

# CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS AUSTRALIA 2023 ANNUAL REPORT







## About the Artwork

The image on the cover was painted by Aunty Vicki Clark OAM, who is a descendant of the Mutthi Mutthi /Wemba Wamba people and will be a presenter at the 2023 National Assembly.

The image comes from her “two-way cross,” on which she has painted the symbols of the seven sacraments, symbolising gifts given to her by her Aboriginal culture and gifts from her Catholic identity. This is the fourth gift on the journey, which relates to the sacrament of Confirmation and which brings the gifts of the Holy Spirit. It captures the colours of a flame, reminding us of the Holy Spirit, and includes the sacred trees, rocks, waterholes and boora rings along Dreaming tracks, where ceremonies of initiation were practiced as age-old rituals.

## 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, present 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.



# C O N T E N T S

About the Artwork	p 2
President's Report	p 4
National Executive Director's Report	P 6
Governance	P 8
National Council	P 9
Secretariat	P 10
New and Returning Leaders	P 11
CRA Members	p 12
Celebrating Religious Life	p 14
Our Stories – Our Lives – Our Mission	P 16
Snapshot	P 17
Strategic Collaboration	P 18
Five Strategic Priorities:	
Animation & Formation	p 24
Professional Services	p 25
Advocacy & Leadership	p 26
Governance & Operational Efficiency	p 27
Strategic Collaboration diagram	p 28
Committees Report	p 29
Safeguarding Report	p 33
Religious Around the States	p 38
External Reports	p 42

# W E L C O M E



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT: PETER JONES OSA

The essential prophetic aspect to our vocation as consecrated Religious needs to be anchored in humility so that we, with our gifts, but also our vulnerabilities, are the first recipients of the call to growth inherent in our witness to others beyond ourselves.

This prophetic dimension of our vocation can only make sense in the context of relationship – with God, with one another and a peaceful interior relationship within ourselves. The spirit of the Plenary Council and the themes of the synodal journey – *communion, participation* and *mission* – emphasise the relational dimension of renewal.

*Communion* is a more powerful expression of or being together than the word *community*. It is not just togetherness but the quality of our relationships that is at the heart of Pope Francis' challenge to the Church and the world. Violence is the extreme expression of disconnection – sadly, the global examples of this are only too clear to see. At the smaller scale of our daily lives, all of us are aware of the more subtle influences that can erode love, friendship and compassion. As Religious and with humility, this commitment to communion in our persons, within our communities and with the broader ecclesial community and the world, is at the heart of our prophetic vocation.

The constant prophets for us are the countless examples of people of good will who quietly and selflessly give of themselves for others.

There is relevance in the theme of *communion* to the work of CRA in the past year. While like Martha, there is the preoccupation with many

tasks, at the foundation of these, paralleling what Mary realised in choosing what is truly necessary, is the relationship with the other. An example of this would be the efforts to progress the uncompleted aspects of the Plenary Council deliberations in relation to the issue of participation of women in the Church. The engagement of CRA Council in this ongoing discussion was spurred on by a grassroots initiative of a group of Religious.

Similarly, connections with the LGBTQITIA+ community from within the Church and beyond have galvanised the Council to continue its reflection on advancing the pastoral outreach and the quality of relationships within the Body of Christ.

The year in which an Indigenous Voice to Parliament is being proposed to the Australian people has been the context for a focussed awareness of relationships within the Australian community. The active engagement of CRA in various justice concerns have a clear relational foundation.

What may seem as the more practical aspects of CRA's work are certainly linked to working towards a deepening of communion. Likewise, those more formal relationships that exist between CRA and the many and varied ecclesial and secular entities that make up the Australian and global Church and civil society, are integral

to Religious playing our part in contributing to the good of the whole.

Beyond the busyness of our work at CRA, God's call into a relationship with God, and to a whole life of love and service to others, never changes. I join with the particular thanks to those who work internally in CRA as well as those beyond, who have a relationship with us.

Yours in Christ,

*Peter*

Matthew 5: 4-16

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”







## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: ANNE WALKER

Heeding God's call to lead with hope and gratitude, and alert to the 'signs of the times', CRA continues to support the Spirit-led witness and work of Catholic Religious in Australia.

Looking back on the year, I see the work of CRA taking on meaning at both a macro and a micro-level. As the peak body, CRA's responsibility is to express the collective voice of Religious at the macro-level in response to the economic, political and social forces that shape our lives and our Church. We also remain responsive at the micro-level – to developments and shifts in our communities, amongst our Members, across our organisations.

At a macro-level, CRA has been strengthening its relationship with the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (DICALSAL), as well as with Conferences of Religious across Oceania, and the Global North; communications that involve sharing wisdom and approaches to both common issues facing Religious globally, and issues specific to regions, but from which others can benefit.

As Australians, we have had our first year under a new federal government. In an opinion piece published in *Eureka Street*, CRA referred to this as reflecting a "shift in values, experiences and priorities held by everyday Australians," who united to seek more concrete action on the pressing issues of climate change, the Uluru Statement from the Heart, women's rights and political integrity. CRA has made multiple submissions on varied issues to make known the prophetic voice of Religious.

In a spirit of unity, members of CRA Council met with the Council of AMPJP for the first

time. Council also met with the ACBC Permanent Committee for the first time since 2019. These collective gatherings seek to develop stronger relations around issues of mutual relevance and have proved fruitful as we journey together as a synodal Church in Australia.

The pages ahead describe how CRA has worked with its Members this year to pray, educate and advocate for a number of key issues, within and beyond the Church. We have captured the stories and contributions of Religious in '*Our Stories. Our Lives. Our Mission: Catholic Religious in Australia*,' CRA's first book. We have also highlighted CRA's support of religious life within a continuously changing landscape through a range of formative and educative events, relevant publications, professional advice, advocacy and other initiatives.

The Secretariat's work is inspired by the gospel witness of CRA's Members, whose diverse ministries and spiritualities have a ripple effect within the Church and society, and is guided by five strategic priorities: animation; professional services; advocacy and leadership; strategic collaboration; and governance and operational efficiency.

