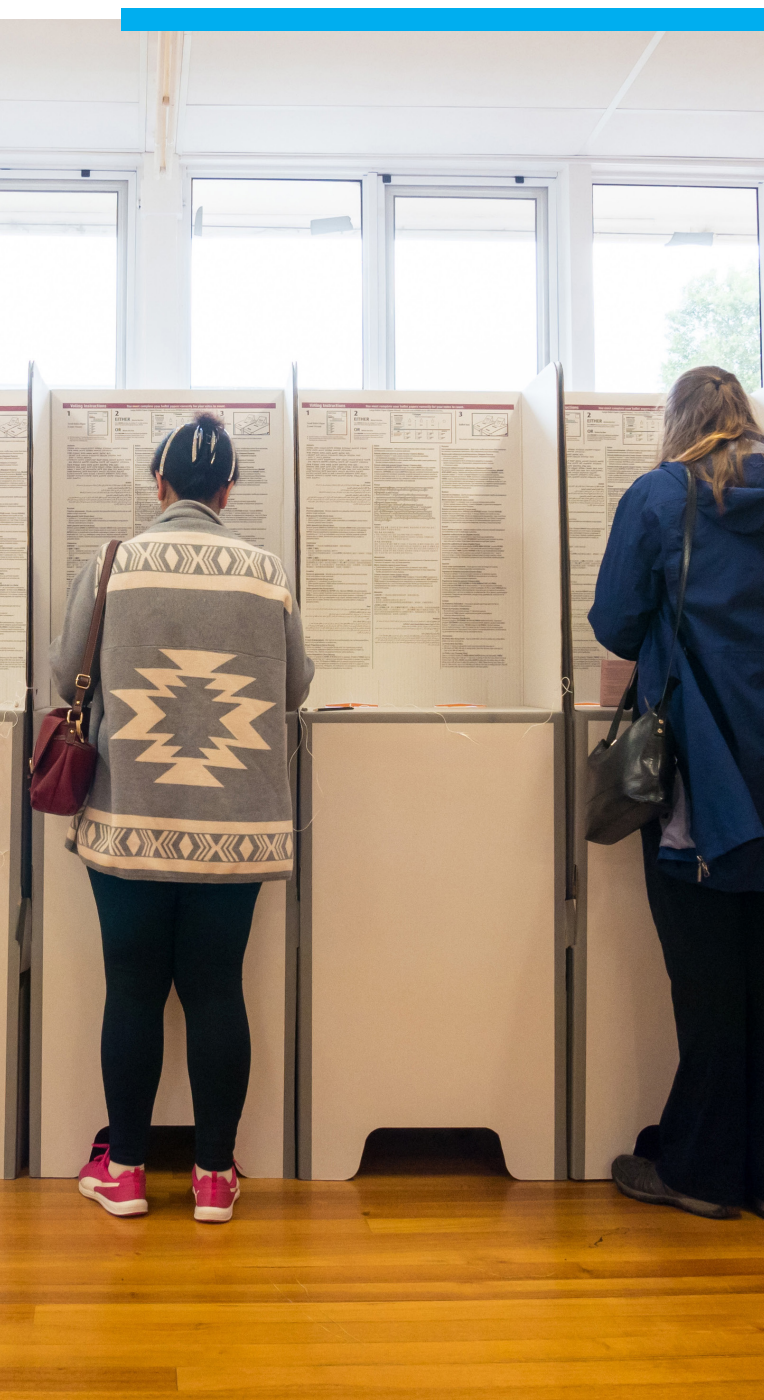




ELECTION STATEMENT 2025

Called to Bring Hope in the Year of Jubilee



As Australians prepare to vote in the federal election, Catholics have a vital role in shaping our nation's future.

Our faith calls us to engage in democracy, to build, in the words of Pope St. John Paul II, “a civilisation of love,”¹ and to contribute “to the good of society in a spirit of truth, justice, solidarity, and freedom.”²

This election coincides with the Holy Year of Jubilee, themed ‘Pilgrims of Hope.’ Pope Francis reminds us that “all of us have received the gift and task of bringing hope wherever hope has been lost, lives broken, promises unkept, dreams shattered, and hearts overwhelmed by adversity.”³

To bring hope, we must first *become* people of hope; as Pope Benedict XVI declared, “the one who has hope lives differently.”⁴

The Jubilee reminds us that voting is not just a civic duty but an opportunity to advance the common good and pave the way for hope.

