



ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS AUSTRALIA

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1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT



As we gather for this National Assembly in 2019, we recall the gifts and challenges that have been ours during this past twelve months. At our Assembly in 2018 we launched the new National CRA structure. The CRA Council was entrusted to carry forward the vision of this reality across Australia. This was an exciting opportunity in which to be involved. It required both delighting in the birthing of the new and at the same time engaging with the experience of transition. Of significance has been the establishment of the CRA committees, the State networking bodies and the work of the CRA council as well as the development of the secretariat. There is much to celebrate and appreciate in what has been achieved.

During these days of the Assembly, the Council will share with you the next phase of the implementation of this National CRA structure.

Embracing the Vision of the National CRA Structure

At the heart of this vision has been our on-going commitment to participation in the mission of God. Drawn into the very heart of God, into the deep Mystery of Life, we are sent forth to become the heartbeat of God wherever we find ourselves. CRA with Catholic Mission hosted the *Mission: One Heart Many Voices* Conference held this year providing participants the opportunity of nourishment and enrichment.

Essential to the nature of Religious Life is its prophetic task in the church and the world. I am grateful to the Justice Committee who have guided our prophetic voice on matters of social and ecological justice especially in response to the refugee crisis, the plight of our Indigenous sisters and brothers and climate change. Religious scattered throughout the country have continued in ways both small and large to address issues that keep people marginalised. We recognise that being a prophet requires a courageous stance as we have seen in the life and work of Religious such as Sr Patricia Fox nds.

Religious Life an Evolving Reality

At the 2018 Assembly a great deal of interest was expressed in the Emerging Future of Religious Life here in our context. Facing both the challenge of diminishing membership and future leadership potential in many of the congregations represented at the Assembly, the work of the Emerging Futures Committee gained greater impetus. At a workshop in September a number of areas to be considered emerged: Governance and Leadership, Intercultural Realities, Lay and Religious Charism and Mission and Ministry Partnerships. The Committee at this stage has formed two initiatives focussed on Future Governance and Leadership and Intercultural Realities.

Working Together in a Spirit of Communion

Inspired by the 2016 UISG theme of 'Weaving Solidarity for Life' and the call of Pope Francis in the Year of Consecrated Life for a growth in communion between the members of different Institutes, the National CRA provides us with greater opportunity to step out more courageously and to work together through encounter,

dialogue, attentive listening and mutual assistance. In this spirit, the work of ACRATH unites us to the world wide commitment to addressing the issue of the trafficking of peoples. Currently the Commission for Justice and Peace of UISG and USG call us to work together to be ‘Sowers of Hope for our Planet’. As Teresa May challenged us at the recent UISG meeting in Rome: *‘We need to lead into collegiality, collaboration, and networking like never before! One of the most sacred responsibilities we hold is “connecting/networking” our institutes with other institutes, with our conferences, with religious around the world, with other organizations, and of course with the Church’.*

In this spirit of communion, CRA and members of Religious Institutes around the country have joined in the preparation for the Plenary Council 2020. We do so, trusting in the power of the Spirit leading us to believe that life will emerge from the crisis that the sexual abuse has brought about in our church. Holding and sustaining a one church approach to the challenge of implementing the recommendations of the Royal Commission has not been without its difficulties. We press on, endeavouring to build a relationship of mutual trust.

Matters pertaining to Professional Standards

Responding to the sexual abuse crisis continues to engage Religious Institutes in different ways and has required a lot of time and attention in these past twelve months. Making the Church a safer place for our children and vulnerable persons is at the heart of our commitment to mission.

Critical moments along this journey have been the ACBC and CRA formal response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission in August, the National apology in October, the National Redress Scheme, and the Review of the Church Professional Standards bodies.

Sustaining Hope

These times call for courageous hope and the gift of resilience as we live in the space of uncertainty and crisis in our church and in our world. In these sometimes dark and demanding moments we can feel overwhelmed by the call of leadership. On such occasions the paschal nature of hope guides us. This is when we depend on the support of each other in these critical times.

With Gratitude

As I complete my time as CRA President and as a Member of the CRA Council, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the CRA Council, the Executive and members of the CRA Committees for their wisdom and guidance as we have taken the next steps in our journey to a National CRA. In particular I would like to thank Anne Walker, the National Executive Director of CRA, and the members of her staff, Sharon Price rsm, Sylvia MacRitchie-Hook, Amy Ong and Christina Signorini for their generosity and support and for keeping the day to day work of CRA at our service. I have been gifted through this experience and the opportunities that it offered me.

M. M. Cavanagh

Monica Cavanagh rsj
President, CRA
May 2019



2. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Our Purpose

By holding Jesus at the heart of all that we do, the culture of CRA is shaped as one that is focused on mission and service – delivering on this effectively is CRA's strategic purpose.

We all have the same calling – to be the good news in the world. The members of CRA have a particular way of living out that calling as religious. CRA's purpose is to serve, promote and support the contemplative and prophetic service of Religious Leaders throughout the Australian Catholic Church and society.

For Pope Francis, the core element that distinguishes religious life as a special vocation is its prophetic dimension:

“Prophets receive from God the ability to scrutinize the times in which they live and to interpret events... Because they are free, they are beholden to no one but God... Prophets tend to be on the side of the poor and the powerless, for they know that God himself is on their side.” Pope Francis, *Apostolic letter to all consecrated people on the occasion of the Year of Consecrated Life* (21 November 2014.)

The prophetic voice of the religious has always been needed; but particularly so at this time, in the Church and in the world. Our challenge is how to have your voice heard so that change is effected, so that justice is served, so that the marginalised are cared for. And in that very challenge, there is energy, hope and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Through our service to CRA members, we strive to enable the ‘signs of the times’ to be proclaimed. This takes many forms, and much has been achieved since the new CRA was birthed such a short time ago.

The New CRA - Strategic Achievements

On 1 July 2018, the ‘new CRA’ became a reality. As a work in progress, it will continue to develop and grow by taking the initiative in collaborating to identify the needs of our leaders and to respond to those needs.

CRA's mission unfolds through service to our members in a variety of ways, such as the development of a united public voice, through CRA's collective advocacy role, in the action CRA takes in areas of justice, safeguarding, environmental protection, the services it provides to its members, networking and development opportunities.

Being engaged in what is happening in the world and within congregations is key to how we approach our works of service. Leading active engagement in relation to the many and varied issues and providing professional assistance to those religious institutes which require it. Our membership is diverse and numerous, and we will be spending more time in the coming months getting to know our members even better.