Whether the focus is at a micro level responding to individuals, or at a macro level, addressing social injustice, our mission to honour religious life, supporting its vitality, vibrancy and evolution, remains at the heart of everything we do at CRA.

I hope this report provides a glimpse into how CRA is continually seeking to respond to the ever-changing signs of the times with hope and gratitude.

It is a privilege to serve this leadership body in the Australian Church.



## WITH THANKS

*“The Religious of Australia owe a debt of great gratitude to Anne Walker for her consistent energy and sincere commitment to the well-being of Religious and her strong sense of engagement with the broader Church in her service as National Executive Director. Anne’s leadership of the CRA team has served all of us well in this past year.”*

**Peter Jones OSA, President.**

*“This year we welcomed Peter Jones OSA as President of CRA, and we thank him deeply for his humility, perspicacity, sensitivity and common-sense approach to the many challenges and opportunities that lay before us.”* **Anne Walker, National Executive Director.**

“On behalf of CRA, we thank Vice-President Mary-Clare Holland OP and Executive Member Philippa Murphy FDNAC, and the Council of CRA for their dedicated persistence and sincerity in addressing the needs of Members. They are readily available for consultation and collaboration for the betterment of the CRA community.

Thanks also to our Leaders and their Congregational Members, you are the lifeblood of CRA and through your engagement and support, you enable CRA to do what it does each day, serving you and amplifying your voices.

To our volunteers, Religious and Lay, who give their time freely to serve on CRA Committees, sharing their time, expertise and wisdom, we thank you deeply.

We thank each one of our Secretariat staff members: Sylvia, Teresa, Taylor, Stephen, Emma Baker and Emma Carolan – your hard work and dedication are the backbone of our operations; without your tireless efforts, we would not be able to accomplish everything we do. ” **Peter Jones and Anne Walker**

# GOVERNANCE

## THE PEAK BODY FOR RELIGIOUS IN AUSTRALIA

CRA is the peak body for Catholic Leaders of Religious Institutes and Societies of Apostolic Life who reside 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 about 5,000 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 represents Religious Leaders in the Australian Church and in society through its submissions to, and meetings with government, encounters with media, and strategic collaboration with Church and secular bodies.

Member support services are tailored to Religious and responsive to their emerging

issues, especially in the area of governance, legislation, policies, Vatican documents, professional standards requirements and more.

## COUNCIL

The Council of CRA governs the organisation and comprises the Executive and Councillors who are elected from the membership of CRA.

## CANON LAW

CRA was established as a public juridic person by the Holy See. CRA's Statutes and the norms of canon law outline the responsibilities of CRA.

## CIVIL STRUCTURE

The civil structure of CRA is a statutory body corporate created under the *Roman Catholic Church Communities Lands Act (NSW)1942*. CRA is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission.



2022-2023 CRA EXECUTIVE TEAM:

L to R: Mary-Clare Holland OP (Vice-President), Peter Jones OSA (President), Philippa Murphy FDNSC (Executive Member)



# NATIONAL COUNCIL



President  
**PETER JONES OSA**  
Congregational Leader  
Augustinian Fathers



Vice President  
**MARY-CLARE HOLLAND OP**  
Prioress, Dominican Sisters of Eastern  
Australia and the Solomon Islands



Executive Member  
**PHILIPPA MURPHY FDNSC**  
Provincial Leader, Daughters of Our  
Lady of the Sacred Heart



**GERARD BRADY CFC**  
Province Leader  
Christian Brothers - Oceania Province



**BARBARA BROWN-GRAHAM FCJ**  
Area Leader, Australia  
Faithful Companions of Jesus



**MONICA CAVANAGH RSJ**  
Congregational Leader  
Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart



**MELISSA DWYER FdCC**  
Delegation Leader  
Canossian Daughters of Charity



**ALAN GIBSON CM**  
Provincial  
Vincentians



**TOM MCDONOUGH CP**  
Provincial  
Passionist Fathers



**PAUL O'KEEFFE FSP**  
Province Leader  
Patrician Brothers



**ASAELI RASS SVD**  
Provincial  
Divine Word Missionaries



**CATHERINE REUTER RSM**  
Congregational Leader  
Sisters of Mercy Brisbane



**MARY RYAN OP**  
Prioress  
Dominican Sisters of Western Australia



**PHILIP WATKINS OSS**  
Provincial  
Blessed Sacrament Fathers

# SECRETARIAT

With the mission of CRA at the heart of all it undertakes, the Secretariat provides Leaders with services that support the ministry of leadership. The team comprises the equivalent of five full-time staff members.



## ANNE WALKER

National Executive Director

- Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Economics, University of NSW; Australian Institute of Company Directors' Course
- Deputy Chair of an AMPJP; previously Chancellor and Director of the Office of Chancery Services, Diocese of Broken Bay
- Represented the Church in negotiations with Government and at Royal Commission roundtables, achieved significant amendments to safeguarding legislation; Consulted to Victorian government and Not-For-Profit organisations in relation to professional standards and governance

TOP FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

## TERESA PIROLA

Publications & Project Officer

- Doctor of Theology, Sydney College of Divinity
- Experienced faith formator, ecclesial animator and author
- Special interest in Jewish-Christian relations

## STEPHEN MIDDLETON

Committees & Projects Coordinator

- Bachelor of Computer Science, University of Auckland; Grad Cert Theological Studies, BBI-TAITE
- 30 years in engineering
- Assistant prison chaplain, 4th-year aspirant to permanent diaconate
- Studying at Catholic Institute of Sydney

## EMMA CAROLAN

Justice Research Officer

- Bachelor of Theology (Hons); Grad Dip Human Rights, University of Sydney
- Sessional Academic at Australian Catholic University
- Special interest in Jewish-Christian relations

BOTTOM FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

## TAYLOR COUTINHO

Executive Administrator

- Bachelor of Business, Western Sydney University
- Previously worked in finance and with a Religious Institute
- Youth Leader, on liturgy team and in music ministry in her local parish

