefing: Safeguarding  
Everyone in the Church Today  
and into the Future**

**Denis Fitzgerald (Chair)**  
**Sheree Limbrick**

*This session aims to provide a briefing to conference delegates regarding the roll-out of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards for protection of children; an update on audits of Church entities and engagement of Church Authorities with the CPSL processes; and an outline of the integration of measures to protect adults as part of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards framework.*

**Friday 28 February**  
**9:30am – 10:45am**

**Panel: Building a Strong Future  
for Catholic Social Services**

**Belinda Clarke**  
**Tiffany Davis (Chair)**  
**Josh Lourensz**  
**Claire Victory**

*This plenary will be an opportunity for participants to view the 'way forward' in mission through the lens of the younger generation of leaders in the sector. A selection of current leaders of organisations and programs within Catholic social services will share and reflect on their experiences of the challenges and opportunities that are presenting themselves to the sector in these days.*

**Friday 28 February**  
**11:15am – 12:15pm**

**Keynote: Mission at the  
Margins – The Call to  
Uncommon Courage**

**Debra Zanella**

*Inspired by Joan Chittister's work A time is now: A call to uncommon courage, Debra will share her reflections on what is meant by uncommon courage, its place and purpose in the work of faith-based mission-driven organisations and in the life of the faithful, in our time and place. Her reflections will also include the necessary personal and collective conditions that are necessary for courage as we individually and collectively live our birth-right as a people of God.*

**Friday 28 February**  
**2:00pm – 4:00pm**

**Forum: Mobilising Media for  
Mission and Advocacy**

**Farah Farouque**  
**Sam Patterson (Chair)**  
**Andrew Yule**  
**Barney Zwartz**

*This forum will highlight how those working in Catholic Social Services need to and can, effectively engage with media to enhance their stories, their work, mission and advocacy. Case studies will be shared as to how effective advocacy impacts policy and those we serve. This will be an informative, practical and inspiring forum, which engages with media professionals to gain insight into how to effectively engage with media to advance the mission and advocacy of social services.*