



**PM Glynn
Institute**

**Public
policy for
the common
good**



ACU

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

Charles Nuttall

About the PM Glynn Institute

Established in 2016, the PM Glynn Institute is the public policy think tank of Australian Catholic University (ACU). Its focus is public policy for the common good.

The institute's work encompasses questions such as democracy and religion, the future of human rights, the sources of hope and confidence in society, and the renewal of Australia's major political traditions. The institute also focuses on particular issues such as religious freedom, palliative care and euthanasia, Indigenous recognition, social cohesion, and trust and belonging in Australia.

It collaborates with scholars and experts at ACU and other universities, with think tanks and policy institutes across the political spectrum, with government departments, and with church agencies and services in education, health and welfare.

The institute was named after Patrick McMahon Glynn KC (1855 – 1931) who was one of the founders of the Commonwealth of Australia. He contributed to public life as a barrister and newspaper editor, a colonial and federal parliamentarian, and as a minister in three Commonwealth governments. Today, Paddy Glynn is best remembered as one of the founders of Federation who proposed that the words “humbly relying on the blessing of Almighty God” be inserted in the preamble to Australia's Constitution.

Who we are

Dr Michael Casey

Director

Dr Cris Abbu

Policy and Projects Manager

Samantha Dunning

Policy Researcher

Damien Freeman

Principal Policy Adviser

Kerry Pinkstone

Visiting Fellow in Indigenous Public Policy

Religious Freedom Program

Promoting a better understanding of religious freedom is an important part of the institute's work.

In 2018 the institute published *Chalice of Liberty: protecting religious freedom in Australia*, with essays explaining why freedom of religion is important to a secular democracy such as Australia, and some of the reforms necessary to ensure its protection in the future.

In August 2019 the institute contributed to the preparation of ACU's submission on the first exposure draft of the Commonwealth government's proposed Religious Discrimination Bill. In October 2020 the institute gave evidence to a joint parliamentary inquiry into a bill to amend anti-discrimination law in New South Wales to cover religious discrimination.

The institute has also produced a brochure outlining the *10 principles of religious freedom*, which was distributed to members and senators of the Commonwealth Parliament in November 2019; and *10 points on Religious Persecution*, a brochure which provides an overview of the terrible impact of religious persecution around the world, and what can be done to resist it.

The institute's work on religious freedom is part of a larger focus on religion and democracy. In 2020, the institute's Kapunda Press published *Faith's Place: democracy in a religious world*, which considers what it means for Australia to be an increasingly secular country, in a world that is projected to become more religious over the next fifty years.



A colorful, circular geometric pattern with a central yellow and white star, surrounded by concentric rings of red, purple, and black shapes, and a blue wavy pattern at the bottom. The pattern is highly symmetrical and intricate, featuring various geometric shapes like circles, squares, and triangles. The colors are vibrant and contrast sharply against the dark background. Below the circular pattern, there are three horizontal wavy lines in shades of blue.

Indigenous Public Policy Program

The institute has established a dedicated program to contribute to discussions about Indigenous affairs.

Kerry Pinkstone was appointed as a Visiting Fellow in Indigenous Public Policy in 2019, having previously served as Senior Adviser on Social Policy in the Office of the Prime Minister. In 2020 she published a paper on constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians, entitled *Anchoring our commitment in the constitution – Finding common ground*.

Murray Gleeson AC QC, former Chief Justice of Australia, delivered a paper entitled *Recognition in keeping with the constitution*, at a seminar co-hosted by the institute at Gilbert and Tobin in Sydney in July 2019.

Michael Kirby AC CMG, Rachel Perkins, Noel Pearson, and Greg Craven AO GCSG spoke at Parliament House, Sydney, in June 2018 at the launch of *Upholding the big ideas* – four discussion papers on constitutional recognition of Indigenous peoples produced by the institute and Uphold and Recognise.

The institute also co-sponsored a panel discussion between Christian Porter MP, Ben Wyatt MLA, Andrew Forrest AO, and Nolan Hunter about *The forgotten people: Liberal and conservative approaches to recognising Indigenous peoples* at Perth's University Club in February 2017.



ACU School Leavers Program

The ACU School Leavers Program is a formation program for Catholic school students who have just completed their HSC exams and have a demonstrated record of leadership and service.

It provides an immersion experience in the Catholic tradition and Western civilisation, based in Rome and London. It allows young leaders to explore how Christianity, politics and culture have shaped our diverse and complex society, as a foundation for their own leadership and service after school.

