

# Rationale

## The conference aims:

- **To empower people with a vision of mission that is collaborative, scriptural and deeply theological;** one that affirms, enables, encourages, and inspires. The Conference makes a significant contribution to the professional and vocational development of many people who work for Catholic agencies, parishes, religious congregations, and various other organisations, to live God's Mission in Australia and beyond.
- **To listen to the many and varied voices within our Church and wider community.** Mission is a single, yet complex reality and it develops in a variety of ways. (Redemptoris Missio #41) It includes proclamation, witness, building community, prayer, dialogue, mercy, charity, working for justice, ecology, reconciliation, interculturality and equality. We share in Jesus' mission of proclaiming 'joy and peace in the Holy Spirit' Rom 14:17. There is much we can share and learn from one another.
- **To provide an experience which is open and available to the whole community** so that all feel welcome, and all find a space and place within the Conference program which enables a collaborative path for dialogue and action in a local context.
- **To contribute to the ongoing journey of the Plenary Council** by providing formative opportunities of exploration, understanding, and competency development related to the outcomes of the second assembly.
- **To nurture the character of synodality and discernment** through the momentum and interplay, the outcomes, and experiences, in the movement towards Synod 2023 and beyond.
- To capture the spirit and example of Pope Francis, who continues to challenge **all the baptised to missionary discipleship and the call for lay participation** in all levels leadership roles at the service of mission.

# Partners

## Catholic Mission

Catholic Mission is the oldest Catholic mission aid agency in the world, founded 200 years ago. As the Pope's own mission societies and internationally known as the Pontifical Mission Societies, our focus is on working with Communities, Church leaders and Children.

In more than 160 countries, Catholic Mission works to provide 2.6 million children with housing, education and care; assists 1,100 communities in specific local projects; and funds Church leadership through the training of over 77,000 seminarians annually. In Australia, Catholic Mission allocates funds to the work of the Church in the outback and amongst Aboriginal people, supporting priests, lay people and the many sisters and brothers who provide long-term support for these communities.

[catholicmission.org.au](http://catholicmission.org.au)



## Catholic Religious Australia

Catholic Religious Australia (CRA) is the peak body for leaders of Religious Institutes and Societies of Apostolic Life residents in Australia.

The membership comprises more than 150 congregations of Sisters, Brothers and Priests living and working in all states and territories. CRA's values are being attentive to the Spirit, inclusive and prophetic.

[catholicreligiousaustralia.org.au](http://catholicreligiousaustralia.org.au)



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