



For immediate release

Tuesday, 27 May 2025

## From Toorak to Zambia: Standing in Solidarity with Mothers in Need

On Thursday, 5 June at 7PM, the Australian Catholic Medical Association (ACMA) and Catholic Mission will co-host a compelling public event at St Peter's Parish Centre in Toorak. This evening of compassion, insight, and action will spotlight one of the world's most urgent healthcare challenges: the lack of maternal care in rural Zambia.

Titled "*A Mother's Life Shouldn't Be Left to Chance*", the event will highlight the staggering challenges faced by women in Zambia who walk for days while in labour, only to reach healthcare facilities that lack even basic medical equipment. With fewer than three doctors per 10,000 people in Zambia compared to over 40 per 10,000 in Australia, this evening aims to raise awareness and inspire meaningful action.

"In Zambia, mothers walk for days to give birth, often in makeshift shelters near toilets, without adequate medical care or dignity. But this reality is not inevitable. We invite every Australian who believes in dignity, justice, and life to be part of the solution," said Cruz Ignatius, Province Director VIC/TAS at Catholic Mission.

A special guest keynote speaker from Zambia has been invited to share his first-hand experience on the ground. Abraham Muma, Health Services Coordinator at Chilonga Mission Hospital in Zambia, will offer insight into the life-saving work being carried out by the hospital and its outreach posts, which provide critical care to mothers and babies most in need—a project supported by Catholic Mission's friends and supporters and the local health teams in the Diocese of Mpika.

"As Catholic health professionals, we are not only called to heal but to stand in solidarity with the world's most vulnerable. This evening is an opportunity to respond—not just with compassion, but with action," said Dr Eamonn Mathieson, National Chair of the Australian Catholic Medical Association.

This event is free and open to all—welcoming all those wanting to learn more about the maternal health crisis in Zambia, and those moved to respond to this urgent call for justice.

### Event Details

**WHEN:** Wednesday 5 June 2025, 7:00 PM

**WHERE:** St Peter's Parish Centre, 581 Toorak Rd, Toorak VIC

**ENTRY:** Free | Light refreshments provided | Donations welcome

**RSVP:** <https://events.humanitix.com/maternal-health-in-rural-zambia>

ENDS

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**About the Australian Catholic Medical Association**

Established nationally in 2017 with the endorsement of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, the Australian Catholic Medical Association unites healthcare professionals committed to upholding the dignity of life and the teachings of the Church in medical practice. Learn more: [www.catholicmedicine.org](http://www.catholicmedicine.org)

**About Catholic Mission**

Catholic Mission is the Australian agency of the Pontifical Mission Societies – the Catholic Church’s global organisation dedicated to continuing Jesus Christ’s mission in the world: that all may have life to the full. Catholic Mission contributes funding and project support to critical church-run initiatives in Africa, Asia, Oceania, and South America. These include spiritual formation, pastoral care, education, health, sanitation, and agricultural programs. Here in Australia, we form people to go out and be missionary in their professional and personal lives; to pray, advocate and act for those on the margins. Catholic Mission has offices in 27 Australian dioceses.