



# National Council of Priests of Australia

PO Box 295, Belmont VIC 3216  
P: (03) 5244 3680 F: (03) 5244 4762  
E: national.office@ncp.catholic.org.au  
ABN: 30 341 323 408

20 July 2018

## **STATEMENT FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PRIESTS OF AUSTRALIA**

Re: The resignation of The Most Rev Philip Wilson, Archbishop of Adelaide.

The Executive of the National Council of Priests of Australia (N.C.P.) wholeheartedly endorse the appeals for the resignation of The Most Rev Philip Wilson from his position as Archbishop of Adelaide. The Archbishop has been convicted of the crime of concealing knowledge of criminal behaviour while he was a priest of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. While the Archbishop is exercising his constitutional right to appeal his conviction, his tenure as Archbishop of Adelaide has been compromised. The welfare of the People of God of the Archdiocese of Adelaide must take precedence over the desire of an individual to remain in office.

When an accusation is levelled at a Parish Priest or when he is charged with a criminal offence, he is automatically stood down until his guilt or innocence is established. Archbishop Wilson remained in office for the duration of his trial. He only stood down after his conviction. This appearance of inequity is an affront to natural justice and galling to both priests and laity.

For the good of the Church in Australia and for the benefit of the People of God in the Archdiocese of Adelaide, the Executive of the N.C.P. requests that the Holy Father, Pope Francis, removes Archbishop Philip Wilson from his See.

**For any further comment:**

**Rev Fr James Clarke  
NCP Chairman  
Mobile 0421 904 285**