

# Media Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Anglicare Victoria CEO steps down

The Chairman of the Board of Anglicare Victoria Mr Damian Neylon announced today that the Revd Canon Dr Ray Cleary would conclude his role as Chief Executive Officer with the agency at the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010 and take accumulated leave entitlements from the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2010.

"Ray has had a long and influential career in the church and the community sector spanning over 41 years and his decision to step down at this time finds Anglicare Victoria's work consolidated in the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne and the wider Victorian and Australian community", said Mr Neylon. "He has served in a number of community service agencies over his 41 years including his regular engagement with government at both Federal and State levels, and for the past 5 years has been the Chairman of Anglicare Australia the national peak body. He has also served as a Board member of VCOSS and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is a Past President and Life Member of the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare."

"Ray was appointed Chief Executive Officer in 2000 following the creation of Anglicare Victoria in 1997. During his time the agency has more than doubled in size and has evolved an extensive range of child, youth, family and community services across the Melbourne metropolitan area and country regions of Victoria, He has brought to the agency extensive skills in social policy, strategic planning, financial stewardship, a strong commitment to the principles of social justice, an engaging media profile and a strong and informed understanding of the role and place of Christian faith in the community sector and Australian society. He has worked effectively with governments at all levels on issues including, homelessness, child protection, housing, gambling, and child, youth and family services."

This year will see Ray complete 41 years in the church and community sector and he believes it is time to pursue other interests and to make way for the next generation of leaders.

Archbishop Philip Freier President of the Anglicare Victoria Council said, "Canon Dr Ray Cleary has represented the Church at the national level, in this Diocese and in the broader community sector throughout his ministry with a deep sense of God's presence, generosity and hospitality to those most in need. As a strong advocate for the disadvantaged and those in need he has brought his theological and biblical insights into his work with Anglicare and wider church life including his involvement with St Paul's Cathedral."

Following a period of extended leave Ray plans to pursue a number of interests.

The Board places on record its appreciation of Ray's work and will advise of an appropriate farewell to mark the occasion in due course.

"An extensive recruitment strategy has begun to find a successor to Ray Cleary," Mr Neylon announced. -ends-

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