

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Release

CatholicCare and Catholic Development Fund formalise strengthened diocesan partnership

Wollongong – 6 May 2026 – Yesterday, CatholicCare and the Catholic Development Fund (CDF) in the Diocese of Wollongong formalised a strengthened partnership with the signing of a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), marking a shared commitment to mission-aligned, community-focused service across the Diocese.

Signed at the Office of the Bishop, the MOU represents the first formal funding arrangement of its kind between the two organisations and reflects a collaborative approach to stewardship, long-term planning and living out the Diocesan mission as bearers of Christ's love.

The agreement signals ongoing support from the Catholic Development Fund to assist CatholicCare to sustain and grow initiatives serving older people, families, young people and the wider community across the Diocese of Wollongong.

The signing was attended by Bishop Brian Mascord, along with senior representatives of CatholicCare and the Catholic Development Fund and their respective Board Chairs, underscoring the significance of the partnership within the life and mission of the Diocese.

"This Memorandum of Understanding is a tangible expression of our shared mission and responsibility within our Diocesan Pastoral Works," Bishop Mascord said. "By working together as One Body in a deliberate and coordinated way, we are strengthening our capacity to care for people across the life of our community, particularly those who rely on our service and support."

Catholic Development Fund Executive Director Trevor Kellam said the agreement formalised an already strong relationship grounded in shared purpose.

"This agreement formalises a relationship that has been built on trust and shared purpose over many years," Mr Kellam said. "The Catholic Development Fund is proud to support CatholicCare in a way that reflects good stewardship, long-term thinking and results in positive outcomes for parishioners and the community at large".

CatholicCare also welcomed the strengthened partnership as an important step in supporting sustainable service delivery.

"This MOU provides an important foundation for sustainability and planning," CatholicCare CEO Michael Austin said. "It allows CatholicCare to focus on providing innovative and flexible services that respond to local needs, knowing we have a committed diocesan partner supporting our mission and the people we serve."

The MOU affirms a shared commitment to collaboration, accountability and mission-driven service in support of individuals, families and communities across the Diocese of Wollongong.

About CatholicCare Wollongong:

CatholicCare is an inclusive social services organisation committed to supporting individuals, families, and communities in need throughout the Diocese of Wollongong. CatholicCare provides professional, compassionate services across the lifespan, helping people strengthen relationships, build resilience and create positive futures.

About Catholic Development Fund (CDF):

The Catholic Development Fund Wollongong is a not-for-profit organisation offering ethical, faith-driven financial services that advance the Church's mission. By working closely with parishes, schools and catholic organisations across the Diocese, we foster vibrant, faith-filled communities.

Media Contact:

Nick Felvus

Communications Specialist

CatholicCare Wollongong

M: 0427 423 620

E: nicholasf@catholiccare.dow.org.au