

TONY HOWARTH

CATHOLIC GOVERNANCE SYMPOSIUM

27-28 MARCH 2017

SYMPOSIUM WELCOME - 9:00am Monday, 27 March

****CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY****

[OPENING REFLECTION POWERPOINTS AND MUSIC TO BE PLAYED BEFORE TONY SPEAKS]

****STARTS****

Welcome to the first day of the 2017 Catholic Governance Symposium.

As Chair of Catholic Health Australia, I'm delighted to welcome you all to Sydney for what I'm confident will be an important two days for our health, aged care, and human services ministries.

--PAUSE--

Our opening reflection presentation contained a number of images which highlight for us all the important work of our Catholic services.

Over the next two days, over a dozen speakers - representing unequalled expertise from across our ministries - will present on the common challenges we face now, and will pose questions about how we ensure we sustain our mission moving forward.

The Catholic Health Australia Board opens meetings with a prayer or reflection and we also give an Acknowledgement of Country. I now wish to respectfully acknowledge the First Peoples of Australia, and particularly the **Gadigal** clan of the **Eora Nation**, as the Traditional Custodians of this land on which we meet today. We pay respect to Indigenous Australian Elders, both past and present. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.

--PAUSE--

This year's symposium is taking a very interactive shape.

We're going to be asked to workshop, debate, and contribute to the discussion - and I'm sure that together we'll inspire some powerful strategic visioning.

It's discussions like these that will help us to navigate the challenges we all face in our roles as guardians of the healing ministry of Jesus in Australia.

I am pleased to see that we also have a number of delegates attending this year from Catholic social services and education ministries. And I am sure everyone joins me in welcoming our colleagues from **Mount Alvernia Hospital**, Singapore, and **Mount Miriam Cancer Hospital** in Malaysia.

--PAUSE--

Our MC for the next two days is **Kerry Brettell**, Director of **Integro Partners**, and I'm grateful to Kerry for the time she's given this event.

Kerry will take over shortly, but first I'd like to welcome **Rob Clancy** and some of the team from **Catholic Super** who are here with us today.

Rob will introduce himself in a few moments, but I'd like to pass on my sincere thanks to Rob for Catholic Super's valued support of the symposium - it's this kind of support that goes a long way towards making these events possible and I encourage you all to speak to the team from Catholic Super at their display just outside.

Thanks Rob.

****ENDS****