



CONCERNED CATHOLICS CANBERRA GOULBURN MEDIA RELEASE

Concerned Catholics Chair appointed delegate for 2020 Plenary Council

30 March 2020

Concerned Catholics Canberra Goulburn Chair, Emeritus Professor John Warhurst AO has been appointed as one of the delegates to represent the Canberra Goulburn Archdiocese at the 2020 Plenary Council in Adelaide in October this year.

Speaking shortly after the announcement Professor Warhurst said he was humbled to be chosen and wanted to personally thank every other person who put their name forward. He wants to take this opportunity to advocate as a matter of urgency for a more inclusive, transparent and accountable church.

‘Lay leadership and co-responsibility must become the norm if our church is to survive and progress,’ Professor Warhurst said.

‘Principles like equality of the People of God, representation, and freedom of communication must also become essential components in the way we conduct our affairs.

‘Opposing values such as clericalism, secrecy and undue hierarchy and lay deference should be unacceptable,’ he said.

Professor Warhurst has served the church in many ways over the years, including on boards and advisory committees, and in many different environments, local and national. He is currently a member of the Governance Review Project Team, a sub-committee of the Implementation Advisory Group which is overseeing the Church’s response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

The recently announced delegates will have a consultative vote at the Plenary Council meeting. Bishops, clergy and selected representatives from seminaries and religious orders have a deliberative vote. Deliberative votes determine the final decisions of the Council which will be sent to Rome for approval.

Delegates for the Canberra Goulburn Archdiocese include:

- Most Reverend Christopher Charles Prowse STD DD
- Very Reverend Anthony Gerard Percy VG
- Reverend Monsignor John Gerard Woods
- Miss Brigid Annette Cooney
- Emeritus Professor John Lewis Warhurst

A full list of delegates from across Australia, currently at 267, is available on the 2020 Plenary Website at: <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/delegates/>

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