## SYLVIA MACRITCHIE-HOOK

Director of Comms & Engagement

- Bachelor of Arts (Hons) University of Sydney; Grad Dip Comm Mgt, University of Technology, Sydney
- 25 years in marketing and communications, in publishing, law, management consulting and Catholic tertiary education
- Speaks Spanish and French

## EMMA BAKER

Policies & Projects Officer

- Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws, University of Sydney
- Previously Diocesan Team Leader for Life, Marriage and Family
- Currently enrolled in a Master of Administrative Law and Policy
- Involved in running Alpha in her local parish

# MEMBERS

## NEW AND RETURNING LEADERS

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

**TIMOTHY PETER FSC**

De La Salle Brothers

**JENNIFER RYAN RSM**

Sisters of Mercy, North Sydney

**MARIA LAZZARO PBVM**

Presentation Sisters, Tasmania

**CHARLOTTE TEO OSC**

Poor Clares Contemplative, Bethlehem Monastery

**ANNA FEWER PBVM**

Presentation Sisters, WA

**GEORGE KOLODZIEJ SDS**

Salvatorian Fathers

**PHILIP WATKINS SSS**

Blessed Sacrament Fathers

**PERIYANAYAHAM RAYAPPAN CP**

Passionist Sisters

**BRUCE CLARK OCARM**

The Carmelites

**JAROSLAW ZAN OSPPE**

Pauline Fathers

**STEPHEN FLETCHER MGL**

Missionaries of God's Love in Australia

**PETER O'NEILL SSC**

Missionary Society of St Columban

**EDWARD KHAEMBA CSSP**

Spiritans – Congregation of the Holy Spirit

**MARGARET JONES RSM**

Sisters of Mercy, Parramatta

**MARY MONAGHAN CSN**

Sisters of Nazareth

**THERESIA VEENKER MSC**

Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart

**MARIA BAILES OCD**

Discalced Carmelite Nuns, Goonellabah

**REJIMOL (REGI) VALLAYIL JOHN KATTUMURIYIL (FSP)**

Daughters of St Paul

**JOANNE FITZSIMONS OSC**

Poor Clares

**PETER HOANG KIM HUY SDB**

Salesians of Don Bosc





# MEMBERS

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

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

# CELEBRATING RELIGIOUS LIFE



MEL DWYER FdCC, WITH POPE FRANCIS, AUGUST 2022, VATICAN CITY



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AUGUST 2022, VICTORIA





WORLD DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE, WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
PHOTO: MICHELLE TAN



LAST COUNCIL DINNER OF FINANCIAL YEAR, NSW



ELIZABETH DELANEY SGS, AWARDED PAPAL HONOUR  
PRESENTED BY ARCHBISHOP ANTHONY FISHER OP  
PHOTO: GIOVANNI PORTELLI/ SYDNEY ARCHDIOCESE



STEVE FLETCHER MGL CELEBRATES FIRST MASS ON MEMORY  
MOUNTAIN, NORTHERN TERRITORY PHOTO: HARVEST JOURNEYS



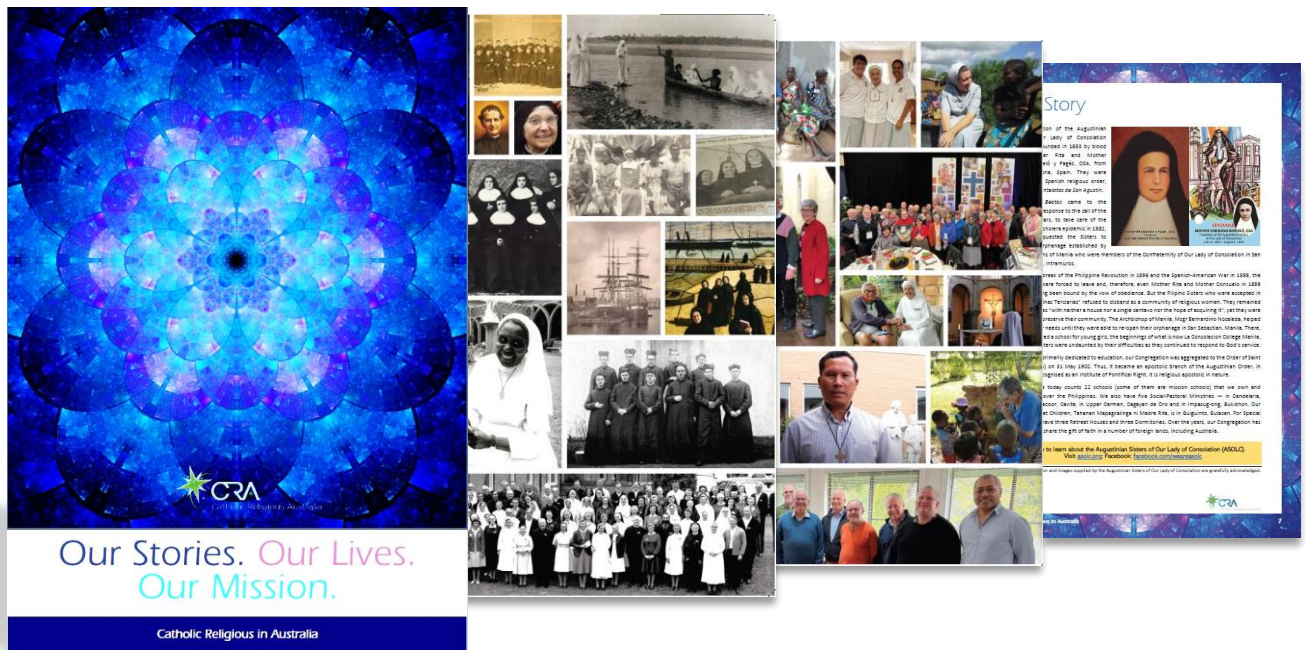
ANNE GARDINER OLSH MINISTERING IN NORTHERN TERRITORY



GERALD ARBUCKLE SM RECEIVES HONORARY DOCTORATE  
FROM ACU CHANCELLOR, MARTIN DAUBNEY PHOTO: GFP  
EVENTS



# STORIES OF CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES IN AUSTRALIA



***Our Stories. Our Lives. Our Mission – Catholic Religious in Australia***, CRA’s newest publication, was inspired by World Day for Consecrated Life on 2 February 2022, and will be launched on 2 August 2023 at the National Assembly in Sydney.

