

CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS AUSTRALIA 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



CRA

Catholic Religious Australia



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

In the spirit of reconciliation,
CRA acknowledges the Traditional
Custodians of country throughout Australia
and their connections to
land, sea and community.

We pay our respect to their elders past and
emerging and extend that respect to all
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
peoples today.

We acknowledge the stories, traditions and
living cultures of Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander peoples on this land
and commit to building
a brighter future together.

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1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Dear Friends,

There is no doubt in my mind that the message of the Gospel is an absolute imperative in our society today. CRA's role is to address issues of importance to religious, to the Church and to society through the lens of that Gospel message and express the prophetic voice of religious.

This is grounded in CRA's Canonical Statutes which state that its purpose is:

"to promote and support religious life in the Australian Church. By combined effort, it works to achieve more fully the purpose of each institute, while respecting the autonomy, nature and spirit of each. It deals with affairs which are common to all and works to establish suitable co-ordination and co-operation with Episcopal conferences and with individual Bishops (cf Canon 708)".

When, in 2016, the Assembly voted to merge the state bodies with CRA, making it the single, national peak body for Religious, the leaders resolved that the 'new' CRA should prioritise:

- leadership and providing support to religious institute leaders, to ensure that religious life in Australia is animated and enriched;
- collective advocacy in key areas, such as justice, education, the environment and other emerging fields, to support leaders and to influence church and society; and
- working in a manner that enables the distinctive charism of religious life to evolve, keeping alive the unique identity and independent prophetic voice of religious life within the Church and beyond.

The past year has been a fulfilling and successful 12 months of doing just that. I believe that this Annual Report demonstrates that CRA is fulfilling its mission and maintaining its commitment to the priorities so clearly articulated when it was re-imagined four years ago, as a truly national organisation designed to meet the needs of the future.

The gift of CRA, as an ecclesial community within the universal Church, is that it is a collaborative and inclusive organisation. We actively collaborate with a range of Church entities and agencies. Independently and through our strategic collaborations, we shape Church responses to developing issues, we give voice to the Gospel message and speak out about matters that are meaningful to religious, such as justice issues and professional standards. We are sponsors of ACRATH, CPSL, IAG and the newly established CERA and this requires continuing engagement with these groups, their leaders and staff. We have collaborated with AMPJP on matters of mutual interest as PJPs are an increasingly important part of Church.

Implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission continues to be a focal point and signals the determination of religious leaders to do everything possible to keep young people and vulnerable adults – indeed all people – safe with a promise of a better future. Through Anne Walker and our Professional Standards Committee, CRA has offered bespoke advice to Leaders, delivered relevant and timely information, convened meetings and seminars and helped to bring clarity to complex matters, with care and respect for the many differences in size, charism and resources of member congregations.

CRA has worked closely with the ACBC in these areas and in those related to the recommendations of the Royal Commission.

Together we established the Steering Committee which was charged with devising a streamlined national approach to safeguarding. Its recommendations were tabled for discussion by CRA Council and the Australian Bishops in May 2020 and were accepted. The next stage of implementation has commenced.

Flowing from the understanding of God as Trinity, as relationship, and as a communion of love, the term from our last National Assembly – “*communio*” – truly expresses the key purpose of CRA, and increasingly its lived reality. Congregations are engaging more and more in collaboration as they forge new partnerships and networks for mutual support.

The work of the Emerging Futures, Initiative One group, which was so solidly endorsed at our last Assembly, has continued and been formalised. This is a very practical avenue by which CRA can assist many Congregations which are facing diminishment and completion. The group has been re-imagined as the CRA Governance Collaborative, and with its own small team and office, is working on service delivery arrangements for Congregations that request that support. It is also exploring possible commissary arrangements for those that need help with canonical governance. Monica Cavanagh RSJ, Anne Lane PBVM, Judy Lawson OP and Sharon Price RSM are providing this vital service to members on behalf of the CRA Council.

Of significance for this project was the Petition that was devised, approved by Council and presented to CICLSAL by me in March 2020, requesting that CRA be recognised as the Commissary for those Congregations that request it. We await CICLSAL’s response.

Of course, none of this is possible without the dedicated and generous work of many people. I wish to acknowledge:

- *Members of Council:* All carry heavy responsibilities as leaders within their own congregations but are still willing to respond

generously to multiple issues for CRA. The *modus operandi* of members of CRA Council is in keeping with the vision for the Australian Plenary Council and Pope Francis’ vision of a “synodal” Church where everyone listens to and learns from each other, taking shared responsibility for proclaiming the Gospel.

- *CRA Executive:* Patty Fawkner SGS and Tom McDonough CP are readily available to assist, and I have relied on their encouragement and wise counsel.
- *National Executive Director:* Anne Walker undertakes an enormous amount for us. She is hard working, insightful, well-connected and has at heart the best interests of the Church, CRA and Congregations.
- *Our dynamic CRA secretariat:* Sylvia, Carmel, Kaylie, Evangeline, Ann and Greg, for all that they undertake on our behalf.
- *To our small and effective CRAGC Team:* Sharon and Judy, for the important work they carry out, as congregations face completion.
- *Our Committee Chairs and members,* who carry out much targeted work for CRA.

And of course, to our Sister and Brother Leaders, for their goodwill, support and encouragement.

It has been a privilege to serve as President of CRA over the past year. I have learned much and, hopefully, contributed a little to this special enterprise, CRA.

Pope Francis reminds religious to match their hope with imagination and a joyful and courageous vision of the future, “Hope is the face of God for our world.”

I look forward with hope, to meeting you at our National Assembly in Melbourne in March 2021, in a post-pandemic world.



Peter Carroll FMS

2. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Called to Serve



Pope Francis reminds us:

"In the Gospel, immediately following His words on the power of faith, Jesus speaks of service. Faith and service cannot be separated; on the

contrary, they are intimately

linked, interwoven with each other... When faith is interwoven with service, the heart remains open and youthful, and it expands in the process of doing good. Thus faith, as Jesus tells us in the Gospel, becomes powerful and accomplishes marvellous deeds. If faith follows this path, it matures and grows in strength, but only when it is joined to service." Pope Francis, Homily at Church of the Immaculate Conception, Bazu, Azerbaijan, Oct. 2, 2016

CRA reflects the faith and service of religious institutes and societies of apostolic life across this extensive country. While our focus is to support leaders, we do so with the knowledge that we also serve their communities, made up of 5,500 sisters, brothers and clerics of diverse cultures, different theological expressions, some younger, some older, some from large congregations and others from small ones. So many differences, yet united by the love of Jesus Christ. We strive to enable the distinctive charism of religious life to evolve, under one CRA.

The CRA guiding principle of inclusivity has remained at the forefront of our work. Over the last few years, there has been a concerted effort to work with those religious institutes who are turning their minds towards completion.

During this last year, it has been our intention to broaden our vision and reach out to those younger

religious amongst our members, to those of diverse cultural backgrounds; to those who are welcoming people for initial formation, to those smaller congregations often with older members struggling with the demands of administrative responsibilities. We strive to think, plan and act inclusively so that all our leaders, of various congregations, receive the faithful service at the heart of CRA's mission. We deliver this through the provision of enrichment and animation opportunities, advocacy and thought leadership and strategic collaboration. We also deliver this by listening to member needs, anticipating needs and responding to needs. In many areas, the response is supported by the Committees which are filled with men and women, religious and lay, who bring passion, expertise and wisdom to the many areas in which our committees work.

Enrichment and Animation

It is CRA's responsibility to honour and animate religious life in Australia, to keep it vital, vibrant and evolving. Another year of enrichment and animation had been planned, with an even broader range of events and locations; we had added two events in Perth and a further six events in regional cities. This was in addition to events in Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney. New events we had not held before, included: a New Leaders Induction Seminar (to be delivered at the National Assembly); a day with Joan Chittister OSB; a Professional Development Day for congregational EAs and Administrators; and two Health & Well-being Seminars for Younger Religious.

We are continually seeking to provide opportunities for engagement and animation in locations beyond the eastern seaboard to be truly national yet deliver programmes in a cost-effective way. In the last few months, we have been

thwarted by COVID-19; postponing events from mid-March, including the 2020 National Assembly. It has given us an opportunity to continue thinking about other methods of providing enrichment. A very successful example of this was the Zoom seminar on the JobKeeper Scheme for Religious, attracting 60 participants from across the country – with a weeks’ notice. As well as formal input, we provide a forum for leaders to ‘chat’ and connect about issues relevant to them, in response to what leaders are faced with. We are always keen to look at new ways to provide member benefits.

We will be delivering the National Assembly a little differently next year by embracing technology to help deliver the programme.

CRA strives to provide enrichment in a multitude of ways, such as through the delivery of the popular CRA eBulletin, the President’s Communiques, the Canon Law course, the National Day of Sorrow and Promise, the LCWR books, and other initiatives.

Professional Services

The CRA secretariat provides advice, support, resources, and tools to Religious Institute Leaders across a range of diverse areas. The services we offer to members are many and varied; the secretariat and the committees respond both to individual and collective issues.

Strategic Collaboration

Both external and internal strategic collaboration have gathered pace this year. Relationships continue to develop with Church bodies, including the Association of Ministerial PJPs, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, the Plenary Council (which gives another platform for the expression of the prophetic voice of Religious as delegates), Catholic Social Services Australia and many others. One of the key drivers of our strategic collaboration is to extend the influence of religious throughout many areas of Church and public life. CRA has appointees on external organisations such as

Catholic Health Australia and many others, which provide an entry point through which our religious contribute, educate and form those with whom they work, and enliven the mission. The list of those who contribute so much is contained later in this report.

