



THE SOCIETY OF JESUS
IN AUSTRALIA

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Subject: Appointment of Frank Brennan SJ – Bookends Project

Dear Jesuits, Provincial Assistants, Chairs and Heads of Ministry,

I would like to share the announcement of Fr Frank Brennan SJ AO, on his appointment to the role of Bookends Project Officer for The Bookends Project in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (ATSI) for 2023.

The Bookends Project was an initiative launched in 2019 and of which is embedded within the Province's Second Priority of Apostolic Priorities "**Heal humanity and our world**" to "**Build upon the Bookends Project to make a particular commitment to ongoing reconciliation with our First Nations people and accompanying and advocating for refugees and people seeking asylum**".

This work was inspired by Fr Brian McCoy during his time as Provincial. It expresses the Province's commitment to justice for Australia's First Nations peoples and for the country's most recent arrivals, refugees and people seeking asylum. The Bookends Project seeks to express gratitude and celebrate the fine work of those within the Ministries whilst exploring further opportunities to grow more in our engagement and advocacy for First Nations peoples, refugees and asylum seekers.

Following an advertising process, and further discernment, Fr Frank has been appointed to the Bookends ATSI role for 2023. Fr Frank is well regarded as a highly respected academic, author and commentator. He is known by many for his advocacy work in this area and has been both a prominent speaker on, and a strong supporter for First Nations voice. He has written extensively on this topic, including a book entitled, *No Small Change*, which researched the work needed for constitutional change to acknowledge First Nations voice. Fr Frank's Order of Australia was for his services to Aboriginal Australians which was awarded in 1995.

We look forward to Fr Frank's contribution to the Province within this role. The appointment of the second Bookends role relating to refugees and people seeking asylum will be discerned early in the new year.

Fr Quyen Vu SJ
Provincial