Each Congregation has a precious story to be told and shared with future generations. The purpose of this publication was twofold: to celebrate those stories and the history of CRA for Members to celebrate their legacy, and also to ‘showcase’ religious life to young people, through the use of this publication as a teaching resource by Religious Education teachers, catechists, vocations personnel, youth ministers and parents. In other words, faith formation through an exploration of religious life.

Through a series of narratives and summaries, the publication has been designed to illustrate the ‘kaleidoscope’ of charisms, gifts, and ministries of Catholic Religious in Australia and

therefore, the myriad examples of witness to the Gospel. Hence the image of the kaleidoscope chosen for the cover design.

CRA staff met with an archivist and elements of the history of CRA have been incorporated.

The book is offered as a printed and digital resource, along with a teacher’s guide and glossary.

Rev Professor Richard Lennan says in his Foreword, “Many Australians will be aware of the work of Religious in schools and hospitals, but the book also brings to the fore the many paths that Religious walk to accompany those on society’s ‘peripheries’, where Pope Francis calls the ecclesial community to minister the mercy and grace of the loving God. *Our Stories. Our Lives. Our Mission* will encourage all Australian Catholics to embrace ever more deeply their baptismal call to be missionary disciples.”

# SnapShot

CRA comprises



150 CRA Members



National



4800 Religious



68% Female 32% Male



6 Publications



20 Media Releases



11 CRA Committees



5 Submissions





# STRATEGIC COLLABORATION

## International and local strategic collaboration: a synodal way of being

CRA is a strongly collaborative body. At the local level it champions the distinctive charisms of Religious congregations in Australia and supports their cooperative work. It also works closely with other church bodies as well as other communities and agencies in Australian society. At the same time, CRA is active at the international level, forging closer links with the various curial departments of the Holy See and other national federations of Religious.

### SYNOD ON SYNODALITY: CONTINENTAL STAGE

In preparation for the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, Pope Francis has engaged the participation of the faithful across the globe.

Responding to this invitation in its earlier phase, CRA had already lodged a submission “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission” to the Holy See and to the appropriate channels of consultation in Australia.

CRA continued its participation through the Continental Stage of the global consultation by gathering a group of Religious and Lay participants to reflect and provide feedback on the Continental Stage Working Document, ‘Enlarging the Tent’.

The Working Document’s use of the biblical image of a “tent in the desert” was affirmed with an understanding of the tent as being a “space of communion, place of participation, and a foundation for mission.” In terms of ecclesial priorities, CRA stressed the inclusion of those who experience alienation and disadvantage in society and in the Church, such as women, First Nations peoples, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, and those challenged by disability, homelessness, and mental health issues. CRA reinforced the belief that baptismal responsibility must be recognised in various ways, noting that transformation as a synodal Church requires the active and creative response of all who make up the People of God.



## DICASTERY FOR INSTITUTES OF CONSECRATED LIFE AND SOCIETIES OF APOSTOLIC LIFE

Responding to the call to embrace synodality, the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (DICALS) invited national Conferences of Religious from around the world to a Congress in December 2022 to focus on three key themes: Vocations, Continuance and Governance. Representing CRA, Peter Jones OSA, President and Anne Walker, National Executive Director, attended the Congress in Rome for English-speaking national Conferences of Religious. Each Conference reported, discussed, prayed, listened, discerned and spoke about common and differing experiences and responses to emerging needs. DICALS expressed its desire to be creative as well as realistic and indicated an openness to considering different possibilities.

The next step in the process was the subsequent meeting in March 2023 addressing the theme of Discernment and Accompaniment. Representing CRA was Mary-Clare Holland OP, Vice-President of CRA and Anne Walker. Some 80 people from 17 countries attended, including 13 Conferences encompassing eight language groups (*pictured below*).



Formation was a significant area of discussion. It was stressed that while numbers and data are relevant, so too is the manner in which consecrated life is being lived through its charism. Cardinal João Braz de Aviz, Prefect of DICALS (*pictured above with Anne Walker*), noted that Pope Francis holds consecrated life close to his heart and encourages Religious to find the light of the Holy Spirit in their inner journey.

This underpins CRA's vision and mission to support the animation and evolution of religious life in Australia, through its collaborative work, its advocacy and the provision of enrichment and formation opportunities to its Members.

There was no expectation that all questions would be answered at this second stage of the Congress but rather that this was a step along



PARTICIPANTS OF CONGRESS OF NATIONAL CONFERENCES OF RELIGIOUS (ENGLISH-SPEAKING), OUTSIDE DICALS, ROME





PARTICIPANTS OF CONGRESS OF NATIONAL CONFERENCES OF RELIGIOUS (8 LANGUAGE GROUPS) MARCH 2023

the continuum of conversation. The experience of mutual sharing, learning and listening continues to deepen our ways of being in communion, encountering one another at a practical and spiritual level.

## NATIONAL CONFERENCES OF RELIGIOUS

### Oceania Conferences

CRA has reached out to the Congregational Leaders Conference Aotearoa New Zealand (CLCANZ) as a first step towards bringing together the four national Conferences of Religious in Oceania. It is hoped that together, we can address common concerns, needs and opportunities, such as working together for social and environmental justice, amplifying the prophetic voice of religious, considering

the rising need for pastoral leadership roles, sharing resources and furthering the synodal process in Oceania to build a more creative and daring Church.

### Global North

CRA also connects with the National Conferences of the Global North which include Canada, USA, England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland. The formal and informal relationships between these Conferences have been greatly strengthened over the past year, with mutual sharing of contexts and the exploration of possible responses and resources. Our bonds have been strengthened as we navigate separate but similar paths towards a synodal Church within a secular and pluralistic society.

## INSTITUTE OF ANTHROPOLOGY OF THE PONTIFICAL GREGORIAN UNIVERSITY

The Institute of Anthropology at the Pontifical Gregorian University (IADC) is committed to raising awareness about human dignity, promoting education and interdisciplinary research on human dignity. CRA is collaborating with the IADC by providing an opportunity for a religious student at the IADC to undertake an internship with our Religious Institutes here in Australia in the area of safeguarding. Read more in the Safeguarding Report.