A successful collaboration was the visit to Papua New Guinea (PNG) organised by Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA) on the eve of the Medevac provision to be debated in Federal Parliament. Two of our Council members (Tom McDonough CP and Mary-Clare Holland OP) joined other leaders at very short notice, as part of a delegation to a Port Moresby prison complex to gain a better understanding of the human experience and complexities of the situation and to express solidarity with people seeking asylum and refugees. This strategic collaboration worked together to lobby politicians, advocate for the retention of the *Medevac Bill*, and petition for a sustainable, humanitarian solution to the plight of people on PNG and Nauru.

We also live out collaboration internally with our religious institutes. This is exemplified in initiatives such as the CRA Governance Collaborative (see further information in this report) and an exciting initiative to bring together Religious Institutes to work collaboratively on formation for new vocations.

Advocacy and Thought Leadership

The prophetic voice of religious has been important through the ages and continues to be needed now. The individuals and groups who make up the marginalised and vulnerable in society, are a focus of concern and care of religious ministry. Being a credible, balanced and energetic voice, presence, and advocate is critical to the role of CRA.

CRA continues to work to challenge, consider, and put forth cogent arguments both publicly through media statements, letters to Government,

distributing petitions to members across the country to lobby and garner support for justice issues or lobby on policy issues; and directly through meetings with Government submissions and roundtables. In this way, CRA is the collective, prophetic voice of religious in the broader community.

Governance and Operational Efficiency

We keep costs to a minimum including staffing levels. We are acutely aware of the financial pressures that many religious institutes are feeling and make every effort to be respectful of those pressures. We work to streamline processes and ensure that we are transparent and accountable in all the work that we undertake. We also understand that the services CRA provides to our members are valued by leaders. At the end of 2019, the CRA Finance Committee was established, reflecting the governance standards to which we hold ourselves accountable. The secretariat is a small team, striving to be transparent, responsive, resourceful, helpful and stewarding the resources given to us by our members.

Thank you

To the Leaders – I have come to know so many more leaders over these past 12 months and have been grateful for the warm exchanges and personal sharing that go hand in hand with working with you and for you.

To the CRA President – Peter Carroll FMS is intelligent, insightful and engaged. I thank Peter for his leadership and the many gifts that he has shared. Through him, there is no doubt that the voice of the Gospel has been amplified within our Church and the broader community.

To the Executive – Peter Carroll, Patty Fawkner SGS and Tom McDonough CP have formed a coherent team. Their commitment, availability and collaborative discernment have enriched the work of CRA and the life of the Church at this time.

To the Council – a community which walks together as pilgrims of the Gospel. Each member holds the needs and interests of a wide range of religious institutes at the heart of their decision-making, to benefit all members and discern the present and future of the organisation.

To the CRA Committees – generous volunteers who bring energy, creativity and expertise to the work they undertake for our members.

To the CRA staff – CRA's vision could not be realised without the professionalism, dedication and commitment of the secretariat: Sylvia, Carmel, Kaylie, Evangeline.

To the CRAGC staff – Sharon (for her work with the CRA Committees and now the CRAGC) and Judy for embarking on this new journey and for the valuable contribution they are making during this important time in the lifecycle of religious.

Ahead of us....

Jesus' calling to us is at the heart of all we do and all we are, and that working together, inclusively, gives us strength, courage and positive outcomes. We will continue to face the opportunities and challenges together. Be assured that we will continue to facilitate your significant, prophetic voice in naming the signs of the times. The work that we undertake for you, and on your behalf, enriches us along the way. We look forward to seeing you face-to-face soon.



Anne Walker

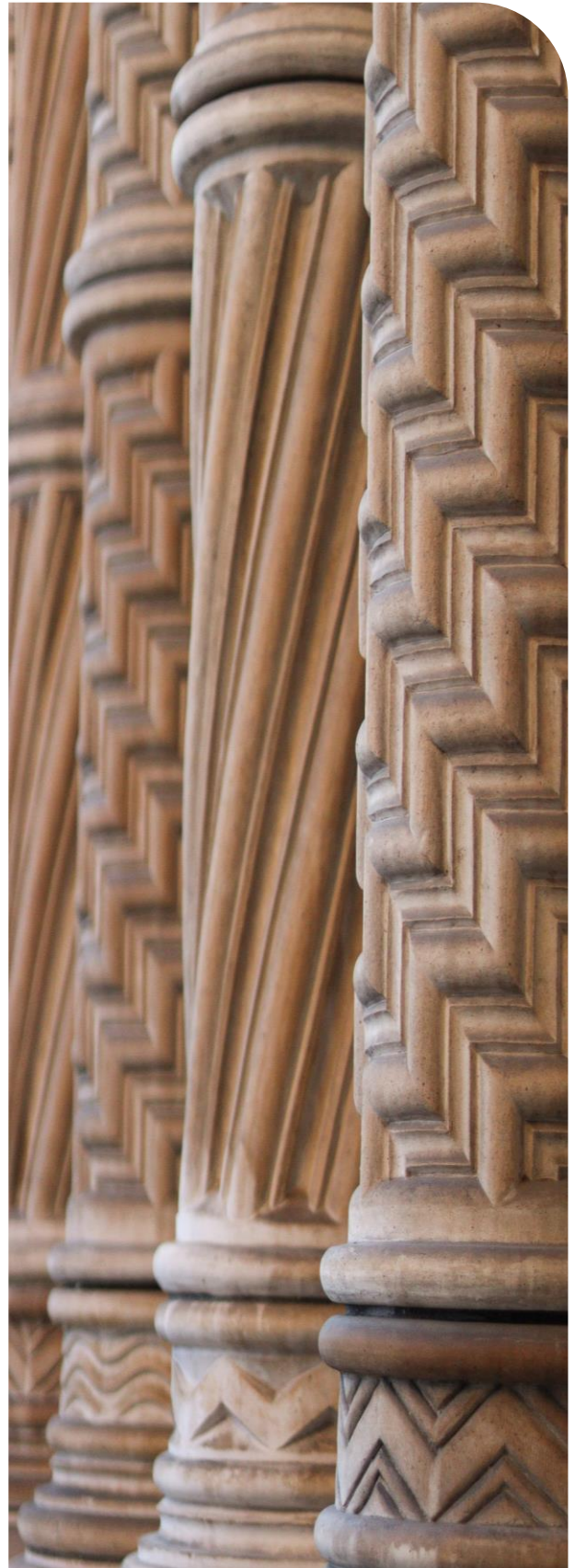
3. GOVERNANCE

CIVIL and CANON LAW

CRA was established as a public juridic person by the Holy See. CRA's Statutes were approved by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSAL). CRA's Statutes and the norms of canon law outline the responsibilities of CRA. The governance of CRA is entrusted to the Council who are elected by the members of CRA, who are leaders of their religious institutes. Members of CRA are named on pages 12 and 13.

The civil entity of CRA is a statutory body corporate created under the *Roman Catholic Church Communities Lands Act (NSW) 1942*.

The National Council comprises the President, Peter Carroll FMS and 13 Councillors who come from across Australia, from small and large congregations. The Executive comprises the President, the Vice President, Patty Fawcner SGS and Tom McDonough CP. Together, the President and 13 Councillors address issues of importance to religious, the Church and society through the lens of the Gospel message on behalf of leaders of religious institutes across Australia.



CRA NATIONAL COUNCIL JUNE 2019-JUNE 2020

EXECUTIVE TEAM



Br Peter Carroll FMS
Provincial
Marist Brothers Australia



Sr Patty Fawkner SGS
Congregational Leader, Sisters of the
Good Samaritan



Fr Tom McDonough CP
Provincial
The Passionist Fathers



Sr Anne Boyd CSB
Congregational Leader, Brigidine Sisters



Sr Eveline Crotty RSM
Leader, Institute of the Sisters of Mercy
of Australia and Papua New Guinea



Br David Hawke FSC
Provincial, De La Salle Brothers, Australia,
New Zealand, Pakistan & PNG



Sr Mary-Clare Holland OP
Prioress, Dominican Sisters of Eastern
Australia and the Solomon Islands



Fr Peter Jones OSA
Congregational Leader, Augustinian
Fathers



Fr William Matthews SDB
Congregational Leader, Salesians of Don
Bosco



Sr Clare Nolan RSC
Congregation Leader, Sisters of Charity
Australia



Br Paul O'Keeffe FSP
Province Leader, The Patrician Brothers



Sr Noreen Reynolds OP
Prioress, Dominican Sisters of North
Adelaide



Sr Catherine Reuter RSM
Congregation Leader, Sisters of Mercy, Brisbane



Sr Lucy van Kessel PBVM
Congregation Leader, Presentation Sisters Western Australia



Catholic Religious Australia is the peak body for Catholic Leaders of Religious Institutes and Societies of Apostolic Life who are resident in Australia. Leaders of 150 congregations of sisters, brothers and priests living and working in all States and Territories of Australia are members of CRA. Our religious congregations comprise almost 5,500 Catholic religious women and men. Our members and their lay colleagues work in education, health care and social services. They minister with indigenous people, refugees and asylum seekers, people surviving on the margins and many others.