This report highlights only a few areas of CRA's achievements: voice; collaboration; animation and productivity. The Year at a Glance on page 14 provides you with an overview.

Voice

The vision of leaders in establishing the new CRA was to:

- be the independent voice of religious life within the Church and beyond;
- be the recognised representative of leaders of Religious Institutes;
- enable the charism of religious life to continue to evolve; and
- partner with others to shape Church responses to developing issues.

The Secretariat works to bring alive your prophetic voice on a daily basis. We work to shape the perspective of government, regulators, Catholic entities, media and the public to respond fairly and justly to all people but particularly the marginalised, the poor and the vulnerable. Our committees provide leaders with information, education and resources both to support them and to ensure that their voice is represented on a range of issues. We collaborate with ACBC on responses that affect the Church in mainstream and in Catholic media. Influencing extends through the many generous CRA representatives who sit on various boards, peak bodies and other Catholic organisations to keep inspiring leadership in those organisations which can protect and support the unloved and uncared for members of our society.

As the peak body, we made submissions to state and national governments and review bodies on the following matters:

- Review of the Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme
- Religious Freedom Review
- Review of Charity Fundraising in the 21st Century
- National Redress Scheme
- changes to civil liability in relation to the Royal Commission recommendations
- Draft Tax Ruling relating to fringe benefit tax for religious
- Draft External Conduct Standards

In addition, we provided advice on these issues to Leaders and their teams as well as the result of the review of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission.

CRA represented Catholic Religious Institutes in communications with the Government including the Prime Minister, the Minister and Shadow Minister for the Department of Social Services and also the operator of the National Redress Scheme. Our meetings mitigated risks associated with a lack of understanding about the reality of Religious Institutes and their approach to the Redress Scheme.

CRA also acknowledged survivors of abuse within the Catholic Church and all those who have been hurt by that abuse with the creation of a National Day of Sorrow and Promise in which religious across the country participated in this day which may become an annual day of remembrance, to ensure that the pain is not forgotten. To facilitate this, CRA worked with a small group to produce a liturgy, a video capturing the voice of religious leaders across Australia and a clear promise statement for a better, safer future. This was a significant event as it brought together religious across Australia and provided a united voice – the first of its kind in Australia.

CRA Council provided a Submission for the Plenary Council 2020 and we are collaborating on delegate representation from Religious Institutes so that your voice is heard, while also promoting the inclusion of as many lay delegates, as possible.

We launched a new website which contains events, news, conference centres, gospel reflections, stipends and much more, as a central repository of resources for leaders and their congregational members.

The reach of CRA's prophetic voice has increased with the distribution of thirty media statements and releases over the past year, ranging from justice issues to professional standards.

Collaboration

CRA's mandate is to support the leadership of religious congregations across Australia. CRA also supports the members of our leaders' congregations. Meetings with individual leaders and their leadership teams and state representatives have increased throughout the last year.

There are many areas in which we need to collaborate to increase the influence of the religious and their reading of the needs of the world. We are forging more collaborative working relationships for the sake of the people of God:

- connecting with the Association of Ministerial Public Juridic Persons
- supporting the annual meeting between Leaders and Bishops
- establishing meetings between the CRA Council and the Bishops' Permanent Committee to facilitate a more effective decision-making process
- providing input to the Holy See for the Pope's meeting with the Presidents of Bishops' Conferences about the protection of minors and vulnerable adults
- providing a Report to the Holy See for the Australian Bishops *Visita Ad Limina* of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference
- collaborating with ACBC on joint media statements and matters of mutual interest
- supporting the President and Executive of CRA in their work for CRA to create a closer and more effective engagement with other organisations

Recently, the Australian Ambassador to the Holy See met with me to assist her in gaining a deeper understanding of the voice and vision of religious in Australia, increasing our collaborative reach.

We are always open to suggestions of where further collaboration is needed.

Animation

It is important for CRA to continue to honour and animate religious life in Australia. Professional development through the Secretariat and committees consists of a broad range of networking events, opportunities to connect, retreats, canon law course, sabbatical programmes, and speakers around the states, enriching the lives of all members of Religious Institutes, who wish to attend. Over 1,300 participants have attended CRA events during this past year, indicative of a highly engaged religious community in Australia.

Last year, 145 attendees attended the National Assembly. The affirmation of the Assembly was strong with one attendee writing that they felt "a stronger sense of solidarity and communion in the face of the uncertain future of Religious life and the state of the church today. God is faithful, God is with us".

This year, more than 170 people are attending from across the country and from overseas. This year's theme, *Stewarding a Life that belongs to the Church and the World* will challenge and enliven religious as Communion

is lived out across congregations. Next year, we will be looking more closely at interculturality and what that will reveal for our congregations.

Many events have been held over the last 12 months, as shown in Year at a Glance on page 14. CRA is focussed on innovative ways to provide animation and this will be an area we consider more fully over the next period.

Improving our Productivity

On 1 July 2018, we moved offices to Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney and began the work of setting up new processes in all operational areas – finances, communications, human resources, databases, archives (with thanks to the Marist Fathers for our new archive premises). These changes have increased our productivity and effectiveness, decreased annual rental costs by 50% and significantly decreased other costs. We also sourced a large donation for two years from a Catholic third party which limits costs for our religious institutes. The secretariat staff is very small but committed and it has produced significant results over the past year. We farewell Amy Ong on 26 June and look forward to welcoming her replacement.

Future

Now that we are nearly a year old as the 'new CRA', we will be focussing on developing more support services such as a handbook and workshops for new leaders and considering further animation and enrichment opportunities in the States. The Emerging Futures Committee is moving forward to respond to issues of canonical governance and administrative support. The Australian Mission Network will join our Committee structure. We will set up a more formal Professional Standards committee and ensure that we always remain open to the needs of our members.

We are in a time of change – in so many areas – we have taken steps forward and are called to consider where religious can forge a path that holds the dignity of all with authenticity, integrity and energy.

As a 'lay', 'non-vowed' National Executive Director of CRA, I look in on religious life, walk with the religious, on the edge of their joys, pain, loss and search for ways to live out their calling to be the prophetic voice for the people of God. I witness daily the life-long care, dedication and love of so many religious. I also feel the struggle as they face the challenges that each day brings – it is a privilege to walk with the remarkable men and women who have given their hearts, minds and bodies to living out the gospel as religious, every day.

