



TRENT ZIMMERMAN MP
Member for **North Sydney**



MEDIA RELEASE

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Zimmerman leads parliamentary tribute to Sisters of St Joseph and Saint Mary MacKillop

Federal Member for North Sydney, Trent Zimmerman, this week led tributes in the House of Representatives to mark the sesquicentenary of the establishment of the Sisters of Saint Joseph by Saint Mary MacKillop in 1866.

“The Sisters of Saint Joseph have a special association with my electorate and Saint Mary’s final resting place in North Sydney is now a centre for pilgrims.

“For 150 years the Sisters of Saint Joseph have played an important role in the life of so many Australians – particularly in helping those of greatest need in our society.

“At a time when it was considered revolutionary, Saint Mary and the Sisters led efforts to make sure that education was available to Australians not matter what their means or location.

“They also worked to support indigenous communities when many treated Aborigines as second or third class members of society.

Their work, particularly in education, remains a major focus for their efforts both here and overseas.

“The order, forever growing in numbers and in outreach since its beginning in 1866, transferred its headquarters to North Sydney in 1888.

“Since my election to Parliament I have had the opportunity to participate in a number of events at Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney and the work of the Sisters is truly inspiring.

“I am pleased that we had the opportunity to acknowledge that work in the Australian parliament.

“On their 150th anniversary we thank and congratulate the Sisters for their role in shaping our country and culture.

“The legacy of Australia’s first Saint can be found in all that they do,” Mr Zimmerman said.

Media contact Luke Barnes 0422 726 621 / Luke.Barnes@aph.gov.au