PARTICIPANTS OF CONGRESS OF NATIONAL CONFERENCES OF RELIGIOUS (ENGLISH-SPEAKING), ROME, DECEMBER 2022

## WORLD DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE: NATHALIE BEQUART XMCJ



On World Day of Consecrated Life, 2 February 2023, Australian Religious gathered for a CRA event: *Women, Leadership and the Synodal Process: Where to Now?*

Before a full-house, French Xavière Missionary Sister, Nathalie Becquart (*pictured above*), the most senior woman within the Vatican and the first woman to be appointed as an Undersecretary for the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops, spoke about the tensions of seeking change in the Church, while also taking hope from what has been achieved. Over 90 religious attended, along with Chiara Porro, the Australian Ambassador to the Holy See. The event was also a focus of interest for the secular press.

## DAY-TO-DAY INTERNATIONAL REACH AMONG RELIGIOUS

CRA facilitates international engagement among Religious as part of its ongoing programmes. CRA formation webinars and online events host religious participants who are not only from Australia but from across the Tasman, into Oceania, including the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, Kiribati, Malaysia, Singapore, Timor-Leste and New Zealand and USA. The online format of these programmes enables CRA to extend its reach beyond Australia's borders.

## BUILDING RELATIONS WITH AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE HOLY SEE



Peter Jones OSA, Councillor Mel Dwyer FdCC and Anne Walker met with the Australian Ambassador to the Holy See, Chiara Porro, in December 2022. Peter Clinch CFC, as a past Leader of the Christian Brothers and Pat Murray IBVM (USIG) also attended this lunch meeting at the Ambassador's residence in Rome (*pictured above*). The time was spent sharing stories and wisdom from around the world and deepening the connection between Religious and the Australian Government.

## AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

### **CRA National Council and ACBC Permanent Committee**

Members of CRA National Council were warmly welcomed to the meeting of the Permanent Committee of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and took place on 15 March at Cathedral House, Sydney. Matters which were discussed included the preparation for a review of the 1997 Intra-Church Property Transactions Guidelines; the planning of an acculturation course led by Bishop Tim Norton SVD; issues relating to women in the Church, arising from the Plenary Council; the development of guidelines for responding to complaints of sexual abuse of religious women by clerics; reporting to government in relation to the recommendations of the Royal



Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse; and the apportionment agreement in connection with the professional standards liabilities.

### **Bi-annual Bishops Plenary Meetings**

The CRA Executive attended the two Bishops plenary meetings, which provides an insight into the issues being discussed by Bishops across the country and allows the CRA Executive to communicate CRA's experiences on those issues.

### **Annual Bishops and Leaders Meeting**



This year is the second meeting of Bishops and Religious Leaders held in person since COVID-19. The focus of this meeting was on NATSICC's cultural competency course, giving an opportunity for all Leaders and Bishops to be involved. NATSICC Chair, John Lochowiak, with Leaders of Religious Institutes and Bishops, are pictured above at a smoking ceremony during their meeting in Sydney.

In being responsive to situations as they unfold, there was also a major focus on the changes occurring in Catholic Church Insurance.

Connecting, and speaking informally about our call to be Church together is also an important part of this exchange.

### **Attendance at ACBC's General Forum**

CRA was also invited to join the ACBC's General Forum, at which groups which report to the ACBC provide updates on their work.

Other groups which collaborate with the ACBC, such as CRA and the Association of Ministerial Public Juridic Persons (AMPJP), are invited to attend, enriching collaboration between all.

## **CRA & INTERFAITH RELATIONS**

CRA acknowledges the dedicated work of Religious and many other quiet achievers in the area of interreligious relations, which is a vital component of living as a synodal church.

### **Cooperative Interfaith Projects**



During 2022-23, CRA established a working relationship with the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ), which operates as the peak body and voice of the Australian Jewish Community.

A joint CRA-ECAJ project resulted in a videoed conversation between Catholic educator Prof David Hall FMS (Australian Catholic University) and members of the Jewish community on the topic of antisemitic bullying in schools. The conversation, along with discussion tools, aims to deepen Catholic leaders' understanding of antisemitism in its Australian context and practical suggestions for incident response. The resource will be ready for free distribution to CRA members and education networks later in 2023.

As an extension of this project, CRA has proposed the production of parallel resources addressing other forms of religious-based bullying experienced by other minority communities in Australia.



## CRA AND THE ASSOCIATION OF MINISTERIAL PUBLIC JURIDIC PERSONS



For the first time, CRA Council met with the Council of the AMPJP. The relationship between the two organisations is founded upon a history of the transfer of ministries from Religious Institutes to Ministerial PJs, and these close links were celebrated.

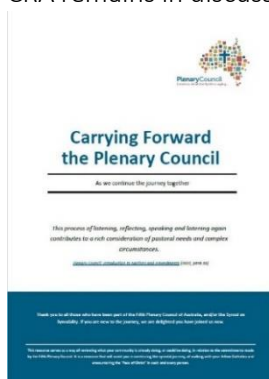
The CRA-AMPJP Covenant was signed in July 2022 and is based on a theological understanding of how both bodies are committed to advancing God’s mission for the Church in Australia and to strengthening its ecclesial communion. At this meeting, work was undertaken to consider how the AMPJP-CRA relationship could be further strengthened into the future.

### CRA, AMPJP and ACBC

In a synodal spirit, the President and Executive Director of the ACBC, AMPJP and ACBC met to discuss issues of mutual concern and importance.

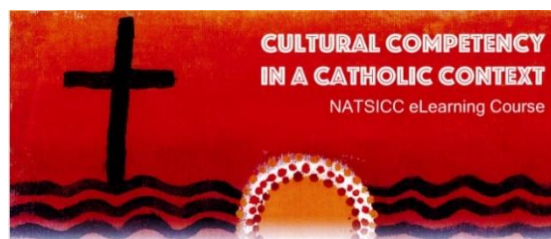
### PLENARY COUNCIL

CRA remains in discussion regarding matters



arising from the Plenary Council such as women in the Church and inclusion of the LGBTQIA+ community, as we reflect upon and review commitments made by the Plenary Council.