CRA SECRETARIAT STAFF



Anne Walker
National Executive Director



Sylvia MacRitchie-Hook
Director of Communications and
Engagement



Carmel Warnock
Committees and Projects Coordinator



Kaylie Beuchat
Executive Administrator



Evangeline Suhood
Team Administration Assistant

CRA GOVERNANCE COLLABORATIVE STAFF



Sharon Price RSM
Transition Manager



Judith Lawson OP
Charism Animator

4. CRA MEMBERS

- > Adorers of the Blood of Christ
- > African Mission Fathers
- > Antonine Sisters
- > Augustinian Fathers - Order of St Augustine
- > Augustinian Recollect Sisters
- > Augustinian Sisters of Our Lady of Consolation NEW MEMBER
- > Augustinian Sisters, Servants of Jesus and Mary
- > Australian Ursulines
- > Basilian Chouerite Sisters
- > Basilian Nuns (Benedictine Nuns)
- > Benedictine Monks New Norcia
- > Benedictine Monks, Arcadia
- > Benedictine Nuns, Tanby
- > Blessed Sacrament Fathers
- > Brigidine Sisters - Congregation of St Brigid
- > Camillians - Order of the Minister of the Infirm
- > Canossian Daughters of Charity
- > Capuchin Franciscan Friars
- > Carmelite Friars - Order of the Discalced Carmelites
- > Cenacle Sisters
- > Christian Brothers – Oceania Province
- > Cistercian Monks
- > Claretian Fathers
- > Confraternity of Christ the Priest
- > Congregation of St Michael Archangel
- > Daughters of Charity
- > Daughters of Divine Zeal
- > Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
- > Daughters of St Anne
- > Daughters of St Paul
- > De La Salle Brothers
- > Discalced Carmelite Nuns – Gelorup
- > Discalced Carmelite Nuns – Goonellebah
- > Discalced Carmelite Nuns – Kew
- > Discalced Carmelite Nuns – Launceston
- > Discalced Carmelite Nuns – Nedlands
- > Discalced Carmelite Nuns – Ormiston
- > Discalced Carmelite Nuns – SA
- > Discalced Carmelite Nuns – Toronto
- > Divine Word Missionaries
- > Dominican Fathers - Order of Preachers
- > Dominican Sisters Holy Cross Congregation
- > Dominican Sisters – Eastern Australia and the Solomon Islands
- > Dominican Sisters of Malta, NSW
- > Dominican Sisters of Malta, VIC
- > Dominican Sisters of North Adelaide
- > Dominican Sisters of Western Australia
- > Faithful Companions of Jesus
- > Family Care Sisters
- > Franciscan Friars - Order of Friars Minor
- > Franciscan Missionaries of Mary
- > Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood
- > Franciscan Sisters of St Anthony
- > Franciscan Sisters of the Heart of Jesus
- > Friars Minor Conventual (Greyfriars)
- > Good Samaritan Sisters of the Order of St Benedict
- > Good Shepherd Sisters
- > Handmaids of Our Lord
- > Holy Family of Nazareth Sisters
- > Holy Family Sisters
- > Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters
- > Institute of the Sisters of Reparation
- > Institute of the Sisters of Mercy, Australia & Papua New Guinea
- > Jesuits - Australian Province of the Society of Jesus
- > La Salette Missionaries
- > Lebanese Maronite Order
- > Little Company of Mary Sisters
- > Little Sisters of the Poor
- > Loreto Sisters - Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- > Marist Brothers Province of Australia
- > Marist Fathers - Society of Mary
- > Marist Missionary Sisters
- > Marist Sisters - Congregation of Mary
- > Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family
- > Missionaries of Charity

- > Missionaries of God's Love in Aust
- > Missionaries of the Sacred Heart
- > Missionary Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception
- > Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
- > Missionary Sisters of Christ the King
- > Missionary Sisters of Service
- > Missionary Sisters of St Anthony Mary Claret
- > Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver
- > Missionary Sisters of The Blessed Virgin, Mary Queen of the World
- > Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart
- > Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart (Cabrini)
- > Missionary Society of St Columban
- > Missionary Society of St Paul
- > Norbertine Canons - Canons Regular of Premontre
- > Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor
- > Pallottines - Society of the Catholic Apostolate
- > Passionist Fathers - Congregation of the Passion
- > Passionist Sisters
- > Pastorelle Sisters - Sister of Jesus Good Shepherd
- > Patrician Brothers
- > Pauline Fathers
- > Poor Clare Colettines Bendigo
- > Poor Clares Contemplative - Bethlehem Monastery
- > Poor Clares – Order of St Clare
- > Poor Clares Contemplative – Bethlehem Monastery
- > Presentation Sisters – Lismore
- > Presentation Sisters – QLD
- > Presentation Sisters – TAS
- > Presentation Sisters – VIC
- > Presentation Sisters – WA
- > Presentation Sisters – Wagga Wagga
- > Priestly Fraternity of St Peter
- > Redemptorists
- > Salesian Sisters
- > Salesians of Don Bosco
- > Salvatorian Fathers
- > Scalabrinian Fathers
- > Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary
- > Servite Friars - Order of the Servants of Mary
- > Servite Sisters
- > Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate
- > Sisters of Charity
- > Sisters of Charity of St Anne
- > Sisters of Compassion
- > Sisters of Mercy, Brisbane
- > Sisters of Mercy, North Sydney
- > Sisters of Mercy, Parramatta
- > Sisters of the Holy Faith NEW MEMBER
- > Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth
- > Sisters of Our Lady of Sion
- > Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions
- > Sisters of Perpetual Adoration
- > Sisters of St John of God
- > Sisters of St Joseph Lochinvar
- > Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny – Region of Australia and PNG
- > Sisters of St Joseph of Orange (California)
- > Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition
- > Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart
- > Sisters of St Paul de Chartres
- > Sisters of the Disciples of the Divine Master
- > Sisters of the Holy Faith
- > Sisters of the Resurrection
- > Society of Christ
- > Society of Christian Doctrine (Preca Community)
- > Society of St Paul
- > Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
- > Spiritans - Congregation of the Holy Spirit
- > St John of God Brothers
- > The Carmelites
- > The Immaculate Heart of Mary Congregation
- > The Lovers of the Holy Cross
- > The Sisters of the Nativity
- > Ursuline Missionaries of the Sacred Heart
- > Verbum Dei Missionaries Fraternity
- > Vincentians – Congregation of the Mission



NEW & RETURNING LEADERS

The following leaders have been elected or re-elected by their congregations during the past 12 months

CONGREGATION

Antonine Sisters – Maronite Congregation
Augustinian Sisters of Our Lady of Consolation
Australian Ursulines
Brigidine Sisters - International
Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
Discalced Carmelite Nuns, Goonellebah
Dominican Sisters, Western Australia
Holy Family of Nazareth Sisters
Lebanese Maronite Order of Monks
Little Company of Mary Sisters
Marist Fathers - Society of Mary
Missionaries of the Divine Word
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
Missionary Society of St Columba
Pallotines - Society of the Catholic Apostolate
Passionist Fathers
Presentation Sisters, Victoria
Presentation Sisters, Wagga Wagga
Presentations Sisters, Queensland
Salesian Sisters - Daughters of Mary Help of Christians
Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions
Sisters of St Joseph
Sisters of Our Lady of Sion
Society of Presentation Sisters of Australia & PNG

2019/2020 NEW LEADER

Mariette Kareh AS
Josefa Mabini OSA
Ruth Durick OSU
Cathy O'Connor CSB
Philippa Murphy fdnsc FDNSC
Stephanie Marie Saniel OCD
Mary Ryan OP
Malgorzata Kozub CSFN
Charbel Abboud LMO
Bernadette Fitzgerald LCM
Tony Corcoran SM
Asaeli Rass SVD
Christian Finney OMI
Peter O'Neill SSC
Dean Bradbury SAC
Tom McDonough CP
Helen Carboon PBVM
Margaret Barclay PBVM
Mary Franzman PBVM
Louise McKeogh FMA
Catherine Brabender RNDM
Monica Cavanagh RSJ
Mary Barbuto NDS
Anne Lane PBVM

