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Media Release

CatholicCare Diocese of Wollongong named Outstanding Community Organisation at the 2026 Illawarra Business Awards

Wollongong – 14 September 2026 – CatholicCare Diocese of Wollongong has been named Outstanding Community Organisation at the 2026 Illawarra Business Awards, announced at a gala event at the University of Wollongong on Friday night.

The award recognises organisations that make a significant and lasting contribution to their community. It is the first time CatholicCare has entered the awards program.

For more than 45 years, CatholicCare has supported children, young people, individuals, families and older people across the Illawarra, Shoalhaven, Macarthur, and Southern Highlands. Its services span aged care, disability and NDIS support, early learning, out of school hours care, foster care, counselling, and family support.

CatholicCare Diocese of Wollongong CEO Michael Austin said the award belongs to the staff.

"I'm incredibly proud of CatholicCare to have won this award," Mr Austin said. "The award belongs to every staff member. They show up for our community every day. This is just recognition of their care, and I couldn't be prouder of them."

Mr Austin said the recognition was also shared with the many partners CatholicCare works alongside.

"We don't do this work alone. Our schools, parishes, government partners, referrers and community organisations are all part of everything we achieve. This is a proud moment for all of us."

CatholicCare was named a finalist in August and was selected as the category winner following a panel judging process.

About CatholicCare Wollongong:

CatholicCare is an inclusive social services organisation committed to supporting individuals, families, and communities in need throughout the Diocese of Wollongong. CatholicCare provides professional, compassionate services across the lifespan, helping people strengthen relationships, build resilience and create positive futures.

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