

**FIFTH PLENARY COUNCIL OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Sunday, 3 – Sunday, 10 OCTOBER 2021**

**Member
CODE OF CONDUCT STATEMENT**

Context

This document clarifies the protocols for all Members of the Plenary Council, and is applied during the first Assembly, being held on-line using the Microsoft Teams platform, 3-10 October 2021.

It follows on from the experience gained from previous documents, is underpinned by the document ***Media and Communications Protocols during the Plenary Council Assemblies*** (attached) and is approved by the Chair of the Bishops Commission for the Plenary Council.

Application

This Agreement applies to those called and appointed as Members of the Plenary Council.

1. All those to whom this Statement applies are ambassadors for the Plenary Council process. It is understood that your language, behaviour and conduct should endeavour to communicate the spirit and ethos of the Plenary Council, which is built upon the foundation of the Gospels.
2. You are required to abide by the directives specifically outlined in the Statutes and Regulatory Norms of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia.
3. This Code of Conduct Statement requires all Members to adhere to the standards set out below in their interactions with others during the first Assembly of the Plenary Council.

All Members are expected to:

- operate with integrity, honesty, and respect for each other;
- treat all Members and volunteer staff of the Plenary Council with courtesy;
- operate in a safe and responsible manner; and
- preserve the online environment from harm.



4. All Members are required to comply with this Code of Conduct Statement and always maintain standards of professional and ethical behaviour. The following provides a guide, but is not limited to, the expected professional and ethical standards of conduct.

You must respect the dignity, rights, and views of others by:

- listening to and seeking to understand different points of view;
 - refraining from all forms of discrimination;
 - not exploiting, harassing, bullying, intimidating, or acting in a way that is contrary to maintaining harmonious relationships;
 - respecting cultural, ethnic, and religious differences;
 - appreciating the genuine contributions that others make;
 - expressing constructive feedback that is considerate and moderate in tone;
 - being honest in communications; and
 - working cooperatively and collaboratively with others.
5. All Members will perform any duties associated with their role diligently, impartially, and conscientiously. Members will:
 - ensure procedural fairness is followed in all processes; and
 - not take or seek to take improper advantage of any information gained while exercising your role.
 6. Preserving confidential information is vital to protect the interests of the Plenary Council and its Members. Such confidential information includes but is not limited to:
 - Minutes of the daily plenary of the Assembly;
 - interventions made by the Members, shared during the daily plenary;
 - discussion held and decisions made during the Assembly; and
 - any comments made in the chat function of the Teams online environment.
 7. Any identified breaches of the Code of Conduct Statement will be managed by the Steering Committee of the Plenary Council.

Acknowledgement and Acceptance

Complete your acknowledgement and acceptance of this statement by completing the short form here ASAP: <https://forms.office.com/r/PcZmyWrveB>