## PARTNERING WITH NATSICC TO LAUNCH CROSS CULTURAL COMPETENCY COURSE



CRA partnered with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) to launch an eCourse created by NATSICC, the *Cross Cultural Competency in a Catholic Context for CRA members*, in July 2022. The course was developed as a foundational course to help increase awareness about, and understanding of, Australia’s First Peoples and take us from acknowledgement and good intentions to concrete outcomes based on justice, equity, and the proper recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ rights. The course is available through the CRA website.

### WORKING WITH CATHOLIC CHURCH INSURANCE

CRA worked closely with Catholic Church Insurance to support members during the time of great change in the insurance environment for our Members. CRA played a leadership role in working with our Religious Institutes to investigate a block approach with a new broker to assist all interested Members, especially the smaller Religious Institutes.

### OTHERS

CRA has collaborated with many organisations over the past year, the purpose of which is to represent and publicly express the views and voice of Religious, in dialogue and negotiations with Church, Government and other agencies.

Other organisations with whom CRA has worked over the past year are listed in the diagram on page 28.



# ANIMATION & FORMATION

## EVENTS

- Health and Wellbeing Seminar: *Choose life then...Living with loss of sight, loss of hearing*, 17 May 2023
- *Mission - One Heart, Many Voices*, 3- 5 May 2023, national conference co-sponsored with Catholic Mission
- Online gathering for Temporary Professed Religious: *Our Synodal Journey - an opportunity to look at our Synodal journey and to share our experience of this*, 4 March 2023
- *Women, Leadership and the Synodal Process: Where to Now?* With Nathalie Becquart XMCJ 2 February 2023
- Online gathering for Temporary Professed Religious: *Human & Spiritual - Conversations around the vow of celibacy for Religious Life in 2022 and beyond*, 26 November 2022
- *Graced Crossroads with Ted Dunn*, 17 & 30 September 2022
- *Women Religious, Women Deacons* with Dr Phyllis Zagano, 15 September 2022
- *Navigating the New Normal* with Di Adamson, 7 September 2022
- National Assembly: *Daring to Lead with Hope and Gratitude – the role of Religious Life in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, 29 August- 1 September 2022

## RESOURCES

- Liturgical resources for National Day of Sorrow & Promise
- Webpages promoting Laudato Si' Action Platform; Synodality resources; World Day for Consecrated Life
- CRA Youtube channel updates with event videos, meeting videos and other resources
- Health and Wellbeing Resources published on CRA website
- 2022 CRA Annual Report
- Retreats and conference centres listed on CRA website
- Julian McDonald CFC provides ongoing assistance to Religious on a leadership level

## ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

- **eBulletin** – a weekly service for CRA Members including inter-congregational news, advertisements and employment opportunities
- **Pathways** – highlighting celebratory moments, institutional milestones and honouring the achievements of individual Religious such as Australia Day awards and Queen's Birthday Honours

## ENGAGEMENT WITH STATES

- QLD Ritual of Remembrance, 2 November 2022, honouring deceased Religious – *CRA supported*



NATHALIE BECQUART XMCJ SPEAKING ON WDCL



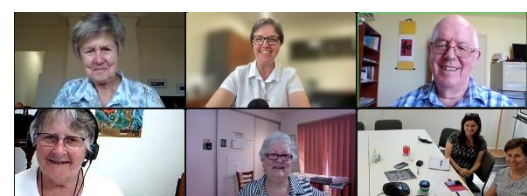
HEALTH AND WELLBEING SEMINAR: CHOOSE LIFE THEN...LIVING WITH LOSS OF SIGHT, LOSS OF HEARING



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY – NEW COUNCILLORS



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DINNER



FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PLANNING SESSION

- Victorian Networking Group – annual schedule of gathering – *CRA advertised*
- NSW Leadership Dinners – 25 October 2022, 28 March 2023

### MEDIA RELEASES

- *Australian Religious gather with Vatican high-ranking woman on World Day of Consecrated Life, 7 February 2023*
- *In Memoriam: Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, 31 December 2022*
- *A Statement from Catholic Religious Australia on the death of Queen Elizabeth II, 8 September 2022*



PHYLLIS ZAGANO,  
WOMEN RELIGIOUS,  
WOMEN DEACONS



DI ADAMSON,  
NAVIGATING THE  
NEW NORMAL

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

### EVENTS

- Safeguarding Community of Practice (CoP) meetings, online every two months
- Safeguarding CoP Seminar, 28 June 2023
- Stewardship Seminar: Director Responsibilities, 1 March 2023

### SAFEGUARDING

- Assisted with Member redress matters as they arose, eg. troubleshooting, apportionment issues
- 5<sup>th</sup> year of annual reporting to National Office of Children
- Responded to calls or letters regarding historical abuse
- Responded to Member queries about safeguarding and professional standards

### VARIOUS

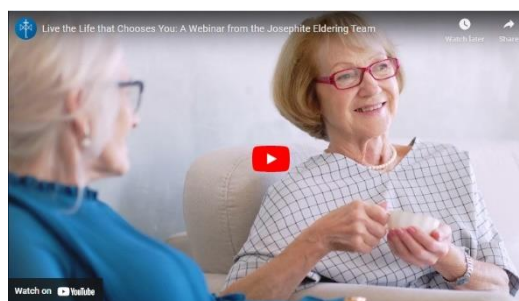
- Promoted Josephite Eldering Team resources and webinar on ‘Conscious Eldering’ through the CRA website
- Assisted with queries relating to ATO, ACNC, employment issues, stipends, aged care
- Promoted congregational sharing of resources and expertise, eg. help with finding aged care services, employment notices; finding premises and accommodation

### RESOURCES

- The CRA website resources: Stipends; eBulletin; Communique; Members-only site with Professional Standards templates, HR, finance, conduct standards, personnel lists (supervisors, facilitators, retreat programmes and centres)