The program considers themes such as the way Christianity transformed the world of ancient Rome; the role of the monasteries in keeping learning and

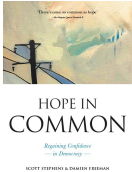
education alive after the fall of Rome; the impact of Christian ideas and art during the Renaissance; the Reformation and the conflicts over religion which followed from it; the ways in which religion and politics have been entangled in Western history; changing ideas of politics, religion and society coming out of the Enlightenment and the French Revolution; the influence of Christianity in shaping Western ideas of law and parliamentary democracy; and Catholic social teaching and the modern papacy up to Pope Francis.

The ACU School Leavers Program has been running annually since 2018 in collaboration with Sydney Catholic Schools.



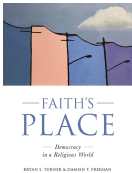
2020-21 Publications

The Kapunda Press is the institute's imprint, published in association with Connor Court. It is named after the mining town where Paddy Glynn first lived in South Australia, and where he edited the *Kapunda Herald*.



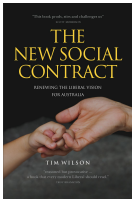
HOPE IN COMMON: RENEWING CONFIDENCE IN DEMOCRACY

A collection of essays discussing proposals for strengthening hope and confidence in Australian democracy, and how we articulate the compelling proposition for human freedom and flourishing that a society like ours represents.



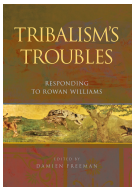
FAITH'S PLACE: DEMOCRACY IN A RELIGIOUS WORLD

A collection of perspectives on the challenges for democracy and religion in Australia which “breaks new ground on essential questions: how can secularising societies cope with the persistence of religious belief—and how does the failure to do so jeopardise democracy itself?” – Mary Eberstadt (author of *How the west really lost God: a new theory of secularization*).



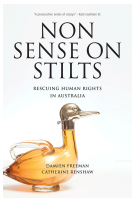
THE NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT: RENEWING THE LIBERAL VISION FOR AUSTRALIA

Prime Minister Scott Morrison describes Tim Wilson's introduction to the philosophy of liberalism and its role in Australia's future as a book that “prods, stirs and challenges us”. It is part of the institute's series on the major political traditions of Australia.



TRIBALISM'S TROUBLES: RESPONDING TO ROWAN WILLIAMS

Essays about the 2019 PM Glynn Lecture on “Overcoming political tribalism”. Lord Williams argues that “beyond political tribalism lie a deeper literacy about our histories, a commitment to identifying the grammar of a common language, and the work of negotiating a shared future ...”.



NONSENSE ON STILTS: RESCUING HUMAN RIGHTS IN AUSTRALIA

This book looking at the problems of human rights and possible solutions for them “will disrupt the mindset that has produced a rights infrastructure that is distorted, expensive, and frequently out of step with community values” – Chris Merritt (Legal Affairs editor, *The Australian*).

For a full list of our publications, see our website: pmglynn.acu.edu.au

Papers and reports

The institute commissions a range of one-off papers, surveys, reports, and lectures to help generate new approaches and new thinking on public policy issues.



SO HELP ME GOD: A HISTORY OF OATHS OF OFFICE

The institute's third occasional paper provides an overview of the history of different oaths, affirmations, and pledges, and how they help to maintain confidence in Australian public institutions.



SEAL OF CONFESSION: PUBLIC INTEREST AND CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS

The institute's second occasional paper considers the Catholic Church's approach to confession in the context of the public interest in protecting confidential communications.



A SNAPSHOT OF PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICES IN AUSTRALIA

Palliative care is essential not only at the end of life but for life-limiting conditions as well. It should be available to everyone who needs it, including those who are more disadvantaged. This report explores some key trends and gaps in palliative care service provision in Australia, and makes a number of recommendations to address them.



THE PM GLYNN SURVEY ON HOPE, TRUST AND BELONGING

A biennial survey on the underlying attitudes and concerns that shape responses to political, social, and ethical issues, and their implications for Australian society. Five brochures explain the survey and highlight some key findings about human rights and trust and confidence in Australia's institutions.

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Cover

Image: Charles Nuttall, *The Opening, Commonwealth Parliament*, c.1903.
Photogravure Print.
Australian Catholic University Art Collection

Religious Freedom Program

Upper image: John Coburn, *Festive tree of life*, 1998.
Colour lithograph.
Australian Catholic University Art Collection

Lower image: John Coburn, *The First Day: The Spirit of God brooded over the waters*, 1977.
Colour lithograph.
Australian Catholic University Art Collection

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