

MEDIA RELEASE

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BISHOPS TASKFORCE ON PASTORAL RESPONSES TO ABORTION MEET

The Taskforce on Pastoral Responses to Abortion, established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, held its inaugural meeting in Sydney yesterday.

Announced after last month's Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Plenary, the taskforce will investigate ways of increasing financial and human support for those facing the dilemma of abortion.

Bishop Eugene Hurley, Chairman of the Bishops Committee for Family and for Life, chaired the taskforce's first meeting.

Other members include: Bishop Anthony Fisher OP, Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney; Francis Sullivan, Catholic Healthcare Australia; Frank Quinlan, Catholic Welfare Australia; Mary Uhlmann, Catholic Women's League; Geraldine Hawkes, Commission for Australian Catholic Women; Dr Brigid Vout, Life Office, Sydney; Clare Pike, Life Office, Perth; Marcia Riordan, Life Office, Melbourne. Absent were Monsignor Tom Doyle, National Catholic Education Commission and Sarah Taylor, Young Christian Workers.

Bishop Hurley said "I am delighted that the work of the task force is now underway and I look forward to it producing practical measures to help support women facing the dilemma of abortion."

Following this first meeting the taskforce members will review the measures and programs currently in place within the Church and her agencies to respond to the needs of women contemplating abortion.

For more information, contact: Brigid Vout on 0413 227 698.