5. SNAPSHOT



150 Religious Institutes

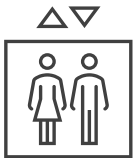


Meeting with CICALSAL, Rome

5411 congregational members



CRAGC is established



69% female / 31% male



National Redress Scheme - 100% of those named, join

8 CRA Reps on external bodies



Meeting with Senator



11 committees



Meeting with Ambassador to the Holy See

18 events

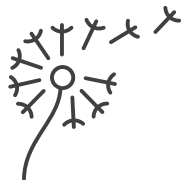


Review Professional Services Entities



4 channels of communication

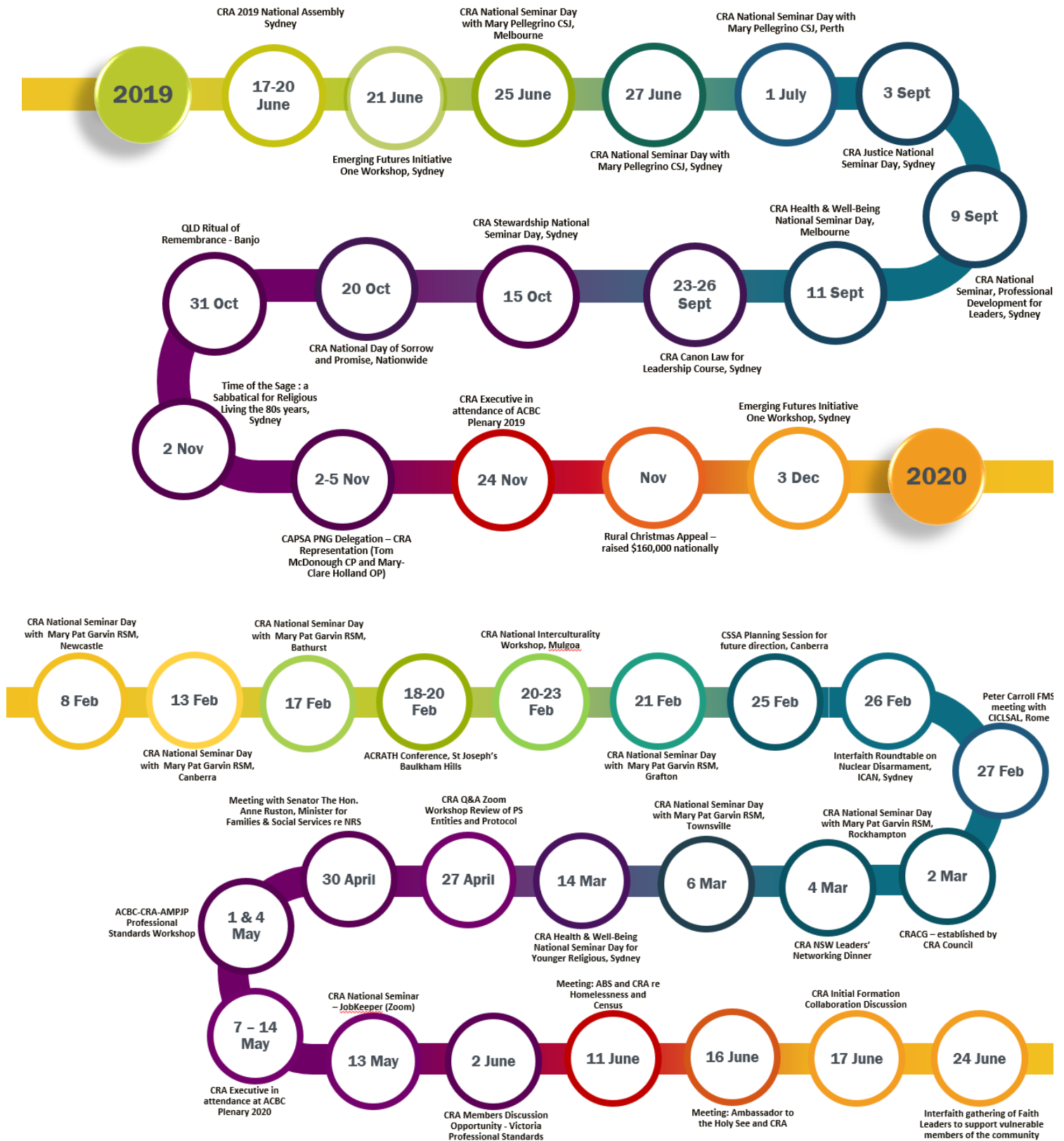
20 media releases



National Day of Sorrow & Promise

6. YEAR AT A GLANCE

JUNE 2019 – JUNE 2020



7. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

National Day of Sorrow and Promise

The National Day of Sorrow and Promise emerged as a day of remembrance, to acknowledge survivors of institutional sexual abuse within the Catholic Church and all those who have been hurt by that abuse. It is a significant way for religious women and men across the nation to demonstrate their solidarity with those who have suffered, including their fellow religious who may also be survivors – and to pray for them.

The second National Day of Sorrow and Promise was held on 20 October 2019, the closest Sunday to the anniversary of the National Apology to Victims and Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse, as the apology was symbolic of the profound impact that this crisis has had on thousands of lives over many decades in Australia. A clear promise for a better, safer future underpins the day. The communications programme included suggestions on how to participate on the day, a Liturgy booklet with accompanying music audio files, a Promise Statement, a media statement and social media posts shared with Catholic media. The planning committee for the 2019 Liturgy was: Tom McDonough CP (Executive member of CRA Council), Elizabeth Brennan SGS (Liturgist), James Parker (abuse survivor), Ann O'Brien (Healing & Support Coordinator, Marist Brothers), Anne Walker and Sylvia MacRitchie-Hook from CRA. The feedback from religious has been very positive, with broad participation from large and small religious institutes across the country.

National Redress Scheme

Participation of religious institutes in the National Redress Scheme (the Scheme) has been a large, complex and a continuing project. Commencing on 1 July 2018 for a ten-year commitment period, financial liability and a complicated application process for those institutions which join the Scheme, it had and continues to have, an impact on the work of religious institutes and the secretariat.

We have worked very closely with many of our members to assist them in their deliberations on whether to join the Scheme, and if so, how to join the Scheme. Previously, we held seminars and workshops; this year, Anne Walker met individually with leaders and leadership teams to talk in more detail and to respond to particular concerns which individual congregations are facing.

Many of our members have had a significant year of engagement with the Scheme and through it, with survivors of abuse. There continue to be many challenges with the Scheme for both survivors and our members. We have worked with the Department of Social Services (DSS) to continue to raise our concerns in order to effect change.

In anticipation of the added pressure from Government and media for religious institutes to join the Scheme, CRA sought and secured a meeting with Senator the Hon. Anne Ruston, Minister for Family and Social Services on 30 April with Peter Carroll FMS, David Hawke FSC and Anne Walker attending for CRA.

In preparation for the meeting and media scrutiny, CRA obtained current member data regarding participation in the Scheme which was important in order to provide a factual briefing on the ongoing response of religious institutions and to be able to raise matters relating to the on-boarding process. Updating the data from religious institutes is an on-going project. CRA restated its commitment to survivors of institutional child sexual abuse and to the Scheme.

All 57 religious institutes with both substantiated and unsubstantiated claims named in the Royal Commission data survey have either been declared or have committed to join the NRS. All the largest religious institutes in the country have now joined. In addition, numerous Catholic institutions not named in the Royal Commission have also joined or are committed to joining the NRS. This has been a significant achievement. No Catholic institution was 'named and shamed' by the Government.

CRA also made a Submission to the Joint Select Commission on Implementation of the National Redress Scheme to highlight our concerns about the Scheme and suggest changes to it. We embarked on a member data collection process in order to prepare the CRA submission utilising the experience of our members, working with individual religious institutes to explain, unpack, and work through issues. Our purpose is to advocate for improvements to the Scheme, for institutions and for survivors. It will continue to be a work-in-progress for many years to come.

Advice

CRA continues to provide initial advice and direction to our members on professional standards issues. It remains to be seen whether there is a need for CRA to play a different, more substantial role in this area, in the near future.

Survivors

In some instances, CRA is the first point of contact for abuse survivors to receive support, seeking direction with a complaint, trying to understand their options and navigate the processes.

Implementation Advisory Group (IAG)

Ambrose Payne FSC is CRA's representative on the IAG. The IAG attended to three projects, two of which involved CRA, which were the National Response Protocol and the annual report to the National Office for Child Safety report.

- National Response Protocol (NRP) – is a document developed by the IAG to replace *Towards Healing* and the *Melbourne Response*, which aims to build on what we have learned through the Royal Commission. CRA has provided extensive feedback to this document in consultation with the CRA Professional Standards Committee and leaders. Another group has been set up to assist with the development of the NRP with the IAG. Ms Nicki Patten, General Counsel for ISMAPNG, is CRA's representative, appointed to assist the development of the NRP.

- The Church's Report to the Commonwealth Government on its response to the Royal Commission recommendations is to be provided each year, for five years through the National Office for Child Safety (NOCS). The IAG drafted the response in collaboration with CRA, the ACBC and other Church Authorities. The December 2019 report is the second submission and indicates that progress has been made across a range of areas, including in education, in governance reform and in responding to victims and survivors of child sexual abuse.
- The third project of the IAG is the Governance Review. A panel of experts was convened in May 2019 to conduct a national review of the governance and management structures of Catholic dioceses and parishes, including in relation to issues of transparency, accountability, consultation and lay participation. The review was a recommendation of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

The Light from the Southern Cross: Promoting Co-responsible Governance in the Catholic Church in Australia, a 200+ page review of Church governance containing 86 recommendations was prepared by the Governance Review Project Team and tabled at the bishops' plenary meeting in May 2020. The bishops announced that they would publish the document later in 2020 after they had had time to discern its recommendations and how best to implement those recommendations. CRA supports the release of the *Light from the Southern Cross* for discussion, analysis and discernment, for all organisations and individuals.

The dandelion is a symbol of emotional healing and survival.

National Catholic Safeguarding Standards

As a member service, CRA commenced work on preparing a package of documents for religious institutes which fall within Categories Two and Three of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards. This will save duplication of work by individual member institutes. We were hopeful that these packages would be ready by October 2020 but this will be delayed due to the addition of 'adults at risk' to the Standards.

The Steering Committee Review of Professional Standards Entities

The Steering Committee review, with David Leary OFM as CRA's representative, took us a step closer to identifying a way forward for professional standards nationally. The Steering Committee worked with the ACU's Institute of Child Protection Studies to produce the report, which builds on the work of the 2019 Kinmond Review and represents the consolidated work of a two-year period.

In its report, the Steering Committee was focussed on establishing a clear, sustainable pathway for the future of safeguarding within the Church. The CRA Council has accepted the general recommendation for the establishment of a new body to replace CPSL and to coordinate the activities of the Church's other child protection related entities. This has moved to the next stage with the development of a reference group to consider the implementation of a new national body. Mr David Penny, Executive Director ISMAPNG, is CRA's representative on this body.

Leaders and Bishops Meeting

The topics for this year's leaders and bishops meeting was the discussion of the NRP and the review carried out by the Steering Committee with ACU. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the usual face-to-face meeting was switched to 10 Zoom meetings which enabled leaders, bishops and MPJP Church Authorities to meet and discuss the proposals. It enabled deeper listening and discussion. CRA supported this process by holding

our own Zoom meeting which involved 40 people – leaders and professional standards personnel to prepare for the workshops with the ACBC and the AMPJP. We held other Zooms for Leaders and Professional Standards personnel and through this channel, utilised another effective method for creating space for leaders to discuss issues that are important to them.

Professional Standards Networking Groups

CRA initiated a networking group of professional standards practitioners in religious institutes in February 2020. The group identified common issues facing practitioners, shared experiences, resources and responses to both professional and personal challenges in the job. Feedback was that the network and the ability to meet were highly valued. Unfortunately, COVID-19 intervened in the delivery of the second meeting. We will be looking to support those states which seek a professional standards networking group in the new financial year.

Member Survey

On 1 July 2018, CRA became a newly re-formed national peak body for religious leaders and it was important to build a deep understanding of CRA members' profiles based on first-hand data with accurate, real-time statistics. In December 2019, CRA commenced a detailed member survey seeking to further understand members' charisms, ministries, history, professional standards issues, challenges and emerging issues. Survey participation was high and greatly appreciated. This has now become a rich source of information and analysis is a work in progress. The data collated has served to inform our discussions with Government and media.

Thanks

We thank Nicki Patten, David Penny, David Leary OFM and Ambrose Payne FMS for their expert representation of CRA on various Professional Standards working groups.