I wish our departing President, Monica Cavanagh rsj and Council members, Anne Lane pvbm and Stancea Vichie mss, peace in the coming months and thank them for their commitment to the bigger picture of religious life in Australia. I thank the continuing members on Council for sharing this journey with me and each of us and look forward to working with the new members of Council. I recognise the many religious and their colleagues who share their gifts with us through projects of the Secretariat and Committees, demonstrating that we do not work alone. I also wish to acknowledge and warmly thank Sylvia, Sharon, Amy and Christina without whom this work of service would not have occurred.



Anne Walker

National Executive Director

June 2019

3. GOVERNANCE

CRA NATIONAL COUNCIL 2018-2019



Br Peter Carroll fms
Provincial, Marist Brothers Australia



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



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



Br David Hawke fsc
Provincial of the De La Salle Brothers of
the District of Australia, New Zealand,
Pakistan and Papua New Guinea



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



Sr Anne Lane pbvm
Congregational Leader, Presentation
Sisters Wagga Wagga



Fr Tom McDonough cp
Provincial, The Passionist Fathers



Sr Clare Nolan rsc
Congregational 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 Stancea Vichie mss
Leader, Missionary Sisters of Service



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

CIVIL and CANON LAW

The governance of Catholic Religious Australia (CRA) operates under both canon law and civil law.

CRA was canonically 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. CRA's Statutes and the norms of canon law outline the responsibilities of CRA. The governance of CRA as a public juridic person is entrusted to the Council who are elected by the Members of CRA.

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

The Members of CRA are named on pages 11 and 12.

The Council of CRA comprise the President, Monica Cavanagh rsj and Councillors listed on the previous page.

STAFF



Anne Walker
National Executive Director



Sylvia MacRitchie-Hook
Director of Communications and
Engagement



Sharon Price rsm
Transition Project Officer



Amy Ong
Administrative Assistant



Christina Signorini
Administrative Assistant (VIC)

CRA MEMBERS

- > Adorers of the Blood of Christ
- > African Mission Fathers
- > Antonine Sisters – Maronite Congregation
- > Augustinian Fathers - Order of St Augustine
- > Augustinian Recollect Sisters
- > Augustinian Sisters, Servants of Jesus and Mary
- > Basilian Chouerite Sisters
- > Basilian Nuns
- > Benedictine Abbey
- > Benedictine Monks New Norcia
- > Benedictine Monks Arcadia
- > Benedictine Nuns Tanby
- > Blessed Sacrament Fathers
- > Blessed Sacrament Sisters
- > Brigidine Sisters - Congregation of St Brigid
- > Camillians - Order of the Minister of the Infirm
- > Canossian Sisters - Canossian Daughters of Charity
- > Capuchin Franciscan Friars
- > Carmelite Fathers
- > Carmelite Friars - Order of the Discalced Carmelites
- > Cenacle Sisters
- > Christian Brothers
- > Cistercian Monks
- > Claretian Fathers
- > Columban Fathers - Missionary Fathers of St Columba
- > Confraternity of Christ the Priest
- > Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul
- > Daughters of Divine Zeal
- > Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
- > Daughters of St Anne
- > Daughters of St Paul
- > De La Salle Brothers District of Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan
- > Discalced Carmelite Nuns – WA
- > Discalced Carmelite Nuns – NSW
- > Discalced Carmelite Nuns – VIC
- > Discalced Carmelite Nuns – TAS
- > Discalced Carmelite Nuns – WA
- > Discalced Carmelite Nuns – QLD
- > Discalced Carmelite Nuns – SA
- > Discalced Carmelite Nuns – NSW
- > Disciples of the Divine Master
- > Divine Word Missionaries
- > Dominican Fathers - Order of Preachers
- > Dominican Sisters - Holy Cross Congregation
- > Dominican Sisters – Eastern Australia and the Solomon Islands
- > Dominican Sisters – Nth Adelaide
- > Dominican Sisters – WA
- > Dominican Sisters of Malta – NSW
- > Dominican Sisters of Malta – VIC
- > Faithful Companions of Jesus
- > Family Care Sisters
- > Franciscan Friars - Order of Friars Minor
- > Franciscan Missionaries of 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 Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea
- > Institute of the Sisters of Reparation
- > Jesuits - Australian Province of the Society of Jesus
- > La Salette Missionaries
- > Lebanese Maronite Order of Monks
- > 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
- > Missionaries of God’s Love Sisters
- > 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 Mary Queen of the World
- > Missionary Sisters of Service
- > Missionary Sisters of St Anthony Mary Claret
- > Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver
- > Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart
- > Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (Calibrini Sisters)
- > Missionary Society of St Paul
- > Norbertine Canons - Canons Regular of Premontre
- > Order of Friars Minor Conventual
- > 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 - Congregation of the Brothers of St Patrick
- > Pauline Fathers
- > Poor Clare Colettines Bendigo
- > Poor Clares Contemplative - Bethlehem Monastery
- > Poor Clares - Order of St Clare
- > 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 - Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer
- > Salesian Sisters - Daughters of Mary Help of Christians
- > 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 of Australia
- > Sisters of Charity of St Anne
- > Sisters of Compassion
- > Sisters of Mercy – Brisbane
- > Sisters of Mercy – North Sydney
- > Sisters of Mercy – Parramatta
- > Sisters 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
- > 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 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 Immaculate Heart of Mary Congregation
- > The Lovers of the Holy Cross
- > The Sisters of the Nativity
- > Ursuline Missionaries of the Sacred Heart
- > Ursulines of the Roman Union
- > Verbum Dei Missionaries
- > Vincentians – Congregation of the Mission

4. SNAPSHOT

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 149 congregations of sisters, brothers and priests living and working in all States and Territories of Australia are members of CRA. Our religious congregations comprise more than 5,000 Catholic religious women and men. Our members and their lay colleagues work in education, health care and social services. They work with indigenous people, refugees and asylum seekers, people surviving on the margins and many others.



149 congregations

5,684
congregational
members



70% female
30% male

18 events



1330+ event
participants

5 committees - to
be expanded



15 external bodies
on which CRA is
represented

30 media releases



5. HIGHLIGHTS



6. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

For five years, we listened, watched, worried and felt the pain and shame of what was revealed about our Church throughout the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse. In the 18 months since that date, there has been debate, discussion and work undertaken. As individual Church authorities and as a Church as a whole, we are trying to come to terms with the findings and the recommendations of the Royal Commission, the steps that we need to take to respond to the recommendations and to our calling to keep children and vulnerable adults safe.

