



Sr Barbara Bolster rsm, Bishop Kevin Manning, Mr Tony Farley, Ms Anne Gorman

A group of forty people from a variety of Catholic Church organizations gathered on 5 August at the Polding Centre to attend the launch of “A Just Workplace”. This booklet was developed by the Catholic Commission for Employment Relations (CCER) to guide employers in applying Catholic Social Teaching principles at their workplaces.

The booklet was launched by the Bishop of the Diocese of Parramatta, Bishop Kevin Manning, and **the President of CLRI(NSW), Sr Barbara Bolster, RSM**, before an audience representing a range of Catholic employers, from systemic education, independent schools, social welfare organizations, diocesan agencies, congregational works and parishes.

“A Just Workplace” was drafted by the Parish, Diocesan and Religious Institutes Employment Relations Committee (PDRIERC) and was developed through consultation with a broad range of stakeholders, including the NSW/ACT Bishops, diocesan employers and religious congregations.

“A Just Workplace” aims to provide a fresh look at Catholic Social Teaching in the context of contemporary employment settings. It is a blend of practical guidance at workplace level with the established social principles of the Church.

In launching the document, Bishop Manning challenged those present to make the document a meaningful reality in Catholic workplaces. Sr Barbara referred to the history of Catholic Social Teaching and noted the document’s particular focus on the “blind spots” that can develop in workplaces to stifle these principles of fairness and justice.

CCER’s Executive Director, Anthony Farley, praised the development of the booklet as a significant achievement for Catholic employers. CCER viewed the launch as a celebration of the role of employer-employee relationships in Catholic workplaces.

Limited copies of “A Just Workplace” are available free of charge by contacting Teresa at CCER on 02 9390 5255.