# POSITION DESCRIPTION OF TRUSTEE

**Mission**

We promote the dignity, life and spirituality of older people through connected and inclusive communities.

**Values**

Our three core values—courage, compassion, and integrity—are central to how we interact with our residents, clients, and each other**.**

**Position Purpose**

Service as Trustee is a response to the baptismal call to mission. In the vision of Vatican Council II and in discerning and responding to the “signs of the times”, this ministry of Church governance is more inclusive of laity.

In 1994, Australian religious congregations and parishes involved in health and aged care sought to ensure the sustainability of their ministries. After much discernment, a new structure for continuing these ministries was found in the establishment of Australia’s first Ministerial Public Juridic Person, *Catholic Healthcare*.

*See, I am doing a new thing!* (Isaiah 43:19)

The Trustees of Catholic Healthcare are the Canonical Stewards. Their role is the stewardship of the purpose and direction of this ministry.

Canonical stewards can be characterised as follows:

*... individuals are committed to their role… confident, respectful, just and compassionate…with a sense of vocation and their baptismal call… informed about Catholic thought and life…. reflective about the nature of God and the Church today…. and seeking to understand more their responsibility in stewarding the Catholic identity of ministry.*

The Ministry of Governance

Coupled with their canonical governance role, the Trustees of Catholic Healthcare are also the member of the civil statutory body corporate. The canonical responsibilities of Trustees are specific to Catholic Healthcare.

Founded on the Gospel and faithful to Catholic teaching, the governance role of Trustees is *synodal* in nature and *co-responsible* in oversight of the ministry.

*Our faith in Christ, who became poor, and was always close to the poor and the outcast, is the basis of our concern for the integral development of society’s most neglected members* (Pope Francis 2013 #186).

The Trustees engage in a period of induction and commit to ongoing formation in the discernment of their contribution as canonical stewards.

Formation

There are many definitions of formation, but one that can assist understanding what it entails is that: *Formation occurs when the person cooperates with the Holy Spirit in identifying and developing the values, relationships, skills and knowledge that will enable her/him to more fully become the person that God calls her/him to be.*

Formation explores opportunities to understand oneself and our place in the world, and ultimately our relationship with God. It is assisted by prayer, discernment and conversation in different ways: (a) Reflective sharing in prayer at meetings (b) spiritual companionship, (c) Formation days with fellow Trustees, (d) Retreats, liturgies, pilgrimages and immersion experiences linked to our ministry, (e) Engaging with local Ordinaries, other Canonical Stewards.

Formation is ongoing and transformative and covers the domains ranging from mission to spirituality, from Catholic thought to its pastoral expression in ministry, from our leadership role in governance to the humanity in how we live our lives.

Role of Trustees

Five principles define the role as a Trustee in Catholic Healthcare:

1. We, the Trustees, give witness to the healing ministry of Jesus, in ensuring human wellbeing is affirmed in the service to those entrusted to our care.
2. We Trustees ensure Catholic Healthcare is maintaining and strengthening its Catholic Identity, embracing diversity in faiths and charisms.
3. We Trustees act as one body stewarding the purpose and direction of CHL
4. We Trustees are the sole member of the civil entity.
5. We Trustees ensure that Catholic Healthcare has the resources it requires.

Powers of the Trustees

The Trustees of Catholic Healthcare are empowered and have the duty to ensure the purposes of Catholic Healthcare are fulfilled in conformity to Catholic Church teachings.

Trustees appoint and remove directors of Catholic Healthcare Limited and approve the constitutions of civil body corporate entities of Catholic Healthcare where Trustees are the sole member.

Trustees are responsible for alienation of stable patrimony in accordance with Canon law, and they provide the relevant Church authorities with the required Annual and Financial Reports.

Time Commitment

Trustees can expect to spend on average 10 business days per annum performing their role, involving the following activities:

* Preparation and attendance at 5 Trustee meetings annually (a mix of in-person and online meetings)
* Preparation and attendance at committee meetings (if applicable)
* Attendance at two (2) Joint Board and Trustee Sessions
* Attendance at the Annual General Meeting of Catholic Healthcare

In-person meetings are normally held at the Catholic Healthcare offices in Macquarie Park.

Term

The initial term of appointment is for three (3) years. Trustees can serve for a maximum of nine (9) years.

Remuneration

The position of Trustee is remunerated.