Professional standards is a major area of crisis and concern for our individual congregations and for the Church as a whole. It goes beyond the safety of children and the vulnerable but impacts on the credibility of our Church. It continues to be an area in which CRA acts to prevent abuse, respond with compassion and justice and put the protection of children and the vulnerable at the heart of our ministry. It is also part of CRA's mission to assist congregations in understanding the ever-changing environment in which they exist, advocate in relation to legislative change and work with survivor groups to listen to and support those who have been harmed by abuse.

We have seen many changes in society's attitude and in legislative responses at both state and national level as a result of the Royal Commission. CRA has consulted with our members and made various submissions to national and state governments about changes in legislation in this area.

CRA has been active in focussing first on survivors. We have been invited to join with the NSW Ombudsman to work in partnership with survivor groups rather than 'knowing what is best for survivors,' without true cooperation. We have involved individuals who have suffered abuse in specific projects within the Secretariat.

The National Redress Scheme was introduced quickly followed by immediate pressure to join the Scheme. Through being on the Church's Reference Group negotiating with government, we were able to achieve improvements to the Scheme, though not as many as we would have liked. Throughout negotiations, CRA has been a strong advocate for survivors but also for natural justice for the person named as having abused, throughout the application of the redress process. Since the Scheme commenced, we have met with the responsible Minister, the Shadow Minister and the Operator of the National Scheme to create a more workable solution for congregations. We have also worked with the Minister to create a fairer and more accurate narrative of our congregations' engagement with the Scheme. We averted a reference to our congregations in Parliament. Government media releases now refer to 'congregations where abuse has occurred' rather than a blanket statement referring to all congregations to join the Scheme. In spite of this, congregations are encouraged to join the Scheme.

Many congregations have taken the leap to sign up to redress and many are still in process. All the larger congregations have become part of the Scheme or are in the process of joining the Scheme. Of those religious institutes which have paid out two or more claims, 97% have committed to join the Scheme. CRA continues to be very active in this area as the landscape continues to change almost week by week – it is a stressful and complicated area for congregational leaders. We are currently working with the Operator of the Scheme to change their requirements in relation to financial surety and the way this is managed, hopeful that this will

assist congregations who have had few claims to join the Scheme. Arising from our consultation process, we have developed new administrative redress models and will soon be able to provide a higher level of informal support to congregations who wish to join the Scheme, acknowledging the assistance of Ambrose Payne fms in this regard. We will continue to provide information and workshops for congregations as further information comes to hand such as consideration of the recent and far-reaching recommendations handed down by the Joint Select Hearing committee.

Working with small to medium congregations is also important to us. The members of CRA are diverse and we do not want any left behind or disadvantaged.

We have seen many changes within our Church in this area. Catholic Professional Standards Limited has released its standards, the Implementation Advisory Group has commenced work on governance in parishes dioceses and will draft the National Guidelines. In addition, the Bishops set up the Australian Catholic Centre for Professional Standards when the National Committee for Professional Standards was closed. The sustainability of the various entities has been raised as a concern by congregations and other Catholic entities. CRA has been proactive in relation to the Professional Standards State and National Structures Review. The second stage of this review process will commence shortly.

With the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, we have provided the first annual joint report to Parliament with the ACBC, outlining the Church's response to the Royal Commission recommendations.

Last year, Leaders at the National Assembly resolved to release all four volumes of the Truth Justice and Healing report. In facilitating the release of Volume 4 of the Truth Justice and Healing Report, religious leaders took an important leadership step towards being transparent with the public.



Leaders and their teams have been asked to provide much information over the past year. This has included information and responses to enable negotiation with government on Redress, the release of volume 4 and detailed information in a short timeframe, as required by the Reviewers in the Professional Standards State and National Structures Review. Each of these requests have asked a great deal of you – we have been very grateful for your responses and assistance.

A significant event for CRA, our congregations and their members, was the National Day of Sorrow and Promise. A very small team created a significant event that was brought to life by religious and their communities across Australia. Thirteen leaders contributed to a video montage which provided witness of the values and actions of our leaders.

CRA has held various professional standards seminars, workshops and other events to inform, support, and facilitate discussion with our member congregations in significant and complex areas. Speakers have included:

- Robert Fitzgerald AM
- Steve Kinmond, one of the Professional Standards Reviewers
- Canon Lawyers, Moya Hanlen fdnsc and Rodger Austin
- Bruce Taloni, Group Manager, Bronwyn Cooper and Rita Kritikos, Senior staff of the Department of Social Services (National Redress Scheme operator)
- Peter Hade, Australian Catholic Redress
- Howard Harrison, Carroll & O’Dea and
- Zoe Wu, Makinson d’Apice

We cannot ever forget the lifelong impact on those who have been abused. We also hold in prayer all religious and their lay colleagues who have been abused and struggle with this reality. We hold you in the work you undertake and the impact that these revelations have had on you, individually and as a congregation. We also need to find a way to walk with those who have abused.

There is much yet to be done and many issues yet to be solved in this area.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

This past year has been a busy time in the life of CRA's committees. Meetings have been held, publications created and distributed, seminars and workshop days attended, reports provided, and personalised service provided to leaders and teams on application.

The committees of CRA exist to support leaders, their members and their staff. Each committee has a Statement of Intent that is being reviewed in the next year after two years of operation. Committees are beginning to consider membership succession plans. All committee Chairs will meet on July 15 to consider where collaboration opportunities exist. The Chairs will also meet with CRA Council to ensure that all are working together as a whole. CRA's support of leaders, members and staff is greatly enhanced by the much-appreciated work of the committees and their volunteer members (religious and lay).



EMERGING FUTURES COMMITTEE

Chair: Anne Lane pbvm

Members:

Monica Cavanagh rsj

Elizabeth Dowling rsm

Clare Nolan rsc

Graham Neist fms

John Thompson fms

Stancea Vichie mss

Anne Walker and Sharon Price rsm attend this Working Party and Peter Cranko is the facilitator

Initiative Two Working Party

Co-Chairs: Meg Kahler sgs and
Gaye Lennon rsm

Members:

Henry Adler svd

Melissa Dwyer fdc

Jenny Gerathy op

Peter Jones osa

Catherine Brabender rndm, Monica Cavanagh rsj, Anne Derwin rsj, Anne Lane pbvm (Chair), Judith Lawson op, Gabrielle Morgan pbvm, Clare Nolan rsc, John Thompson fms, Stancea Vichie mss, Anne Walker and Sharon Price rsm attend Initiative Two Working Party and Peter Cranko is the facilitator

The **Emerging Futures Committee** was the first committee to begin in 2018. Eighteen months later the committee has created a Working Party for Initiative One *Establishing a shared opt-in leadership model* and a second for Initiative Two *Interculturality: Leadership, Community Life and Ministry*. Other initiatives will follow as the needs emerge.

