



Australian Council of Christians and Jews

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In praise of Walking Together

The Australian Council of Christians and Jews (ACCJ) welcomes the Catholic Church's new document highlighting Christianity's unique relationship with Judaism in Australia.

The document [*Walking Together: Catholics and Jews in the Australian Context*](#) highlights the increasingly cooperative relations between followers of the Christian and Jewish traditions since the development of *Nostra Aetate*, the Second Vatican Council's Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions in 1965.

Dr Ron Hoenig, chair of the Australian Council of Christians and Jews, said: "This statement by Australia's Catholic bishops is yet another step along the pathway of understanding between Christianity and the Jewish tradition and demonstrates the increasingly positive relationship between the two traditions in Australia.

"The document underlines the significant role the Catholic Church has played in making amends for past wrongs and in enriching the quality of the dialogue between Jews and Christians since the end of the Second World War.

"But it remains unaccountably silent on the Catholic Church's recognition of the State of Israel in 1993, despite visits to Israel by the past three Popes.

"I congratulate members of the Councils of Christians and Jews who participated in the development of the document." Among the contributors were former ACCJ chair, Rev Dr Michael Trainor; current convenor of the ACCJ's Theological Committee, Dr Emmanuel Nathan; and member of the Victorian CCJ and a Sister of Sion, Dr Mary Raeburn.

The document highlights for Christians the fact that Jesus was and remained a Jew and that the early Christians remained Jews. It also points to the ongoing issue of antisemitism and the role of Christians in countering antisemitism in contemporary Australia.

In particular, the document rejects "supersessionism", the erroneous view that Judaism has been superseded by Christianity. "Christians need to be aware that supersessionism may sometimes be unwittingly expressed in texts and liturgies developed within Christian contexts, and can become a trope in antisemitic thinking," Dr Hoenig said.

Walking Together: Catholics and Jews in the Australian Context was developed by The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and the Executive Council of Australian Jewry.

Media Comment Dr Ron Hoenig 0419 183 214