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Diocese of Broome Recognises Contribution of Senator Pat Dodson

The Catholic Church in the Kimberley recognizes the enormous contribution Yawuru elder Pat Dodson has made to the Nation of Australia. “Pat Dodson has been an icon of national reconciliation in this country for decades,” stated Bishop Michael Morrissey, Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese of Broome. “He embodies the true essence of the kind of dialogue Pope Francis has called our global community to engage in. He has created a bridge between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the broader community working for decades for justice and healing in this country. The leadership of Pat Dodson has been a gift for all Australians.”

“Uncle Pat has been an incredible ambassador for the Kimberley”, stated Aunty Shirley Quaresemin, Deputy Chair of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council. “He has worked to promote and protect culture and language on country here and across Australia. Pat Dodson played a key role in the historic 1973 Eucharistic Congress which was the very first time Aboriginal voices were heard in the liturgy. He was the first Aboriginal priest in the Catholic Church. Pat Dodson was a Commissioner in the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. He chaired the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation and was a Director on the Central and Kimberley Land Council.” Pat Dodson has laid a strong foundation in the quest for peace, justice and reconciliation in Australia.

“We thank former Senator Dodson for his service as a Senator for Western Australia which concluded on the 26th January. We wish him every blessing and strength in his personal health journey. We are confident he will continue to make a positive contribution for the people of the Kimberley and our nation.”