The work of Initiative One is founded on research and meetings/conversations with a variety of experts, including a meeting with Myriam Wijlens, Professor for Canon Law at the Faculty of Catholic Theology in the Netherlands and Zoom conversations with Mary Hughes op LCWR Director of Transition Services and Pat Cormack scsc leader of the Wisconsin Religious Collaborative.

Initiative One Working Party held a two-day workshop in September 2018 and has a workshop day planned for June 21, 2019 with 110 participants registered, including religious from each state and territory of Australia and from New Zealand. The next steps about the shared opt-in leadership model will be discussed.

Initiative Two has provided a method for engaging all congregational members in opening up conversation about interculturality to all leaders. The method contained a brief video of Tim Norton svd and a process for self-organising groups. This Working Party will offer more videos and opportunities for discussion of this important topic in the lead-up to the 2020 CRA National Assembly at which Teresa Maya ccvi and Tim Norton svd will be presenters on Interculturality.



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chair: Professor Marea Nicholson

Members:

Dr Brian Croke
 Bernard Dobson
 Dr Frank Malloy
 Paul Oakley cfc
 Catherine Slattery sgs
 Alison Terrey
 Sharon Price rsm attends meetings

The **Education Committee** began in March 2018 and its work has included: developing a database of school authorities for the Religious Institute (RI) and PJP schools across Australia; receiving reports from and providing support to Catherine Slattery sgs, CRA's representative on the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC); and liaising with education committees for RI and PJP schools in other states. The committee has begun a process of transferring responsibility for supporting RI and PJP school authorities to the Association of Ministerial Public Juridic Persons (AMPJP). In its April 2019 meeting, the CRA Council accepted two recommendations from the CRA Education Committee, including that the CRA President will continue the conversation with the Chair of the Bishop's Commission for Catholic Education about the need to change the NCEC statutes. The statutes require that a Religious be nominated to fill one membership position on NCEC for two purposes: so that suitable members of AMPJPs may be considered instead and so that CRA's authority to nominate potential members of NCEC be transferred to the AMPJP Council. Council decided that the CRA Education Committee would continue until the position on the NCEC was

transferred to the AMPJP.



HEALTH & WELL-BEING COMMITTEE

Chair: Maree Marsh csb

Members:

Annette Coulthart

Antoinette Baldwin rsj

David Hawke fsc

Mary-Clare Holland op,

Marie Mohr,

Gabrielle Owen rsm

Sharon Price rsm attends
meetings

The **Health and Well-Being Committee** began in May 2018 and has offered two national seminar days in Brisbane (September 2018 *Motivating Health and Well-Being in Religious*) and Sydney (April 2019 *Healthy Ageing: Promoting Physical, Emotional & Mental Health in Older Religious*) with another planned for Melbourne later in 2019.

Both seminar days were well-received by the many attendees and certificates are offered to participants after each day. The committee has reviewed and distributed *Guidelines for Religious Institutes Employing-Staff Health, Well-Being and Aged Care Coordinators* in April 2019. The *Toolkit for Leaders* from the St John Vianney Center in the United States was sourced and distributed in 2018 by the committee and an order has been placed for the updated booklet, expected in August 2019.

Early in the life of the committee, we surveyed leaders 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. The committee consulted younger team members earlier this year and has plans to offer some events for this group in the future.



JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Chair: Louise Cleary csb

Members:

Jan Barnett rsj

Dr Mark Copland

Margaret Hinchey rsm

Anne McGuire rsm

Lucy van Kessel pbvm

Peter O'Neill ssc

Libby Rogerson ibvm

Sharon Price rsm attends meetings as does the newly appointed Justice Research Officer, Barbara Honeysett

The **Justice Committee** began in June 2018 and has recently welcomed a Justice Research Officer, Barbara Honeysett, a third year Law and International Studies undergraduate. The committee prepares media statements, distributes state and federal NetAct Election Kits, creates and distributes specific issue campaigns like the *May Sorry Day Statement from the Heart* discussion guide and self-organising group process. The committee is planning a seminar afternoon on September 3 in Sydney for justice contact people from congregations.



Top L-T: Margaret Hinchey rsm, Anne Lane pbvm and Lorraine McCleary fdnsc

Bottom L-R: 2018 CANBERRA, MULTIFAITH DELEGATION Rabbi Shamir Caplan, Libby Rogerson ibvm (CRA rep), Imam Alaa Elzokm, Elizabeth Stone, Bishop Philip Huggins and Harold Zwier

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Chair: John Spillane

Members:

Kathy Daini

Josephine Dubiel rsj

Bernard Kenna

Carmel Leonard

Sharon Price rsm attends meetings

The **Stewardship Committee** began in February 2018 and has since offered three national seminar days: *Compliance Clearinghouse* in Sydney in April 2018; *Stewardship in a Changing Environment* in October 2018 in Melbourne and *Wealth Management for the Future of the Congregation, Its Members and Mission* in Brisbane in May 2019. A fourth day is planned for October 2019. The Committee distributed the *CRA Centrelink Kit* in February 2018 and *CRA Guidelines for Religious Institutes Employing Staff* in January 2019. The Committee has overseen the renovation of the *NSW/ACT Catholic Employers' Long Service Leave Portability Agreement* recently completed. Work has been undertaken with Carroll & O'Dea Lawyers to create a Deed for the Administration of Patrimony for each of the states and territories.



8. AROUND THE STATES

QUEENSLAND

The Religious of Queensland network (RoQ), a group of 20 plus leaders or representatives, meets across a range of venues where hospitality is shared. The gatherings begin with prayer and reflection, include some discussion of current issues e.g. National Redress Scheme, some planning and review of events and some general conversation. The gatherings are about mutual support with some good ideas and projects made possible with collaboration between organisations. The group plans the 2019 Ritual of Remembrance to be held in November at Nudgee Cemetery followed by a meal. RoQ administers the ADF funds for justice-focused endeavours which range from the responsible use of local food produce to recycling mattresses. The good news stories from 2018 recipients from the ADF Grants have been received and the Grants Process for 2019 is underway with brochures prepared and a selection panel in place.



