



## CONCERNED CATHOLICS CANBERRA GOULBURN MEDIA RELEASE

### Historic Catholic Church Governance Review Provides Blueprint for Reform

23 August 2020

Leading Australian church renewal group, Concerned Catholics Canberra Goulburn, has welcomed the release of this historic review of the Catholic Church's governance practices in Australia and calls on dioceses and parishes to implement many of the 86 recommendations without delay.

*The Light from the Southern Cross: Promoting Co responsible Governance in the Catholic Church in Australia* is the culmination of 18 months of consultation and collaboration driven by the Governance Review Project Team, a subset of the Implementation Advisory Group which was established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and Catholic Religious Australia in response to recommendations by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Concerned Catholics Chair, Emeritus Professor John Warhurst AO co-authored the report along with other eminent national and international contributors.

‘The recommendations cover a wide range of governance and management questions confronting the Church, both locally and globally,’ Professor Warhurst said.

‘Some are more complex and require legislation, but many can be implemented by Church authorities immediately without waiting for the Plenary Council processes or advice from the Holy See.

‘Parishes and dioceses are urged to begin discussion of the content among their communities as soon as possible.

‘The report is essential reading for those with an interest in the outcome of the Plenary Council next year, especially those who will attend or those advising attendees.

‘The IAG originally delivered the report to the ACBC and CRA on 1 May 2020 and there were calls then, for its immediate release. It was finalised on 15 August 2020 following minor changes which do not affect the substance of the discussion or the 86 recommendations.

‘The report, accompanied by a reading guide, was made publicly available by the ACBC and CRA on Friday 21 August, a welcome decision by Church authorities who had originally intended to keep the report secret until after the bishops meet in November this year,’ Professor Warhurst said.

Read the report [here](#)

Read the IAG media release [here](#)

Read the ACBC CRA media release [here](#)

Read the reading guide [here](#)

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