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**MEDIA RELEASE**

## Catholic Religious pledge unwavering commitment to the path of reconciliation and unity

While Catholic Religious Australia (CRA) acknowledges the democratic process we have undertaken in the recent referendum on Constitutional Recognition and the establishment of a Voice to Parliament, we also acknowledge the disappointment and sadness of those who were hoping for a positive result, particularly our indigenous sisters and brothers. It is a regret shared by many Catholic Religious around the country, at this time.

CRA President Peter Jones OSA said, “Despite the unsuccessful outcome of the referendum, our commitment to the journey of reconciliation remains steadfast.”

CRA firmly believes that the voices and histories of First Nations people must be heard and respected to achieve the Catholic Social Teaching principle of subsidiarity which argues that all people have a right to participate in decisions made about their lives and that decisions should be made by those closest to, and most affected by, the outcome.

“We recognise that our journey toward reconciliation is not defined by Saturday’s decision . It is an ongoing process of care, recognition and action,” added Anne Walker, CRA National Executive Director.

“Many of CRA’s Members have lived and worked alongside First Nations people for years, sometimes decades and they will continue to walk alongside First Nations People into the future,” she concluded.

Catholic Religious across the country pray for unity and reflect on the values and principles that guide our nation. CRA reaffirms its commitment to, and dedication to work towards a more inclusive, just, and reconciled Australia.

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