



## **SPEAKING NOTES**

### **2010 McCOSKER ORATION**

#### **INTRODUCTORY NOTES**

**CANBERRA  
MONDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2010**

**TONY DAVIES (TBC)  
CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES AUSTRALIA BOARD  
DIRECTOR CENTACARE PORT MACQUARIE**

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#### **McCOSKER ORATION INTRODUCTION**

Good evening everyone

As the leaders of Catholic social services gather each year we take time to pay tribute to a person who played a leading role in moving the Church into the organised provision of welfare.

Monsignor Frank McCosker believed Catholic welfare was about inclusion, rather than exclusion of all people; about critical analysis of Government agendas rather than subservient compliance to them; and about professionalism in welfare rather than well meaning benevolence and dependant charity.

His obituary in *the Australian* in 1996 declared he was devoted to those people who were mostly unable to help themselves.

In the late 1940s, as director of the Catholic Welfare Bureau in Sydney – now known as CatholicCare – McCosker built on the foundation laid in Australia by four professionally trained Catholic lay women social workers: Norma Parker, Connie Moffitt, Eileen Davidson and Mary Lyons.

McCosker 's vision and determination led to services like Meals on Wheels, Foster Care, Adoption Practice, the Council of Social Services, Marriage Counselling as part of Matrimonial and Family Law, Child Endowment and National Catholic Welfare.

With us tonight to deliver the seventh McCosker Oration is Fr Frank Brennan, Jesuit priest and Professor of Law at the Australian Catholic University. He is also a professorial visiting fellow at the University of New South Wales Law School. He was the founding director of Uniya, the Australian Jesuit Social Justice Centre.

He is widely published on Aboriginal issues, civil liberties, asylum policy, and the place of religion in Australian politics and law.

He is an Officer of the Order of Australia [AO] for services to Aboriginal Australians, particularly as an advocate in the areas of law, social justice and reconciliation.

The National Trust has classified him as a Living National Treasure.

In 2009 he chaired the Australian National Human Rights Consultation Committee.

I am delighted now to welcome Fr Frank Brennan to share his wisdom and insight as he delivers Catholic Social Services Australia's annual McCosker Oration.

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