8. CRA GOVERNANCE COLLABORATIVE

CRA Council resolved to establish Catholic Religious Australia Governance Collaborative (CRAGC), to support Council in providing appropriate governance and management initiatives for religious institutes moving towards completion.

The proposal for CRA Council to be appointed to the role of *Commissary* is a response to current circumstances and trends within religious life in Australia which need to be acknowledged, addressed and planned for. A submission to CICLSAL was delivered in Rome on February 27, 2020 by Peter Carroll FMS.

A *Commissary* is a Canonical Congregational Administrator, which performs the leadership functions for a religious institute that no longer has the members available or competent, to exercise leadership roles. The Commissary is appointed by an Ecclesial Authority, the Holy See in the case of a pontifical institute or the diocesan bishop, in the case of a diocesan institute.

In the recent past in Australia and overseas, the role of commissary for religious institutes not able to provide their own leadership has been accepted by the leader of another institute. The numbers of suitable religious to take the responsibility of Commissary are diminishing whilst the projected need will grow rapidly over the next 3 to 10 years. In 2019, almost three quarters of professed religious (72%) were 70 years or older, whilst only 8% were under 50 years of age.

What is the vision for CRAGC?

In his apostolic letter to all consecrated people (2014) Pope Francis expressed his hope “for a growth in communion between the members of different Institutes,” calling on religious institute members “to step out more courageously from the confines of our respective institutes and to work

together, at the local and global levels”. This he says, “would make for a more effective prophetic witness”. Pope Francis goes on to invite religious institute members to be “part of a true communion which is constantly open to encounter, dialogue, attentive listening and mutual assistance”.

Our emerging vision is unfolding as being in communion with each other for mission; choosing to work together to create our future; coming together to liberate and generate a freedom for energy and transformation; creating a new picture of and for religious life; a platform from which new possibilities might emerge; governance and support for groups in need of assistance is a part of our emerging future; acknowledging the sense of urgency and acting now.

Highlights of CRAGC’s work include working with five religious institutes in four states who are preparing for completion, while continuing to collaborate with international conferences such as the International Union Superiors General (UISG), the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), the Canadian Religious Conference and the Wisconsin Religious Collaborative, to share progress and learnings.

CRAGC officially commenced on 2 March 2020 and since then, it has appointed staff: Sharon Price RSM Transition Manager and Judith Lawson OP Charism Animator; engaged a consultant, Peter Cranko; and created an Executive Team: Monica Cavanagh RSJ, Anne Lane PBVM, Judith Lawson OP, Clare Nolan RSC; Sharon Price RSM, Peter Cranko.

In December 2019, the following Transition Committee members were inducted: Anne Lane PBVM; Bobby Court; Catherine Brabender RNDM; Clare Nolan RSC; Des Powell AM; Gabrielle McMullen AM; Monica Cavanagh RSJ; John Spillane; John Thompson FMS; Gabrielle Morgan PBVM; and Stancea Vichie MSS.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committees of CRA exist to support leaders and through them, their members and to work actively with Church and other organisations in the wider community, to advocate for change and provide resources for congregational leaders to support their ministries.

In July 2019, Committee Chairs met together to consider what collaborations may be possible; they also met with CRA Council members. This meeting provided a chance for the Council to acknowledge that CRA's support of leaders, members and employees is greatly enhanced by the much-appreciated work of the committees and their volunteer members.

By 21 March 2020, the restrictions associated with COVID-19 unfortunately resulted in postponements of a number of wonderful and varied events and seminars which had been planned by various CRA Committees.

Sharon Price RSM ably supported the Committees while she was with the secretariat up until March 2020 when she moved to work on CRAGC. Carmel Warnock has now taken over the role of supporting the following committees and coordinating their work: Australian Mission Network; Education; Health & Well-being; Stewardship, Ecology Alliance; Interculturality and Justice.

The Statements of Intent for each committee will be reviewed and committees are beginning to consider, and in some cases, implement membership succession plans. The Committees have continued to meet by Zoom and new and exciting initiatives continue to evolve. We look forward with hope into the future, to a time when we can continue our work of service provision and advocacy with fewer restrictions.



AUSTRALIAN MISSION NETWORK COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Marion Gambin RSJ

MEMBERS:

Marilyn Bellett

Albano Da Costa SVD

Peter Gates

Ellen Geraghty

Asaeli Rass SVD

Charlene Robson

Grace Roclawaska CSFN

Trevor Trotter SSC

Stancea Vichie MSS

Carmel Warnock (ex officio)

The **Australian Mission Network (AMN) Committee** has been established for many years and continues to support the relationship of CRA with Catholic Mission.

The major works of the committee are the creation of the biennial *One Heart, Many Voices Mission Conference* and the important discussion about the identification and formation of mission directors and academics for the future. The Committee is focussed on promoting an awareness of God's mission and the role of religious and all Christians in that mission as well as enabling the ongoing conversation on global mission in the Australian Church. The Committee provides a forum for sharing mission activities and challenges.

Following the *One Heart Many Voices Mission Conference* held in 2019, it became obvious to the committee that support was required for those in mission leadership roles with an increasing change to lay leadership. This led to the development of a Mission Studies Proposal which explores a partnership with a community of practice group formed by lay Directors of Mission from across Australia. A major focus of this proposal is to explore ways of strengthening the role of lay people in taking forward God's mission in the Australian church.

We express deep appreciation to retiring member, Henry Adler SVD for his significant contribution to the work of AMN over many years. We also mourn the loss of Noel Connolly SSC who passed away in June 2020; we are deeply grateful for his vision, energy and dedication to the Committee. May he rest in peace.

We thank the current and past members of AMN for their focus, passion and drive to continue the missionary journey.



ECOLOGY ALLIANCE COMMITTEE

CO-CHAIRS:

Sally Neaves and Sue Martin

MEMBERS:

(TBC)

Carmel Warnock (ex officio)

At its meeting on 25 May 2020, Council approved the establishment of the **CRA Ecology Alliance Committee**. Council has appointed Sally Neaves and Sue Martin as co-chairs and the nomination and appointment process of Committee members has commenced.

In this fifth year of *Laudato Si'*, Council recognises Ecology as “a crisis of our times”. The establishment of a new Committee will further the coordination and animation of *Laudato Si'*. The Ecology Alliance Committee will actively promote formation, witness and assistance in the quest to live out *Laudato Si'*. It will assist religious institutes and congregational schools on this integral ecology journey and to work collaboratively with those who have an expertise in *Laudato Si'*. It will also work with other faith-based eco-spiritual and eco-justice organisations to build a community of *Laudato Si'* animators.

We wish to thank Sue Martin and Sally Neaves for their energy behind this initiative and accepting the role of co-chairs of this new and exciting Committee.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Professor Marea Nicholson
AM

MEMBERS:

Brian Croke

Bernard Dobson

Frank Malloy

Paul Oakley CFC

Catherine Slattery SGS

Alison Terrey

Carmel Warnock (ex officio)

Council approved the **CRA Education Committee's** recommendation that the seat on the National Catholic Education Commission should be transferred to the Association of Ministerial PJPs (AMPJP). The transfer was approved by the Australian Bishops in November 2019. CRA has worked with the AMPJP to ensure that the new AMPJP Committee would have a representative of congregational schools as well as PJP schools.

As recommended by the CRA Education Committee, it was wound up in June 2020 as the AMPJP Education Committee comes into being.

CRA acknowledges the time and commitment of Committee members and is grateful for their service in achieving so much in a short period of time.

HEALTH & WELL-BEING COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Maree Marsh CSB

MEMBERS:

Antoinette Baldwin RSJ

Annette Coulthart

David Hawke FSC

Mary-Clare Holland OP

Marie Mohr

Gabrielle Owen RSM

Carmel Warnock (ex officio)

The **CRA Health and Well-Being Committee** held a national seminar in September 2019 in Melbourne entitled *Keeping Emotionally and Mentally Healthy*. Dr Frances Moran, a practising clinical psychologist with experience working with religious, led the morning in unpacking what it means for religious to be emotionally and mentally healthy and how health professionals can promote emotional and mental health. The topic and presentation were very well received by participants.

Early in the life of the Committee, leaders were surveyed to ascertain the pressing health and well-being issues being experienced. One important issue was the health and well-being of younger members, especially younger members on leadership teams. As a consequence, the Committee offered a Saturday seminar: 'Achieving a Healthy Work/Life Balance for Younger Religious,' focussed on managing the line between one's professional and personal life in sustainable ways was held on 14 March 2020 facilitated by Di Adamson of Adamson & Associates. The seminar was a huge success.

A helpful resource, the updated toolkit for leaders from the St John Vianney Center in the United States was distributed to leaders.

Two seminars were planned for Perth: one for young religious and a second for all religious but they have been postponed due to COVID-19. It is anticipated that the planning which has already been undertaken for the postponed events will mean an easy transition to holding them at a more appropriate time.

We wish to thank the members of the Committee who are dedicated to and focussed on the current needs of all religious across Australia and share a deep commitment and concern for their ongoing health and welfare.

INTERCULTURALITY COMMITTEE

CO-CHAIRS:

Meg Kahler SGS and Gaye Lennon RSM

MEMBERS:

Henry Adler SVD

Rita Apura CSFN

Melissa Dwyer FDCC

Jenny Gerathy OP

Lewis Harwood FSC

Peter Jones OSA

Carmel Warnock (ex officio)

In March 2020, the Council changed the Committee's name from the Emerging Futures Committee Initiative Two Working Party to the **Interculturality Committee** to more accurately reflect its purpose and focus.

Initiatives continue to evolve as needs emerge. In 2019, this Committee worked at opening the conversation about interculturality. Videos of Tim Norton SVD, Geraldine (Gerry) Kearney SGS and Theresia Tina RSM have been made and distributed, along with a process for self-organising groups. In February 2020, forty (mostly younger) members, gathered at Mulgoa for a three-day weekend of work on intercultural leadership, facilitated by Frank Hoare SSC and Gerry Kearney SGS.

