



THE PLENARY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

CUSTOMER'S NAME

The Plenary Council of Australia
plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

CUSTOMER'S LOCATION

Sydney, Australia

CUSTOMER'S INDUSTRY

Religious Institution

CUSTOMER'S CHALLENGE

Pandemic restrictions forced the organization to create a hybrid arrangement that would allow for nearly 300 delegates to converge both in-person and virtually from across Australia.

POLY SOLUTIONS

Poly Blackwire 5200 Series
Corded USB headsets

POLY'S IMPACT

Poly delivered superb quality of sound, so that delegates could both hear and be heard with remarkable clarity, while also enabling offsite delegates to tune out the distractions while participating virtually in the ongoing dialogue.

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POLY HEADSETS WITH NOISEBLOCKAI AND ACOUSTIC FENCE TECHNOLOGIES ALLOW AUSTRALIA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH TO HEAR AND BE HEARD WITH QUALITY AND CLARITY FOR CRITICAL HYBRID MEETINGS

In 2020, the Plenary Council of Australia had planned to meet about the future of the Catholic Church in Australia. This event was of particular significance, as this was the first plenary council gathering held in Australia since 1937.

The gathering was originally scheduled to take place in October 2020; however, this had to be delayed due to the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions on movements and public gatherings meant that the initial proposal to have almost 300 delegates gather in person for a planned week-long meeting had to be shelved.

Given the significance of the event, the organizing committee pivoted to hosting the First Assembly in a hybrid and distributed format, with delegates joining individually. Some meeting in hub locations and others dialing-in both from their homes and other remote locations.

This looked to be a significant challenge for the organizing committee, who now not only had to consider the logistics of virtually bringing together nearly 300 delegates over a variety of locations, but also devise an appropriate technology solution able to support the scale of this gathering.

Because they had to discuss and vote on important issues, they had to be able to be heard and to hear, with clarity, from wherever they were joining.

The Plenary Council organizing committee turned to the joint efforts of Microsoft and Poly to help. Surface laptops and Blackwire 5220 USB headsets were distributed so that the nearly 300 delegates could participate in the First Assembly proceedings via video conferencing on Microsoft Teams.

Maggie Tiongson – Head of Digital Engagement for Catholic Education Western Australia, noted that “Given the age factor of the delegates taking part in the Plenary proceedings, as well as expected challenges in technology literacy, it was a heartening and positive experience for many of them in the uptake and familiarization with video conferencing. The exceptional experience we had with the Poly Blackwire headsets certainly helped to increase our confidence that the overall quality of the Plenary Council dialogue would not be impacted by the challenges of being remote.”