



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

BISHOPS COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, MISSION AND SERVICE

MEDIA RELEASE

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Let's give young people a fair go

Australians have been urged to use the Feast of St Joseph the Worker (1 May) to reflect on young peoples' struggle for secure work.

Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service chair Bishop Tim Harris said the Catholic Church had marked the feast day since 1955 to provide a fresh perspective on the realities of work.

Bishop Harris said the future of work for young people was of particular importance this year.

"Across Australia, many young people are striving to find their place in a labour market that is increasingly complex and uncertain," Bishop Harris said.

"Youth unemployment remains significantly higher than the national average, sitting at around 10.4%.

"Many more young people experience underemployment - wanting more hours or more secure work than they are able to find."

Bishop Harris said the impact of unemployment and underemployment went beyond income.

"It shapes how young people see themselves and their future," he said.

"It influences decisions about study, housing, relationships and family life. It can bring anxiety and uncertainty at a time when hope should be growing.

"Work is more than a means of earning a living. It is fundamental to human dignity and participation in society. Work is part of God's plan for human flourishing."

In the statement, the commission calls on employers to provide fair wages and secure conditions, while governments should enact policies that protect workers and promote participation, and communities and families are urged to accompany young people with care and encouragement.

The full statement from the commission is available [here](#).

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(Statement will be published on the ACBC Mediablog 9pm AEST, April 30)