VICTORIA

Victoria holds four meetings per year. Meetings typically include a presentation which have included *Movie Media and Spirituality* presented by Peter Malone MSC; Spotlight on a Congregation presented by four members giving their founding stories; a presentation on the planned new entity to replace the Catholic Religious Victoria Education Committee; and a presentation by Anne Walker and Sylvia MacRitchie-Hook on the transition to the new CRA. Other matters discussed included updates on CPSL, the group's submission to the Plenary Council, issues challenging leadership teams, planning for the Annual Mass for Religious, reports from the CRA Council and numerous other items of relevance to the group.



TASMANIA

The religious in Tasmania join with the Victorian state networking group with the leader in Tasmania attending the Victorian meetings which has provided a sense of connection with the wider religious community. In Tasmania, there is an annual Mass for Religious held along with other events from to time.



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Religious in South Australia (CRSA) meet monthly and offer support to each other and the laity, especially after the resignation of Archbishop Wilson. Bishop Greg O'Kelly SJ, appointed as Apostolic Administrator of Adelaide as well as Bishop of Port Pirie, has been inspirational and sensitive in boosting the morale of the faithful in a very difficult situation. The keynote speaker for a gathering of one hundred religious in April 2019 was Fr Michael Whelan sm presenting Epiphanic Moments. CRSA members prepared some submissions for Plenary Council 2020 as did several congregations. Individual religious have been actively involved in their parishes for the listening stage of Plenary Council 2020.



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

In January, Religious of Western Australia (RWA) leaders met to discuss their hopes for 2019. A mix of activities were planned, including leaders and representative meetings throughout the year for prayer, reflection, discussion on proposed events and a brief report from each CRA Council meeting. In November 2018, RWA had its annual gathering of religious with over 100 attending, with a ritual remembering any religious who had died in WA in 2018, followed by lunch and a social. Anne Walker presented a session to more than 50 religious on 28 February on matters of interest to the group. Mary Pellegrino rsj will present a session to RWA on July 1 and a joint session with the Catholic Mission Colloquium on July 3. RWA works closely with networks in the state to share information on events that will interest religious. RWA is hopeful that CRA activities will not only be held in the eastern states and recognises that this is a work in progress.



NEW SOUTH WALES

NSW offers two opportunities each year for leaders and teams to gather for dinner. These social events are attended by about 25 to 30 people and allow leaders and team members to catch up in a relaxed environment. Mary-Louise Petro rsm hosted the first informal gathering of leaders in March, at which the group that it would be helpful to continue to gather for an informal meeting every couple of months. The second meeting was held in June, hosted by Sue Woods osu. The aim of the gathering is for leaders to catch up with each other, share afternoon tea, have some informal conversation about matters of concern, and provide each other with encouragement and support. Leaders in NSW cherish the opportunity offered them through Group Supervision for Leaders, which meets five times per year, facilitated by Anne Lane pbvm. This small and targeted gathering offers leaders a chance to speak freely in a safe setting and receive support and advice from other leaders.



9. REPORT FROM ACRATH

In 2018/2019, ACRATH continued to raise awareness about human trafficking and slavery through presentations to schools, parishes and community groups. After much advocacy, ACRATH rejoiced in the passing of the Commonwealth Modern Slavery Act in November 2018. As a very much under-reported crime, accurate statistics on human trafficking are not easily available in Australia. ACRATH is therefore pleased to be working in partnership with Flinders University to research the prevalence of this crime in South Australia. This project will inform our work in South Australia and throughout Australia. In the area of labour exploitation, ACRATH has been advocating for a just outcome for 22 men from Vanuatu egregiously exploited while working in Queensland under the Seasonal Worker Programme. Work on forced marriage took the form of participation in the First National Forced Marriage Conference and holding professional development sessions for educators in Government, Catholic and Independent education sectors and for migrant chaplains. Through the ACRATH Companionship

accompanying them) who have experienced trafficking and/or enslavement. ACRATH continued to work with St Vincent's Health Australia (SVHA) on three aims: recognition and support of victims of human trafficking seeking health care, addressing human slavery issues within St Vincent's supply chain and incorporating an awareness of human trafficking into SVHA Communications. Organisational sustainability continues to be a challenge in terms of finance and membership. With increasing age and declining numbers in religious congregations, more and more the work will be taken on by lay members. ACRATH would like to attract more younger members. ACRATH was not awarded Commonwealth funding in the 2018-2019 funding round. This was a huge blow. When this news became public the response from Congregations, Dioceses, schools and friends of ACRATH was overwhelming. ACRATH is deeply grateful for the support received from religious congregations. Support has come in many forms: the availability of congregation members, use of congregation



Programme during 2018 members of ACRATH provided support to 30 women and 2 men (and indirectly to the 30 children who are

resources, donations, the passing on of bequests and the prayerful support of congregation members.

10. ENTITIES ON WHICH CRA IS REPRESENTED



NATIONAL

- Advisory Council for Anglican Religious Life in Australia (ACARLA)
- Australian Catholic Council for Clergy Life and Ministry (ACCCLM)
- Australian Mission Network (AMN)
- Catholic Health Australia (CHA)
- Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA)
- Counsel for Australian Catholic Women (CACW)
- National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC)
- The Xavier Centre for Theological Formation Advisory Council (at ACU)

NSW

- Catholic Commission for Employment Relations (CCER)
- Professional Standards Office NSW/ACT

VIC

- Catholic Social Services Victoria (CSSV)
- Towards Healing Inc Victoria

SA

- South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools (SACCS)

QLD

- Professional Standards Office Queensland

11. REPORTS FROM CRA REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED TO EXTERNAL BODIES

Australian Catholic Council for Clergy Life and Ministry (ACCCLM)

The mandate of the ACCCLM is to reflect on issues that arise affecting the life and ministry of priests and deacons and advise the Bishops Commission for Church Ministry. CRA's nominee, Kerin Caldwell, brings the perspective and experience of religious ministering in Church, side by side with lay women and men. Some of the current matters under discussion are the Royal Commission

recommendations and the ACBC/CRA Response; *Ratio Nationalis* for the formation of priests; developing best practice induction principles for clergy from other countries; supervision for clergy; lay ecclesial movements; reviewing of norms and guidelines for Deacons; clergy care workers: nurses and well-being issues for clergy; support for accused clergy; the Sacrament of Reconciliation - the seal; the

life-long process of formation of clergy involving the four aspects: human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral as outlined in *Pastoral Dabo Vobis*; retirement issues for clergy; implementation of appraisals for priests and bishops; pastoral care of bishops; *Viri Probati*; spiritual desolation of the clergy and married priests in remote areas.