### MEDIA RELEASES

- *Statement Regarding Catholic Church Insurance Ltd, 5 May 2023*



CONSCIOUS ELDERING VIDEO





# ADVOCACY & LEADERSHIP

## EVENTS

- National Justice Seminar: “Now is the Time!”, 19 October 2022
- National Day of Sorrow and Promise, 23 October 2022

## VARIOUS

- CRA has consulted with Victorian Government regarding involvement in the co-design process of its State Redress Scheme
- CRA has liaised with the Institute of Anthropology of the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome about supporting an internship opportunity in Australia for a Religious studying safeguarding
- CRA representatives appointed to six external entities
- CRA signs the ARRC multifaith open letter in response to climate change, September 2022
- CRA President letter to President of the Australian Catholic Bishops’ Conference inviting conversation about women’s rightful place within the ecclesial community, November 2022

## CRA SUBMISSIONS

- Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications regarding Greenwashing
- Select Committee on the Cost of Living
- Inquiry into *Fair Work Legislation Amendment (Secure Jobs, Better Pay) Bill 2022*
- Public Consultation draft *Crimes Legislation Amendment (Coercive) Bill 2022*
- ACRATH-CRA Submission to the MSA (*Modern Slavery Act*) Enquiry

## MEDIA RELEASES

- *Voice to Parliament – an Important Stepping Stone*, 14 March 2023
- *An end to temporary protection policy; a step in the right direction*, 13 February 2023
- *CRA Supports new Evacuation to Safety Bill*, 8 February 2023
- *CRA urges global leaders at COP15 to protect biodiversity*, 17 December 2022
- *CRA applauds major reforms to Australia’s environment laws*, 14 December 2022
- *CRA welcomes the passing of the Secure Jobs, Better Pay Bill*, 6 December 2022
- *CRA and ACRATH appeal to Government to strengthen Modern Slavery legislation*, 28 November 2022



NATIONAL JUSTICE SEMINAR: SPEAKERS: BRIGID ARTHUR CSB AO SHERRY BALCOMBE AND CATHY MGOWAN AO



NATIONAL JUSTICE SEMINAR: PETER O’NEILL SCC INTRODUCING STUDENT PANEL



NATIONAL JUSTICE SEMINAR: STUDENT PANEL & PARTICIPANTS



INSTITUTE OF ANTHROPOLOGY OF THE PONTIFICAL GREGORIAN UNIVERSITY, ROME

- *CRA welcomes increasing age for NSW State care to 21*, 16 November 2022
- *From good intentions to concrete outcomes: CRA partners with NATSICC to launch Cross Cultural Competency Course*, 2 November 2022
- *CRA supports action against domestic and family abuse*, 25 August 2022
- *Bound Together in Mission: Catholic Religious Australia (CRA) and the Association of Ministerial Public Juridic Persons (AMPJP) sign a Covenant document*, 27 July 2022



## RESOURCES

- *Restoring and Nurturing Right Relationships*, revised edition of formation guidelines, to be released August 2023
- Supporting Australia’s First Nation Peoples – resources published include links to Uluru Statement of the Heart, Aboriginal and Island Catholic Ministries, 2022 Garma Speech from Yingia Mark Guyula MLA (Mulka NT)
- Partnership with NATSICC to promote online Cross Cultural Competency Course for CRA Members

## PUBLICATIONS

- JUST NOW – quarterly publication focussing on ecological and social justice issues



# GOVERNANCE & OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

## EVENTS/PROJECTS

- Induction for members of CRA National Council & training for Secretariat regarding internal policies
- Statutes Review
- Election Process for new CRA National Council
- Compliance with legislative and financial requirements, eg annual external financial audits

## MEDIA RELEASES

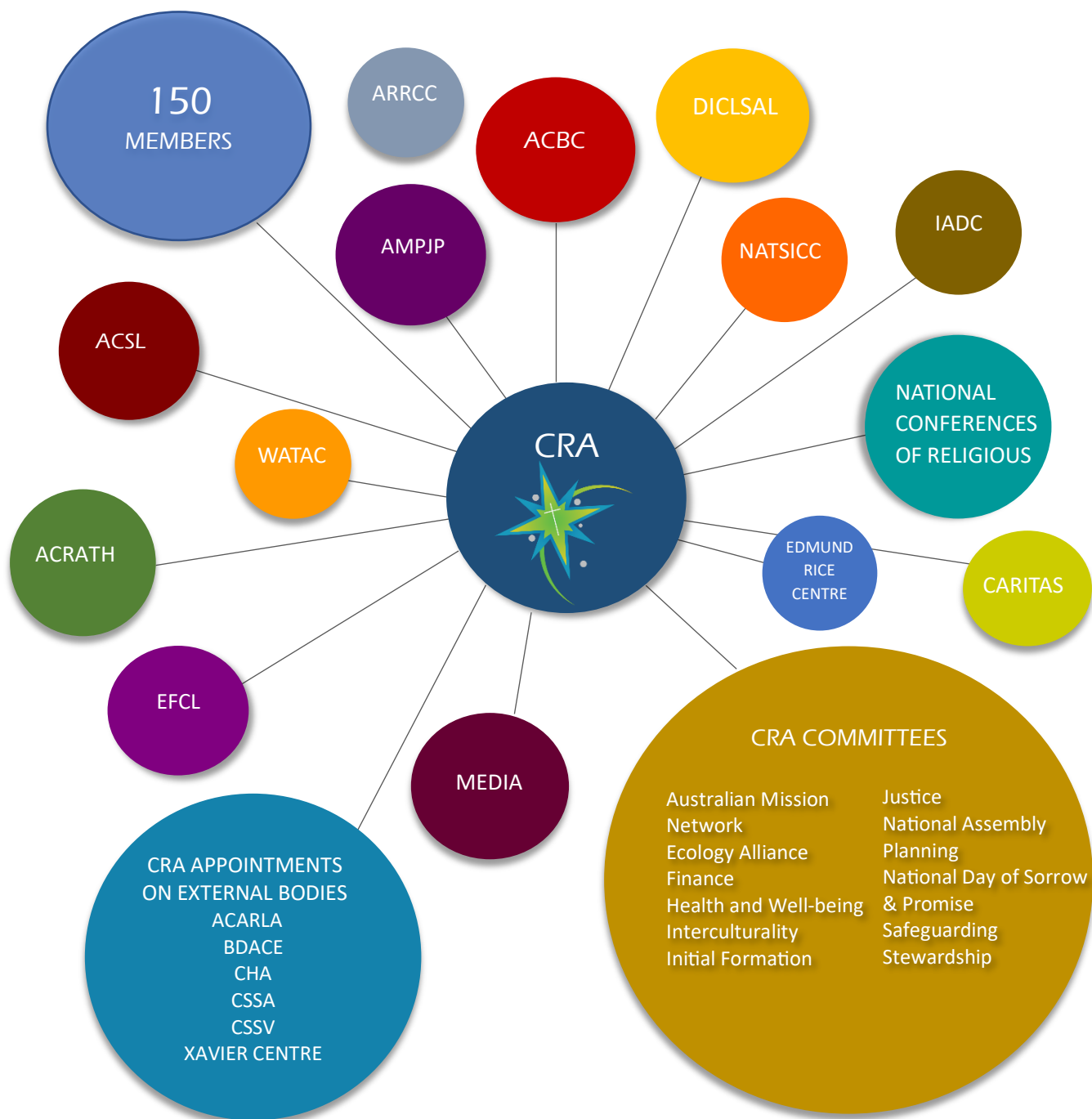
- *Catholic Religious Australia have elected a New President and Council Members*, 1 September 2022

