



CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES NATIONAL CONFERENCE WRAPS UP WITH EMPHASIS ON COLLABORATION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

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Catholic Social Services recently concluded its National Conference on February 23, after three days of insightful dialogue. A standout event was the MacKillop Oration, delivered by Claire Victory at the conference dinner. Her speech emphasised the importance of collaboration and inclusion in striving for social justice within today's societal framework. The conference brought together leaders and practitioners from across the nation, standing as a testament to their collective determination to enact change in alignment with Catholic Social Teaching.

Claire Victory, a social justice advocate and leader within the Catholic community, drew on Pope Francis' [*Fratelli Tutti*](#) to spotlight the necessity of unity in tackling both immediate needs and the systemic injustices that fuel inequality.

The conference's theme, Commons, Commonality, Common Good, resonated through her message, emphasising a unified approach to embody the gospel's teachings and continue the legacy of those who have shown 'uncommon courage' in service to the marginalised.

Victory's message was clear: 'We must work together towards a society that reflects the justice and compassion at the heart of Catholic Social Teaching. Our efforts should not only meet immediate needs but also strive to transform the systems that sustain inequality.'

Her call to action highlighted the pivotal role of inclusivity in enhancing the effectiveness of Catholic social services, urging a welcoming of diverse voices to better serve various communities.

By sharing stories of influential figures like Frederic Ozanam, Mary MacKillop, and Hannah Buckley, Victory celebrated the impactful legacy of service transcending backgrounds and beliefs. 'Inclusivity not only honours our Catholic faith but also strengthens our collective advocacy for justice and dignity,' she remarked.

The National Conference was a vibrant forum for exchanging ideas and reinforcing a shared dedication to uplift the vulnerable. As Catholic Social Services Victoria and Catholic Social Services Australia look ahead, they are invigorated by a renewed pledge to their mission of fostering social justice, advocating for the marginalised, and living out the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

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