Advisory Council for Anglican Religious Life in Australia (ACARLA)

The aim of the ACARLA is to advise and inform the Bishops' Conference of the Anglican Church on the Religious Life as lived in the communities and by individuals in Australia. Members of religious communities and individuals living the religious life may receive from the Bishops' Conference both advice and direction on the role of the

Religious Life in the Anglican Church. The Anglican communities of religious are small with ageing members. At its 2019 annual meeting, ACARLA considered the register of consecrated single persons; reports received from the Anglican Councils of NZ, England and Canada; the Redress Scheme and the invitation to communities to

join the Anglican Archdiocesan Redress Scheme. CRA's observer on the Council, Jill Harding, spoke about the 2019 CRA National Assembly, its theme: *Communio: Stewarding a life that belongs to the Church and the World* and about the work of the Emerging Futures Committee.

Australian Mission Network (AMN)

The purpose of the AMN is to promote awareness of God's mission and the role of religious and all Christians in living that mission; to enable ongoing conversations on global mission in the Australian Church; to be a forum for sharing mission activities and challenges. The major event organised through the collaborative work of AMN and Catholic Mission is the bi-annual *Mission: One Heart Many Voices Conference*. Following

the success of the 4th Conference in May 2019, the next Conference will be in September 2021. CRA nominee Marion Gambin rsj reports that the AMN has spent considerable time working on a proposal for Promoting Mission Studies, seeing this as a way of providing an expertise in this significant area, to be at the service of the Australian Church and community. AMN believes this formation opportunity could be provided

via a scholarship for doctoral studies at the Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, with a designated recruitment process which includes a commitment to the completion of studies and providing service to the Australian Church and community. The proposal is a work in progress.

CRA welcomes AMN as one of its committees.

Catholic Health Australia (CHA)

The recently appointed CRA nominee on CHA, Maureen Gleeson rsm, reports that the CHA Response Taskforce continues its work prior to the implementation of Victoria's *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act* on June 19. To date, CHA has published a Clinical Guidelines document, an ethical principles statement and has plans for 21 education resources and 4 training sessions.

CHA was requested to provide a Witness Statement and appear at a hearing in February of the Royal

Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. Southern Cross SA and NT appeared at the March Hearings and were questioned about their Home Care Services. There is no indication to date that Catholic providers have been asked to appear at the Sydney hearings in May. A draft report by the Commission is due October 2019 and a final report with recommendations is due April 2020. CHA is of the view that the Commission's approach has been consistent with the thrust of its Terms of Reference which includes an

emphasis on enquiring into how the current aged care system and services can be improved.

The CHA Ministry Leadership Program has been operating successfully for several years and discussions are continuing with ACU for their purchase/provision of the program.



Catholic Commission for Employment Relations (CCER)

Darren Burge fms, a recently appointed Commissioner, reports that the CCER has been part of the review of the structure and governance of Sydney Province entities requested by the Bishops OF NSW/ACT which began in 2017 and is due to finish in July 2019. There are concerns about how to fund CCER

services into the future as the landscape has changed with restrictions on the use of education finance. This remains a continuing concern and a user pays scheme may be required. There is an awareness of those smaller groups and regional groups who will struggle to pay for such services.



Council for Australian Catholic Women (CACW)

Patricia Madigan op represents CRA on the CACW and reports a growing interest in the life and ministry of women in the Catholic Church generally around this time – accentuated by events in the aftermath of the *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse of Children*, a growing nuns' #MeToo movement, and the process of the Plenary Council 2020 at which the issue of the place of women in the Church, including religious women, is increasingly being seen as critical. The presence and participation of women religious made a great contribution to the recent CACW Colloquium *Stirring the*

Waters: Catholic Women Responding to the Spirit held in Adelaide in February. CACW thanks CRA members for their assistance in publicising and supporting the event which was attended by around 160 women from a wide spectrum of Australian environments and 25 dioceses. One project which CACW is planning to initiate from its position within the ACBC framework is to provide some officially sanctioned Guidelines for Non-Discriminatory Language, which are gender inclusive as well as inclusive of other groups in society such as persons with disabilities and Indigenous peoples. A group of 12 remarkable young

women are presently completing the last stage of the 2018-2019 Young Catholic Women's Interfaith Fellowship program which aims at forming young Catholic women as leaders in church and society in the context of the contemporary world. With the recent re-organisation of the ACBC, CACW finds itself situated within the very large Bishops' Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry along with offices which include Youth, Clergy, Life and Ministry, and Lay Pastoral Ministry. Although huge in scope, this does give CACW a good place to work collaboratively with others to achieve its goals.

National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC)

CRA Commissioner, Catherine Slattery sgs, reports that during 2018/19 year, the NCEC introduced several changes to increase the effectiveness of the NCEC Committee structure and reduce the administrative burden and costs. Interim Executive Director, Ray Collins was appointed after multiple staff and Commissioner changes. NCEC reports to the Bishops' Committee for Catholic Education which acquired new members for 2019: Anthony Fisher OP (chair), Bishops Mark Edwards OMI, Gerard Holohan and James Foley. Some matters under consideration in the last twelve months include the

Royal Commission Final Report; the review of ACNC legislation; the Religious Freedom Review; the Review of the Australian Qualifications Framework; the ACBC submission to the Review of the Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme Bill 2017; NRSB review of SES; the Halsey Independent Review into Regional, Rural and Remote Education; the Gonski Review to Achieve Educational Excellence in Australian Schools. NCEC has worked extensively in 2018-2019 with government regarding recurrent and capital funding for Catholic Schools. The responsibility for representing RI and PJP school

authorities on NCEC has been with CRA, and plans are now in place to transfer that responsibility to the Association of Ministerial PJPs (AMP). As mentioned earlier in this document, discussions will continue between the CRA President and the Chair of the Bishop's Commission for Catholic Education about the need to change the NCEC's so that CRA's authority to nominate potential members of NCEC would be transferred to the AMPJP Council.



Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA)

In May 2018, Kath Tierney rsm AO was appointed CRA representative on CSSA. It has been an interesting year regarding activity, policy and discussions about changes in personnel which will occur in the next few months. Fr Frank Brennan SJ AO will conclude his term as CEO of CSSA on 30 June 2019 and Dr Ursula Stephens has been appointed by ACBC as the incoming CEO, to commence on 1 July 2019.

