

Catholic Church awarded a fiat by the Attorney-General in IVF High Court Case

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference welcomes the Attorney-General's granting of a fiat to the Bishops' Conference in the IVF proceedings to be heard by the High Court on 4 & 5 September 2001.

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference is currently pursuing this matter in the High Court following a Federal Court judgement delivered by Justice Sundberg in the *McBain v. Victoria & Ors.*

This latest development follows last week's announcement by the Attorney-General that the Commonwealth will be intervening in support of some of the Conference's arguments in the IVF High Court Case.

The Bishops' Conference welcomes the Commonwealth's support for its arguments that the Sex Discrimination Act is not inconsistent with the Victorian Infertility Treatment Act.

Legal Counsel for the Bishops' Conference, Mr David Jackson, QC, Mr John McCarthy, QC and, Michael Christie will appear on behalf of the Bishops at a directions hearing to be held at the High Court in Sydney, at noon today before Justice Gummow.