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¹ Message of Pope John Paul II for the Celebration of the World Day of Peace, 1 January 2025.

² Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 2239.

³ Opening of the Holy Door and Midnight Mass, Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, Homily of Pope Francis, Saint Peter's Basilica, 24 December 2024.

⁴ Encyclical Letter *Spe Salvi* of Pope Benedict XVI to the Bishops Priests and Deacons Men and Women Religious and All the Lay Faithful On Christian Hope, 30 November 2007.

Federal Election 2025



Political discourse in our time has become increasingly polarised. This can, only too easily, foster distrust and erode social cohesion.

Unfortunately, in recent months, here in Australia, some have even turned to violence as a means of political expression. We condemn entirely the anti-Semitism that has arisen in our society, as we condemn all forms of hatred or discrimination towards our fellow human beings. Our democracy is defined by our commitment to resolving issues peacefully through dialogue and democratic processes.

No politician or political party can ever solve every issue or serve as a perfect representative. Our hearts long for something far greater than this world can offer—something no earthly leader can fully provide.

As Catholics, we have an obligation to form our consciences through reason, Sacred Scripture, and Church teachings so that, in the words of St. Paul, we “put on the mind of Christ.”⁵ Conscience is our inner guide, enabling us to discern right from wrong and judge what is good and just, and we have a duty to follow it faithfully.⁶ This demands careful consideration of the facts and the background to our decisions, and a commitment to prayer to discern God’s will.

⁵ 1 Corinthians 2:16.

⁶ Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 2239.

To read more about Catholic Social Teaching, scan the QR code or visit this link:

bit.ly/ElectionStatement2025



Key issues to reflect on before voting

In determining our electoral choices, Australian Catholics search always to uphold the sanctity of life, protect the vulnerable, support and strengthen families, promote the common good, and foster a just society where all Australians can thrive.

1 THE DIGNITY AND VALUE OF EVERY HUMAN BEING

Respect for God's creation and the dignity of the human person is central to our Catholic faith, affirming the sacredness of life from conception to natural death. We are called to protect the most vulnerable, including the unborn, disabled, and those at life's end, in opposing practices like abortion and euthanasia.

Catholic Faith upholds the family as the cornerstone of society, and raising a family should not be seen as a lifestyle choice. Governments need to enact policies that strengthen marriages and families, support parents as primary educators, and provide resources for those experiencing hardship or family breakdown.

2 FAIRNESS, JUSTICE AND THE COMMON GOOD

The Church calls for fairness and justice in health care, infrastructure, economic and cost of living management. Health care must prioritise the vulnerable and respect

the conscience of providers, especially as gaps in services like palliative care persist. Infrastructure planning and economic policies should serve the common good, ensuring fair allocation of resources for schools, hospitals, transport, and essential services. We teach that economic systems must serve people, not the other way around, with decisions made responsibly and equitably to improve the lives of all, particularly the most vulnerable or disadvantaged.

3 RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND CONSCIENCE RIGHTS

We teach that society must uphold the dignity and freedom of every person, founded in their God-given ability to act according to reason and conscience. Religious freedom is a fundamental human right that must be protected for individuals, families, and faith-based institutions. This includes the right to live and act in accordance with moral beliefs, raise children within their faith, and ensure religious organisations can practice their values freely. Parents must have the freedom to choose faith-based schools for their children, with equitable funding to ensure quality education for all.

4 RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S CREATION

We are called to be responsible stewards of God's creation, caring for the planet and protecting it for future generations, and using the earth's resources equitably and sustainably to ensure a fair and safe future for all.



Prayer for the election

*Grant, we pray, O Lord our God,
that as the Cross shines in our
southern skies,
so may Christ bring light to our
nation, to its peoples old and new,
and by saving grace, transform
our lives.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*



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