As an ex-Senator in NSW Government (2002-2014) representing ALP, Ursula has wide sector experience and holds a PhD in Public Administration. Ms Maria Harries AM will retire as the Chair of CSSA Board in November 2019 and the Board is working to appoint a new Chair. Following extensive engagement with Member Agencies there have been

significant changes in the structure of CSSA, with a change in focus for the organisation to be a *leading voice for the marginalised and those who serve them through continued strengthening of research and advocacy*. The CSSA Board's Annual Conference - *Meeting the Un Met Needs* – was held in Port Macquarie in February 2019 and attracted over 150 attendees.

The ACBC has restructured their Committees and their requirements for reporting and accountability. CSSA now is responsible to the Bishops' Commission

for Social Justice – Mission and Service. CSSA has governance arrangements to look into and CRA members and associated PJPs need to consider the role they should

play in CSSA.



Catholic Social Services Victoria (CSSV)

Denis Cooper fms, recently appointed, reports that planning for the 2020 Conference is underway. Executive Director Denis Fitzgerald has been speaking to the Australian Catholic Housing Alliance on the emerging Winter Shelter movement happening across

denominations across Melbourne. The implications of the Cardinal Pell conviction were considered, including the negative commentary in Ballarat and probable civil legal action. Opinions are divided as shown in a number of school-related and university-related

occurrences. There is a need for all agencies and the church to recommit to mission with strong and articulated commitment to the safeguarding of children, walking with victims, and greater transparency.

South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools (SACCS)

CRA has two nominees on the SACCS, Chris Gorringe fsc and Brigette Sipa rsj. SACCS is currently working on the *Strategy for Leading Catholic Education in South Australia to new Levels of Excellence*. Commissioners receive updates on enhancing Catholic Identity; improving student learning and well-being;

strengthening the provision of Catholic Education B-12+; optimising the use of resources; and growing the reputation of Catholic Education in South Australia. Reports on system-wide strategic projects are also received. Denis Ralph, Chair of SACCS introduced a review process in

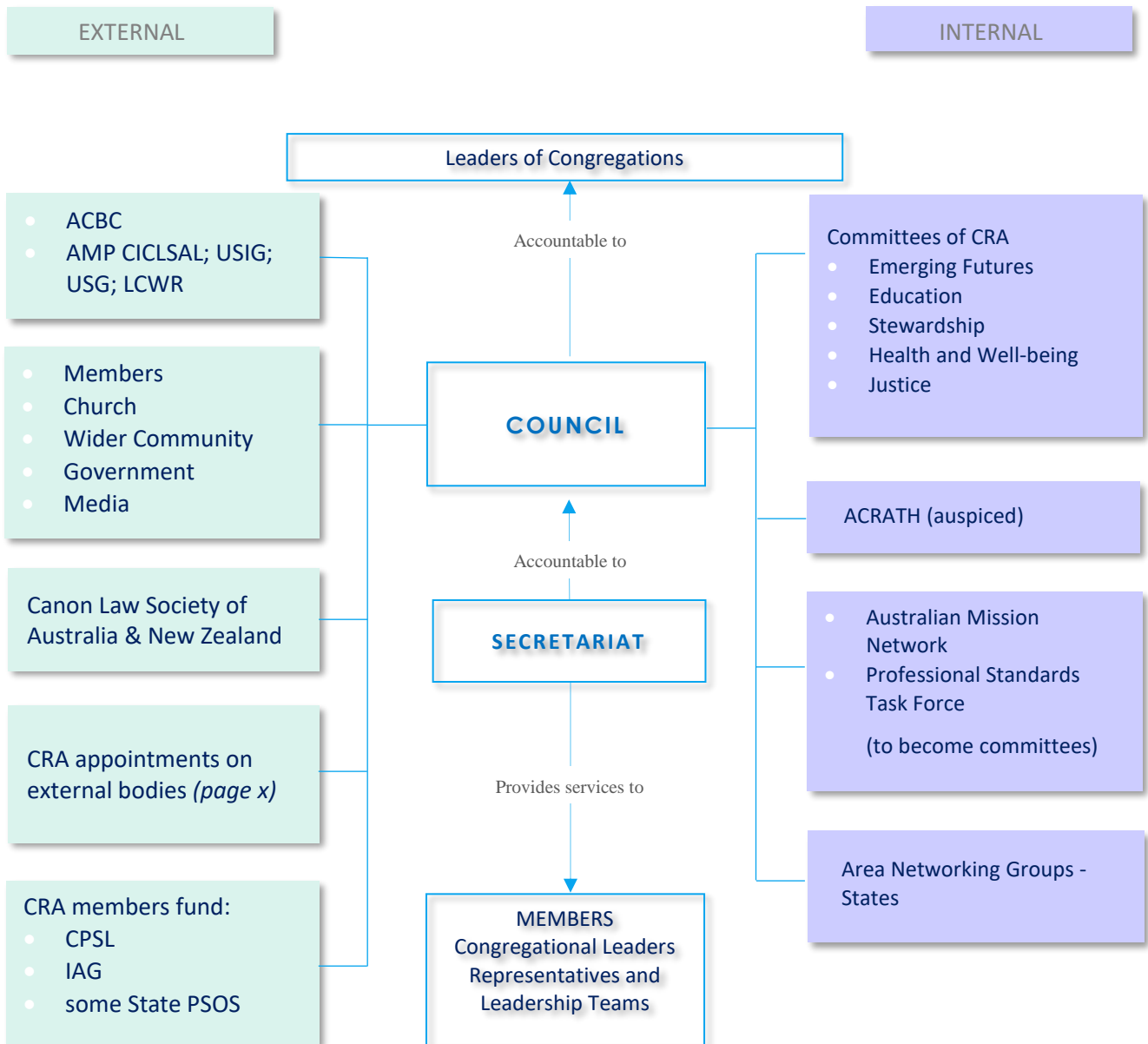
March 2019 of Statutes of the SA Commission of Catholic Schools authorised by CRA SA and the Bishops. Commissioners will keep a watching brief on the recommended outcomes, with particular reference to religious institute and PJP schools.

Xavier Centre for Theological Formation Advisory Council

CRA's representative on the Xavier Centre for Theological Formation Advisory Council,

Helga Neidhart rsc, is yet to attend a meeting.

12. CRA RELATIONSHIPS





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