

Catholic Bishops' to establish a Commission for Australian Catholic Women

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference has agreed to establish a Commission for Australian Catholic Women, one of several responses to the Report into the Participation of Women in the Catholic Church, *Woman and Man: One in Christ Jesus*, which the Bishops received last year.

The Commission will be established to assist in the implementation of the practical steps the Bishops have decided to undertake to improve the participation of women in the Catholic Church and, to play a part in facilitating an ongoing dialogue about their participation.

"The Bishops recognise that there were differences among women in the way that they responded to the questions from the original research," said Bishop Michael Putney, Spokesman for ACBC. "We sincerely trust and hope that through the guidance of the Holy Spirit our recommendations and decisions for future actions will bring women and men to a fuller communion with the Catholic Church."

The full text of the Bishops' Response to *Woman and Man: One in Christ Jesus*, including details of the Commission for Australian Catholic Women, will be published as the Social Justice Statement for this year. It is expected to be published in early September.

Bishop Michael Putney is available for interviews on 02) 9315 2200 or tomorrow on 07) 3224 3222