

- MEDIA RELEASE -

Vale John O’Meally, former National Appeals and Review Panel Chair

11 October 2024

Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd (ACSL) is saddened to learn of the passing of The Hon. John O’Meally AM RFD, the inaugural Chair of the National Appeals and Review Panel.

During his term as Panel Chair, John was instrumental in the operation of the Panel, which facilitates reviews for complaints of abuse against children and vulnerable adults that have been managed by Australian Catholic Church Authorities.

Current National Appeals and Review Panel Chair, the Hon. Duncan Kerr has paid tribute to John as a tireless advocate for social justice.

“John was a compassionate and learned judge who led the Dust Diseases Tribunal (NSW), was an active member of the international Commission of Jurists and a passionate leader of the National Appeals and Review Panel until three years ago.”

“I worked with him closely in many of his community roles. John never wavered in his commitment to social justice. He will be greatly missed, and I speak on behalf of ACSL in extending our condolences to his family,” the Hon. Kerr said.

Mr David Penny, Chair of the Board of ACSL remembered Justice O’Meally as a wonderful champion of social justice.

“John had an auspicious legal career, and made a significant contribution to the Australian Catholic community through a range of roles. Our prayers are with his family and friends,” Mr Penny said.

ACSL works with Catholic entities to promote and oversee a nationally consistent, comprehensive and sustainable framework for the protection of children and adults at risk within the Church in Australia.

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