



**Ballarat Diocese
Social Justice Commission**

**Report of Meeting
2 June 2018**

The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission met with Bishop Paul on Saturday June 2, 2018. Current membership includes Anthea Hinchey (Chaired meeting), Jim Ryan, Stacey Atkins, Sue Searls, Noel Gregory, Jo Rix, Tony Fitzgerald, Mary Rita Thomas and Rachel Smith (Executive Officer).

Jim Ryan, Stacey Atkins and Mary Rita Thomas were apologies for the meeting.

Rachel kindly led the Commission in prayer that reflected on homelessness which will be the topic of the 2018 Bishops' Statement to be published later this year.

The Commissioners recognised the work and support of Tony Haintz and Fr Frank Smith who have retired from the Commission.

The Commission has been exploring how the Diocesan web page can best highlight and support social justice issues and events in the Diocese. Parishes will be invited to contribute to a questionnaire asking how the Commission can support local issues. The Commission is delighted to promote and publicise social justice events in the Diocese. If you would like this support please contact the Commission.

In 2017 members of the Commission developed a programme of professional development for adults. The members of the Commission are delighted to facilitate this for Catholic School Staffs, and other parish groups that would welcome this formation.

This year the Australian Bishops will publish a Statement on Homelessness. You only have to walk the streets to see outward signs of this issue in any large town or city. The Commission will facilitate a public launch of this Statement when it is published.

The Commission will invite several candidates standing for election at the end of the year to be part of a forum where they will be invited to address issues of social justice. This will take place later in the year.

The Commission congratulates Rachel on achieving her Doctorate.

Prepared by Fiona Tonkin (Minutes Secretary)