



MEDIA RELEASE:

For immediate release

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Tim Costello to speak at Northern Futures breakfast

One of Australia's leading campaigners for social justice, Rev Tim Costello, AO, will visit Geelong next week, on **Thursday, February 18, 2016**, to speak at the Northern Futures Industry Partners Breakfast.

As CEO of World Vision, Australia's largest overseas aid organisation, Rev Costello is committed to helping the poorest of the poor and is well known for his work with the homeless and marginalised.

Northern Futures chairman Peter Dorling said Rev Costello's visit to Geelong was a timely one given the challenges Geelong faces ensuring people aren't left behind socially and economically as the city transitions to a new, post-manufacturing economy.

"Rev Costello has been outspoken on issues such as gambling, urban poverty, homelessness, reconciliation and substance abuse," Mr Dorling said.

"His insights will be especially welcome to those of us committed to ensuring a strong future for everyone in our city.

"Northern Futures is leading the way through its acclaimed program of training and supported employment placement in the northern suburbs and our collective approach involving industry, community groups and the education sector highlights the goodwill within Geelong towards those who need a helping hand.

"We are delighted that Give Where You Live Foundation CEO Bill Mithen will also speak at the breakfast. The Give Where You Live Foundation is an outstanding example of the community helping community and Mr Mithen's work with GROW demonstrates the critical importance of effective partnerships in a city such as ours.

"This breakfast will provide food for thought for all of us concerned with ensuring a strong and prosperous future for everyone in Geelong," Mr Dorling said.

About Rev Tim Costello

Chief Executive of World Vision Australia since 2004, Rev Costello has been instrumental in ensuring issues surrounding global poverty are placed on the national agenda.

His passion for justice and alleviating the suffering of poor communities in the developing world was demonstrated when the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami struck on Boxing Day 2004. His leadership helped inspire an unprecedented outpouring of generosity from the Australian public with World Vision Australia raising more than \$100 million for tsunami relief.

Rev Costello also played a prominent role in the Make Poverty History campaign and, in April 2008, he chaired the Strengthening Communities, Supporting Families and Social Inclusion Committee of the Australian Government's 2020 Summit in Canberra.

A former Minister at the Collins Street Baptist Church in Melbourne and Executive Director of Urban Seed, a Christian not-for-profit outreach service for the urban poor, Rev Costello successfully ran for Mayor of St Kilda in 1993. He was named Victorian of the Year in 2004, made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in June 2005 and in 2006 was named Victorian Australian of the Year.

Rev Costello has written several books including *Streets of Hope: Finding God in St Kilda*, *Tips from a Travelling Soul Searcher* and *Wanna Bet? Winners and Losers in Gambling's Luck Myth* (co-written with Royce Millar).

Northern Futures Industry Partners Breakfast

Date: Thursday February 18, 2016

Venue: Truffleduck, 66 Hyland St, Fyansford

Time: 7:15am for 7:30am – 9:00am

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