An Interculturality Scaffold is being developed and will be a valuable resource for use in seminars and presentations outlining key interculturality themes. The Scaffold presents a practical approach to fleshing out the main themes surrounding interculturality. Each of the themes is grounded in scripture.

We acknowledge the contribution of and wish to thank the members of the Interculturality Committee for their commitment and creativity.

Leadership Dialogue (Papua New Guinea/Solomon Islands/Australia)

At its meeting on 25 May 2020, Council approved the establishment of a sub-committee of the Interculturality Committee to be called: *Leadership Dialogue (Papua New Guinea/Solomon Islands/Australia)*. Its focus will be to engage with leaders and members of international congregations in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and the Solomon Islands (SI) in particular, to reflectively and respectfully develop a process to raise the critical questions about religious life in PNG and SI. The sub-committee will explore the dynamic between leadership based outside of PNG/SI and the local membership of the congregations, the Melanesian culture and the lived expression of religious life.

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Louise Cleary CSB (*until 30 June 2020*)

MEMBERS:

Jan Barnett RSJ

Margaret Hinchey RSM

Anne McGuire RSM

Sarah Menassa-Rose

Peter O'Neill SSC

Libby Rogerson IBVM

Carmel Warnock (ex officio)

In June 2019, the **CRA Justice Committee** welcomed a Justice Research Officer, who produced four publications of *Just Now* before travelling overseas. The Committee has prepared media statements for the approval of the President, distributed State and Federal NetAct Election Kits and letters to Government on various justice issues. Each member of the Committee is rostered to keep a media watch on current affairs.

The Committee held a seminar afternoon on 3 September 2019 in Sydney for justice contact people from congregations around the topic of *'Where to from Here after the Federal Election?'*

The Lenten Carbon Fast Calendar was distributed again in 2020 and Earth Hour was promoted. A national seminar was planned for 1 April 2020 in Melbourne entitled: *'What if we stop Pretending?'* but was postponed due to the restrictions associated with COVID-19. A number of high-profile speakers were engaged to address the Uluru Statement from the Heart; asylum seekers and refugees; and climate change. This has

now been postponed to a later date, yet to be confirmed once restrictions are lifted.

The areas of focus of the CRA Justice Committee are as follows:

- Homelessness and affordable housing;
- Asylum seekers, refugees and offshore detention;
- Climate Change; and
- Indigenous Issues.

We wish to thank the members of the Justice Committee for their passion and dedication. In particular, we thank Louise Cleary CSB, who finished on the Committee as Chair on 30 June 2020, for her leadership.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

CHAIR: John Spillane

MEMBERS:

Damien Cairns

Kathy Daini

Josephine Dubiel RSJ

Bernard Kenna

Kathleen Tierney RSM

Chris Townend

Carmel Warnock (ex officio)

The **Stewardship Committee** offers two national seminar days each year. In October 2019, the Committee provided an excellent seminar on Patrimony in Sydney with presentations from Moya Hanlen fdnsc and Josephine Heesh from Carroll & O’Dea. The first offering for 2020 was to be held in Melbourne in May featuring staff from the ACNC addressing External Conduct Standards, which was postponed due to the restrictions associated with COVID-19. The Committee works to stay abreast of new and emerging issues and offers advice to individual religious institutes on many occasions each year.

COVID-19 has had many consequences, including the need for many members to quickly understand the Government’s JobKeeper Wages Subsidy initiative. Many financial staff within religious institutes were reporting difficulty ascertaining their eligibility as religious practitioners, and some reported receiving conflicting advice. CRA strives to be responsive to the needs of religious institutes as they arise. As a result, a Zoom seminar was set up and held on Wednesday 13 May 2020 with 58 people attending. The

National Executive Director was able to secure two speakers from Pitcher Partners: Allan Mortel & Sunny Goela. Bernard Kenna, Director of Business Services Marist Brothers’ Province of Australia was also engaged to Chair the Question and Answer Panel. All three speakers generously provided their services pro bono. It was a wonderful success with many participants commenting on how helpful the session was.

CRA thanks the members of the Committee: Damien Cairns, Kathy Daini, Josephine Dubiel RSJ, Bernard Kenna, John Spillane (Chair), Kathleen Tierney RSM and Chris Townend for their generosity in sharing their expertise and time and for responding to the urgent needs of religious institutes, by organising the JobKeeper Seminar at such short notice. It is with sadness that we also acknowledge a valuable member of the Committee, Carmel Leonard, who passed away early in the year. May Carmel rest in peace.

CRA FINANCE COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Bernard Kenna

MEMBERS:

Josephine Dubiel RSJ
John Spillane
Anne Walker (*ex officio*)

The CRA Finance Committee held its first meeting in November 2019 to provide oversight of CRA finances and advice to CRA Council and the National Executive Director. This delivers a number of layers of accountability and transparency, supporting good governance practice.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PLANNING COMMITTEE

MEMBERS:

Anne Boyd CSB
Gaye Lennon RSM
Sylvia MacRitchie-Hook
Tom McDonough CP
Paul O’Keeffe FSP
Anne Walker

Members of the committee are appointed by Council each July to plan the following year’s National Assembly. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to respond creatively to move the National Assembly to March 2021.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Anne Walker

MEMBERS:

Peter Carroll FMS
Simon Davies
David Leary OFM
Clare Nolan RSC
Ambrose Payne FSC
Nicki Patten

This CRA Professional Standards Committee was established in July 2019 and meets on an *ad hoc* basis to address particular issues. An example of a recent focus has been the National Response Protocol, to assist in providing feedback on the document to the Implementation Advisory Group.

10. AROUND THE STATES

QUEENSLAND

The religious networking group of Queensland (RoQ) continues to be an active group of 20 or more leaders or representatives of religious institutes across Queensland who support one another in sharing experiences of spirited, empowering leadership. Hospitality, the sharing of the business of our lives and events-planning characterise some of our informal gatherings which are rich in time shared, reflection and prayer. This past year we had Mary Pat Gavin RSM as a guest speaker, with the Sisters of Mercy Brisbane sponsoring the event in collaboration with CRA. The 'business of our lives' pulls into focus issues ranging from formation opportunities, elder and aged-care matters, the impact of COVID-19 for members and their organisations, CRA information and opportunities, to updates on professional standards, and planning for our annual Ritual of Remembrance. It also includes the refining of processes around our managing of Social Justice Grants that, for another year, are financially supported by the Brisbane Archdiocesan Development Fund (ADF). The past year has seen the group support thirty-one organisations from whom we receive 'good news' stories about the application of funding and after having the process audited, share these with the ADF. It has been a great year in which we have continued to make time to meet and support one another as women and men who are religious leaders.

NEW SOUTH WALES

The NSW networking group generally offers two opportunities each year for leaders and teams to gather for social events, such as dinners, which are normally attended by about 25 to 30 people and allow leaders and team members to catch up in a relaxed environment. However, COVID-19 disrupted the first informal gathering of leaders in 2020, which was scheduled in March. Mary-Louise Petro RSM hosted a virtual afternoon tea in June which offered an opportunity for leaders to have some informal conversation and provide each other with encouragement and support. Leaders in NSW are offered an opportunity for group supervision, which normally meets five times per year, and is facilitated by Anne Lane PBVM.

VICTORIA

Religious leaders or their delegates residing in Victoria (CRAV) normally meet four times a year. In 2019, there was an increase in the number of attendees to about 35-40 people. Participants value the opportunity to come together for prayer, collegiality, and friendship. A coordinating group continues to meet four times a year for planning. A valued addition to the format of the gatherings was the small group sharing on matters of personal or common challenge for leaders. A 'spotlight' on a congregation presenting the founding stories of their institute continues to inspire and strengthen solidarity in the group. Regular updates on the work of the Emerging Futures Committee (now CRAGC) continues to engage attendees in discussion.

Archbishop Peter Comensoli joined the July 2019 meeting and shared his experience of the *Ad Limina* visit to Rome and his vision for the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

A group of twelve leaders met with the Bishops of Victoria at the Catholic Leadership Centre in November 2019. This annual gathering seeks to provide an open forum for dialogue and strengthen relationships. A discussion paper on the enculturation of overseas priests in parishes provided a stimulus for an open and frank conversation. This was followed by a relaxed and congenial dinner together.

TASMANIA

In Tasmania, a Mass for Religious is normally celebrated in May, however, due to COVID-19, it had to be cancelled. We enjoy the occasions when we come together, joining others in our local parish and diocese for special events and networking, such as the launch of Fr John Wallis' book *'Dear Mother, Dear Father'* in November 2019.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Up to sixteen religious leaders, their representatives, and vicars for religious in both dioceses in South Australia meet ten times a year. As aging leaders become less engaged in the work of the congregation, the SA networking group (CRSA) provides an important support group for them, as well as a social network for other religious. The meetings introduce peers when a leader is appointed from outside the state which is particularly important for non-South Australians. The annual "conference" for the religious of the diocese provides a meeting of friends as well as an opportunity for theological input. Through the meetings we learn about various aspects of faith life in the diocese and about other important initiatives.

CRSA has representatives on the Professional Standards Reference Group, the South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools, the Catholic Vocations Ministry (SA), as well as on the CRA Council. Each of these members and the vicars provide reports. The communiques from the CRA President to leaders and their teams are much appreciated.

