

CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE  
of  
BALLARAT



**Ballarat Diocese  
Social Justice Commission**

**Report of Meeting  
Saturday, 19 November 2022**

The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission met on Saturday, November 19, 2022

Present were Anthea Hinchey (Chair), Bishop Paul Bird CSsR, Sue Searls, Jim Ryan, Felicity Liston, Sr Helen Nolen rsm, Michael Ryan, Dr Susan Crowe (Executive Member). Apologies were received from Stacey Atkins, Jillian Hogbin, Hannah Scullion

The Bishop welcomed Michael Ryan to the Commission as a liaison between the Social Justice Commission and St Vincent de Paul Society.

Sr Helen lead the prayer and reflection inviting the Commission to explore the 2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart that has been endorsed by the Australian Bishops in November 2021. This topic is very broad and challenging and needs to be discussed and clarified by parishioners. In light of this, the Commission will share the response from the Plenary Council and invite discussion. The Commission encourages all parishes to have an Acknowledgement of Country at the beginning of Masses and on parish bulletins.

The Commission continued to discuss its Vision and Mission statements and clarified what should be in each. The Commission discussed its role statement. These will be published on the diocesan website.

The Commission was disappointed that the Diocesan wide forum for this year's Bishops Social Justice statement: *Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse* had to be cancelled through lack of numbers. However, Bishop Paul has issued a statement that can be played on the website and the Commission invites parishes to share this at Mass as part of the homily.