

# MEDIA RELEASE



Polding Centre  
133 Liverpool Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

3 May 2019

## **ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY RELEASES FEDERAL ELECTION GUIDE**

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney has released its federal election guide, surveying the policies of major and minor political parties on three key issues of concern to Catholics: Religious Freedom, Education and Care for the Vulnerable.

The Archdiocese has published detailed responses from the Greens, the Liberal/National Coalition, the Australian Labor Party and the Australian Conservatives to help Catholic voters make a more informed choice as they cast their votes in the May 18 election. This is the first time the Archdiocese has approached the political parties directly for a response on key social and moral issues during a federal election campaign.

The Archdiocese's Director of Public Affairs and Engagement, Monica Doumit said it was particularly important for Catholics to carefully consider their vote since key moral issues were at stake in this election.

"Whoever wins the upcoming election will need to confront serious questions around religious freedom, Catholic school funding, the housing crisis and how we best response to those trapped in slavery or seeking asylum", said Ms Doumit.

"No matter who forms government in the Lower House, we have a real opportunity to vote for parties and candidates in the Upper House that have demonstrated their commitment to upholding religious freedom and the sanctity of human life and the guide offers voters a good overview of where the parties stand on these key issues".

The guide does not advise voters which way to cast their vote at the ballot box, but simply provides an overview of the positions taken by the four parties surveyed on a diverse range of issues including aged care, the environment and Indigenous affairs.

You can read the guide in full and take part in an online poll on which issues will determine how you vote at: <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au>

The guide is also in this week's print edition of *The Catholic Weekly*.

ENDS

For further information/interviews: Michael Kenny Manager Communications & News  
Media Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney tel: (02) 9390 5348 mobile: 0438 046 406