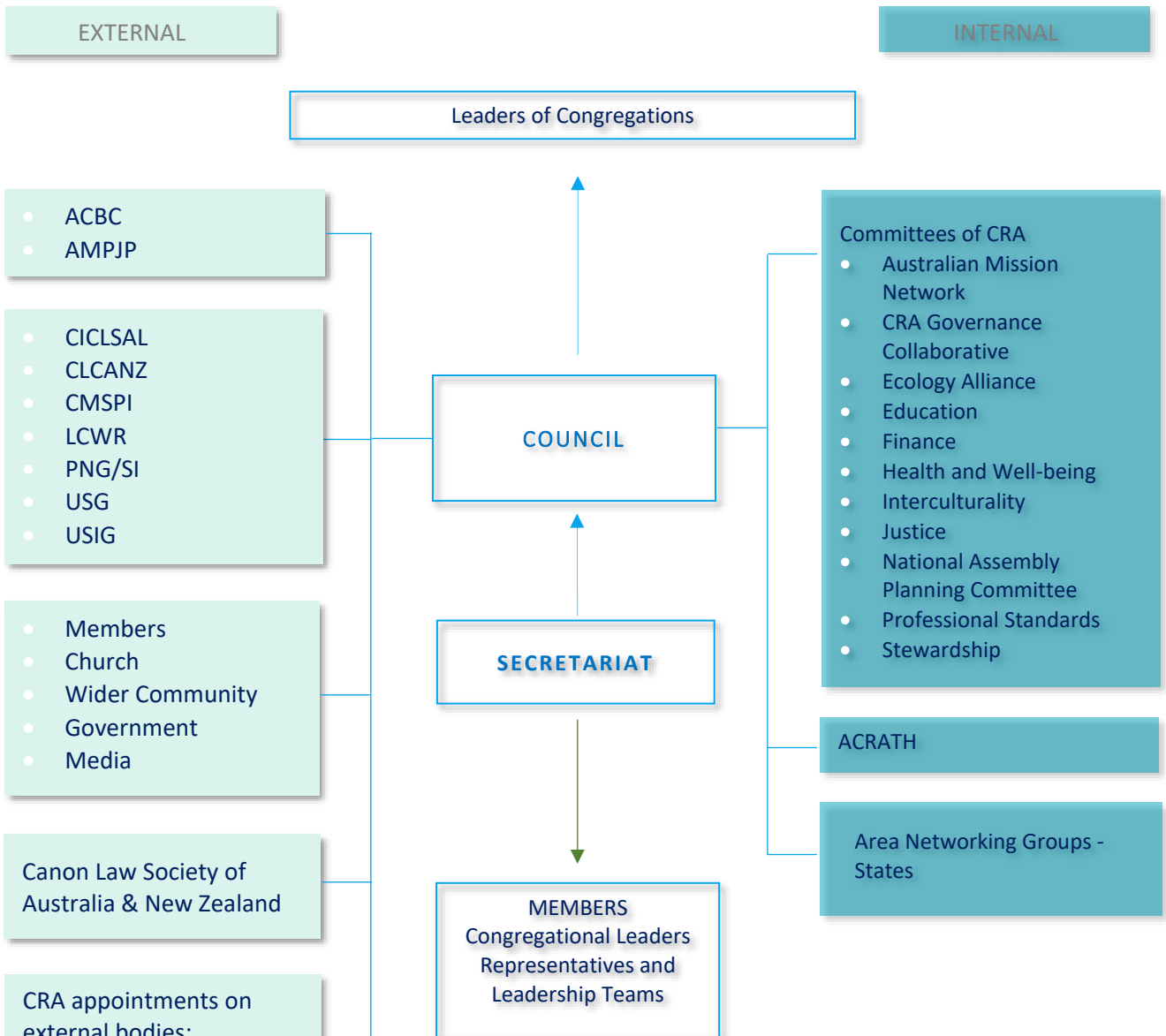
CRSA gives financial support to the Ageing Project in SA, which provides a program of formation and networking for older religious. We are also pleased to report that pastoral and practical support was given to people affected by bushfires in the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island earlier this year.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

In the latter part of 2019, religious in WA had attended gatherings with Sr Mary Pellegrino CSJ and Fr Richard Leonard SJ and concluded in November with the annual prayer for religious who had died during the year. This was followed by a social afternoon tea with over 100 attending.

In March 2020, leaders met to share and plan, but COVID-19 emerged as a major issue and has overtaken most planning. Issues around Redress, Plenary Council membership, Professional Standards and CRA Council membership were discussed. A sub-group, 'Religious Celebrating Life' concluded due to small numbers attending gatherings. It was decided to focus on four meetings during the year for leaders. The Directory of Religious in WA was circulated to congregations and an end-of-year date set for a social gathering of all religious. CRA activities and bulletins have been circulated regularly with deep appreciation expressed for the Bulletins.

11. STRATEGIC COLLABORATION



GLOSSARY OF TERMS	
ACBC	Australian Catholic Bishops Conference
ACARLA	Advisory Council for Anglican Religious Life in Australia
ACRATH	Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking Humans
AMPJP	Association of Ministerial Public Juridic Persons
CERA	Catholic Emergency Relief Australia
CHA	Catholic Health Australia
CICLSAL	Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life
CLCANZ	Congregational Leaders' Conference Aotearoa - New Zealand
CMSPI	Conference of Major Superiors of the Pacific Islands
CPSL	Catholic Professional Standards Limited
CSSA	Catholic Social Services Australia
IAG	Implementation Advisory Group
LCWR	Leaders Conference of Women's Religious
NCEC	National Catholic Education Commission
PNG/SI	Federation of Religious PNG & Solomon Island
USG	Union of Superiors General
UISG	International Union of Superiors General

12. REPORT FROM ACRATH

In May 2020 ACRATH is in solidarity with the rest of the world in coping with the COVID-19 pandemic and adjusting our work. We also give thanks that we live in a safe country which has acted swiftly to minimise the impacts on all. However, trafficked and exploited people are still amongst the most vulnerable here and in other countries. During COVID times ACRATH's drive to protect human dignity and give hope to those who have been exploited has taken on a sharpened focus in the following areas:

- supporting vulnerable overseas workers in Australia, both undocumented and on temporary visas; assisting workers from the Pacific and Timor Leste engaged in regional agriculture and in abattoir work; advocating for the well-being of those from Asia trapped in sexual exploitation in Australia;
- engaging in international advocacy for very vulnerable Bangladeshi garment workers and those exploited in rubber glove manufacturing in Malaysia;
- developing contemporary education resources and webinars to engage teachers and community workers in preventing human trafficking, especially forced marriage.

ACRATH is deeply grateful to the many religious congregations and other donors who assist us to continue our pioneering work which began in 2005 with the generous support of religious congregations at that time. Thank you to so many CRA members! Despite the disappointment of not receiving any government funding over the past three years, ACRATH's work has continued and expanded. Other significant highlights in 2019 in meeting our strategic goals have been:

Goal 1: Eliminate forms of human trafficking in sexual exploitation and forced Labour

- awareness-raising and advocacy on counter trafficking work in the health sector;

- raising issues of worker vulnerability at the Australian National Roundtable on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery;
- developing on-going partnerships with international groups like Talitha Kum and Caritas Internationalis.

Goal 2: Eliminate forced marriage in Australia and globally

- sharing information with educators, youth workers and vulnerable communities that led to actual reports of forced marriage;
- co-facilitating a pilot program in WA for providing safe, supportive accommodation to people at risk of forced marriage;
- co-facilitating the inaugural WA forced marriage conference involving 100 people

representing community groups, government departments, the federal and state police, and social justice-focussed NGOs;

- advocating successfully for improvements to the federal government support program for young people facing a forced marriage;

Goal 3: Ensure people who have been trafficked can access their rights

- offering a warm, human presence to trafficked people

through ACRATH's companionship program, providing emotional, financial and social support;

- organising twice-yearly meetings of the companions to explore the ACRATH Companionship policy and gain confidence in trauma-informed care;

Goal 4: Promote slavery free supply chains

- working with Catholic groups across Australia to address the reporting requirements of the new Modern Slavery Act; these groups included St Vincent's Health Australia, CRA, ACRATH partners and about seven dioceses;

"Hear the cry of our brothers and sisters who are criminally trafficked and exploited. They are not merchandise. They are human beings, and they must be treated as such."

(Pope Francis 30 July 2018)

- raising awareness about supply chain issues in campaigns like the slavery free staffrooms, slavery free Easter chocolate, slavery proofing schools (uniforms, sports equipment, electronics, etc).

Goal 5: Develop our organisational sustainability and influence

- working to build a sustainable membership, and conducting our annual conference offering training to members in companionship, international networking, forced marriage and forced labour;
- working to build sustainable finances through midyear fundraising and through grants from the following organisations: UN Voluntary Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, Mary Ward International Australia, Mercy Foundation, Hyways & Byways, Catholic Church Insurances

Limited, Sisters of Charity Foundation and St Vincent’s Health Australia.

In conclusion, at the February National Conference we acknowledged the inspirational leadership of Sr Noelene Simmons SM as President of ACRATH over the previous three years. Thankfully, Noelene’s extensive expertise will still be shared through her ongoing work on ACRATH’s communications. ACRATH has been blessed with passionate volunteers who contributed over 8600 volunteer hours in 2019. Always ACRATH values the relationship we have with Catholic Religious Australia (CRA) and is deeply grateful for the support received.

We are together in this work for justice.



ACRATH WA has presented to numerous education and community groups

13. REPORTS FROM CRA REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED TO EXTERNAL BODIES

Advisory Council for Anglican Religious Life in Australia (ACARLA)

The aim of ACARLA is to advise and inform the Bishops' Conference of the Anglican Church on the Religious Life as lived in the Communities. Each of the Communities (as they refer to their Congregations/groups) has a Bishop Adviser who visits or has contact with the community at least once a year. Their role is to provide

support to the leader and, also to the members of that community. These religious communities are all small in numbers and ageing, some have just one member whilst the largest has about 20 members. In 2020/2021, the communities are hoping to create a DVD/ video which they can use for promotion of religious life.

Bishop Gary Weatherill strongly advised the communities to join the National Redress Scheme. As the CRA representative on ACARLA, I advised about the 2020 National Assembly, the work being done on Emerging Futures and also the National Redress Scheme.

JILL HARDING FCS

Catholic Emergency Relief Australia

CERA – Catholic Emergency Relief Australia – was established in January 2020 as a new Church-wide collaboration of the key Catholic ministries that serve the Australian community such as parishes, social service agencies, schools, hospitals and aged care providers. Its founding members are Catholic Religious Australia, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Catholic Social Services Australia and the National Catholic Education Commission.

The unprecedented bushfires that devastated Australia in the summer of 2019-2020 were the catalyst for deeper collaboration between Catholic ministries that engage with millions of Australians in various ways. Twenty-four organisations applied for funding totalling about \$400,000 in the first round of grant allocations from Catholic Emergency Relief Australia, with at least \$100,000 available for distribution. Fifteen organisations will receive a total of \$110,000 to support communities

continuing the path to recovery from last summer's bushfires. The aim is that CERA will use its network to help people and communities recover from the bushfires and any future emergency events.

CATHERINE REUTER RSM



Catholic Health Australia (CHA)

Commencement of new CEO

In October 2019, Mr Pat Garcia commenced as the new CEO of CHA.

Transfer of Ministry

Leadership Program to Australian Catholic University

On 20 March 2020, the program and the CHA staff member previously responsible for the development of the program were transferred to ACU.

Deputy Chair appointment

Ms Jenny Parker, a director of Mercy Partners, Queensland was appointed as Deputy Chair.

Ongoing Royal Commission into Aged Care

CHA is aware that 50% of Aged Care facilities in Australia are providing some services at a loss to their organisations. Advice is that the final report of the Royal Commission into Aged Care will indicate significant staff and capital investment stipulations that

will mean increased development costs for many operating facilities.

Consequently, it is expected that several mergers and closures will occur. It is envisaged that the impact of this on rural facilities will be particularly acute.

COVID-19 and CHA

Private health facilities urged the Federal Government to enhance the availability of beds/services as backup for the public sector. CHA has been involved in these detailed discussions with the Federal Department of Health. An assurance has been provided that no facilities will be left financially disadvantaged as a result of the directed cancellation of surgical services.

CHA remains closely involved with the Federal Government to ensure the membership is protected in the ways promised.

The “lockdown” within Aged Care facilities has caused great concern with the variations in policy within some States and the impact on care of the residents.

Health Insurance Issues

The Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) has commenced discussions with health insurers facing “sustainability challenges” because of the declining affordability of health insurance and has ramped up its threat to forge mergers. CHA is monitoring these discussions very carefully. CEOs positions on the potential market power implications of any consolidation, vary significantly.

MAUREEN GLEESON RSM



Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA)

Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA) is the peak national body for Social Services in the Catholic Church, established 60 years ago to influence and promote better social policy and programs for some of the most disadvantaged and marginalised people in Australian Society.

CSSA's National Network of approximately 60 social services agencies (many of which are auspiced by or connected to Religious Congregations) provide services in 650 locations and served 410,000 individuals over a 12-month period.

Funding Cuts from ACBC

CSSA has historically received funding from ACBC, on behalf of the Church. These funds are supplemented by member

agencies paying fees for membership, which makes up the budget for CSSA.

In 2019, the ACBC notified that all funding would cease, resulting in a loss of \$1 million in funding, over the next three years. CSSA has made several unsuccessful presentations and recommendations to ACBC in regard to funding.

Current Financial Position

Given the current difficulties, the Board decided that to increase membership fees at this time was not a viable option. The Board agreed to fund CSSA (staff and operations) from reserves, until June 2021. This timeline will allow CSSA to develop a business continuity plan and to identify other possible sources of potential income.

Governance Structure and Issues

CSSA has the opportunity to restructure the governance of the present two bodies, CSSA and CSSA Ltd, with CSSA Ltd to be the legal body moving forward. This separates CSSA Ltd from formal engagements with the ACBC. Appointments to the Board under the new governance structure will be made by the Board and the membership. The Board is working to create a sustainable mode into the future.

KATH TIERNEY RSM



National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC)

COVID-19

The economic impact is yet to play out in full but anticipated outcomes include extended need for fee relief and possible loss or decline in new enrolments because of ongoing unemployment

Changes in Personnel

Bishops Commission for Catholic Education membership includes A/bishop Anthony Fisher (Chair), and Bishops Mark Edwards, Gerard Holohan, James Foley. Nicholas Moore has replaced Greg Crafter as Chair of the Commission

Changes in NCEC Statutes

approved by ACBC - Replacement of CRA with Association of Ministerial PJPs (AMPJP) as the body

authorised to nominate one member of the Commission. The term of the current CRA nominee expires in 2021.

2020 National Conference

Now postponed but unresolved disquiet remains because of the perceived exclusion of potential speakers (eg Joan Chittister osb). Celebrations marking 200 years of Catholic Education in Australia have been postponed.

Faith Formation & Religious Education (FFRE)

The FFRE Standing Committee (chaired by Elizabeth Dodds RSC) is working with ACU to test the alignment and effectiveness of the

Framework for Formation for Mission in Catholic Education

Funding

The Federal funding model 2019-2029 uses parents' taxable income as a factor. The overall negative impact of this measure will be ameliorated by the (one off) Choice & Affordability Fund. The challenge for all Catholic schools is to remain accessible as well as competitive in terms of the quality of the educational experience they offer.

CATHERINE SLATTERY SGS



Xavier Centre for Theological Formation Advisory Council

Changes in the organisation of ACBC have led to a further change in the terms of reference. It was suggested that a role be created for an indigenous presence as well as an ad hoc position for representatives of the group that the Centre is partnering with so that there is always

someone to speak for that group. Recently developed units were brought to the meeting which had been created with partner organisations. (Referred to as 'breaking new ground'). Vision and Strategic Planning was discussed, and mention was made of Catholic Culture

and Theological Formation. The challenging term 'formation' led into a stimulating discussion of who forms whom? Also discussed was 'are we getting used to things we shouldn't get used to?'

HELGA NEIDHART RSC

14. PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

The Plenary Council 2020 is the highest formal gathering of local churches in the country and it is being held so that we can dialogue about the future of the Catholic Church in Australia. It has legislative and governance authority, so the decisions that are made at the Council become binding for the Catholic Church in Australia. The Plenary Council will hold two assemblies – in Adelaide (October 2021) and in Sydney (April 2022).

Currently, there are 267 delegates registered to attend the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia, of whom 64% are women and the average age of those delegates is 48 – with the youngest 19 years old.



Plenary Council 2020
Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

Below is a list of 48 Religious Institute Leaders who are registered delegates of the 2020 Plenary Council:

LEADER	RELIGIOUS INSTITUTE
Fr Peter Jones OSA	Augustinian Fathers - Order of St Augustine
Sr Ruth Durick OSU	Australian Ursulines
Fr John Herbert OSB	Benedictine Monks of New Norcia
Fr David Orr OSC	Benedictine Monks, Arcadia
Sr Anne Boyd CSB	Brigidine Sisters - Congregation of St Brigid
Sr Melissa Dwyer FDCC	Canossian Daughters of Charity
Fr Paul Cahill O.Carm	The Carmelite Province of Our Lady Help of Mount Carmel
Fr Bernard Hancock OCD	Carmelite Friars - Order of the Discalced Carmelites
Br Peter Clinch CFC	Christian Brothers – Oceania Province
Fr Steele Hartman OCSO	Cistercian Monks
Sr Celine Quadros DC	Daughters of Charity
Sr Philippa Murphy FDNCS	Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
Br David Hawke FSC	De La Salle Brothers
Fr Asaeli Raass SVD	Divine Word Missionaries
Fr Anthony Walsh OP	Dominican Fathers – Order of Preachers
Sr Mary-Clare Holland OP	Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia and the Solomon Islands
Sr Cecilia Joseph OP	Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia
Sr Barbara Brown-Graham	Faithful Companions of Jesus

Fr Phillip Miscamble OFM	Franciscan Friars – Order of Friars Minor
St Patty Fawkner SGS	Good Samaritan Sisters of the Order of St Benedict
Sr Eveline Crotty RSM	Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea
Fr Brian McCoy SJ	Jesuits – Australian Province of the Society of Jesus
Sr Kathleen Cotterill LCM	Little Company of Mary Sisters
Br Peter Carroll FMS	Marist Brothers Province of Australia
Fr Ken Barker MGL	Missionaries of God's Love in Australia
Sr Mary Drum MSC	Missionaries of the Most Sacred Heart
Fr Chris McPhee MSC	Missionaries of the Sacred Heart
Fr Christian Fini OMI	Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
Sr Stancea Vichie MSS	Missionary Sisters of Service
Fr Peter O'Neill SSC	Missionary Society of St Columba
Fr Tom McDonough CP	Passionist Fathers – Congregation of the Passion
Br Paul O'Keeffe	Patrician Brothers
Sr Margaret Barclay PBVM	Presentation Sisters, Wagga Wagga
Sr Lucy van Kessel	Presentation Sisters, Western Australia
Fr John Hodgson CSsR	Redemptorists
Sr Mary Julian Ekman RSM	Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan
Sr Louise McKeogh FMA	Salesian Sisters
Fr William Matthews SDB	Salesians of Don Bosco
Fr George Kolodziej SDS	Salvatorian Fathers
Sr Lourds Chitra Justin OSM	Servite Sisters
Sr Clare Nolan RSC	Sisters of Charity
Sr Catherine Reuter RSM	Sisters of Mercy, Brisbane
Sr Loreto Conroy RSM	Sisters of Mercy, North Sydney
Sr Mary-Louise Petro RSM	Sisters of Mercy, Parramatta
Sr Catherine Brabender RNDM	Sisters of our Lady of the Missions
Sr Monica Cavanagh RSJ	Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart
Sr Mary Ouiwoja	Sisters of the Nativity
Fr Michael Goonan SSP	Society of St Paul

*"Be not afraid, do not be discouraged,
for the Lord your God
will be with you wherever you go."*

Joshua 1:9



CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS AUSTRALIA

Level 1, 9 Mount Street | North Sydney NSW 2060

Ph: +612 9557 2695

www.catholicreligious.org.au