## RESOURCES

- Members-only log-in section
- President’s Report/Communique – internal communication to Leaders after Council meetings



# 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
ACSL	Australian Catholic Safeguarding Limited
AMPJP	Association of Ministerial Public Juridic Persons
ARRCC	Australian Religious Response to Climate Change
BDACE	Biographical Dictionary of Australian Catholic Educators
CHA	Catholic Health Australia
CSSA	Catholic Social Services Australia

GLOSSARY OF TERMS	
CSSV	Catholic Social Services Victoria
DICLSAL	Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life
DPIHD	Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development
EFCL	Emerging Futures Collaborative Limited
IADC	Institute of Anthropology - Pontifical Gregorian University
NATSICC	National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Catholic Commission
WATAC	Women and the Australian Church
XAVIER	Xavier Centre for Theological Formation Advisory Council



# COMMITTEES REPORT

CRA Committees address specific themes and activities and exist thanks to the generosity of members of Religious Institutes and their lay colleagues.

Being a member of a CRA Committee enables Religious and Lay who share a passion for a particular aspect of the Church's mission to gather regularly to further the strategic vision of CRA, using their gifts and expertise for the assistance of Religious Institutes and their members. There is a strong sense of common purpose and collegiality amongst Committee members that makes their commitment and energy fruitful and nourishing.

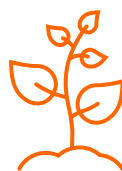
CRA Committees are established by the Council. They may arise from a proposal in Council or the Secretariat, or flow from the energy of a member or group of members experiencing a call to respond to an identified need, with the gifts to animate. A guiding question at the core of each Committee is how a discussion or activity assists Leaders in their task of leadership in their own communities and beyond. Below is a snapshot of examples of significant work achieved by some of the Committees in the past year.



## The **Australian Mission Network Committee (AMN)**

co-sponsors the Mission Conference *One Heart, Many Voices* with Catholic Mission, which attends to its organisation

while AMN provides input on speakers and topics. AMN encouraged the development of a Mission Community of Practice (MCoP) for mission practitioners around the country. The MCoP updates AMN on its progress annually. Under current consideration by AMN is the production of a digital document on Mission in the Australian context to offer a resource that explores the meaning of mission. Recently, AMN has realised its desire to include a youth voice by expanding its membership to include four younger people with links to various Catholic organisations including the Lasallian Mission Council. The freshness of their energy and ideas is palpable.



## The **Ecology Alliance Committee**

exists to network with Religious Institutes to further ecological awareness and

strategies for developing a sustainable future. Pope Francis' landmark encyclical *Laudato Si'* and its related global networking initiative is a tangible driver of the Committee. Committee members offer support and assistance with this platform. A number of Religious Congregations have made significant contributions in the field of ecology, and the Ecology Alliance Committee furthers the interchange between these, and similar networks, supporting resource-sharing among CRA members. The strategic focus of the Committee for this year is *Laudato Si'* Action Goal Six on Ecological Spirituality. Accordingly, two online seminars are planned for November 2023.



As in previous years, the **Finance Committee** has worked on strategic investment planning for CRA providing a solid foundation and providing advice on high-level financial issues.



An energetic group of animators make up the **Health and Well-being Committee**. Purposeful and experienced, the Committee has a track record of organising well-targeted, enriching seminars. ‘Navigating the new normal’, held in September 2022, provided participants an opportunity to understand and respond better to the ongoing stresses and tensions in their lives, particularly those related to COVID-19. “Choose life then: Living with Loss of Sight, Loss of Hearing”, held in May 2023, was an in-person seminar, for an audience of health and wellbeing leaders and carers for Religious. This seminar included several heart-felt testimonies from Lay and Religious who had experienced loss of sight and loss of hearing. Feedback from attendees indicated that the content and delivery of this seminar was very powerful and is expected to have a long-lasting impact on them. The next seminar will take place in Brisbane and will take up the important topic of quality care at the end of life.



The **Initial Formation Committee** is in its second year as a CRA Committee, which was established to support Temporary Professed Religious seeking to create stronger networking and formation opportunities. The Committee has a clear purpose and structure holding two groups in focus: Formators and Temporary Professed. The Committee holds regular formation forums with Temporary Professed Religious connecting online across

the nation and across countries that are incorporated in Australian Provinces and even beyond. Typically, these are attended by 30-40 people, around 70% of all Temporary Professed, and they explore topics such as the vow of chastity and what that means in today’s world. Formators have been served brilliantly by an online seminar series over four weeks, led by internationally recognised Religious Formator, Mary Pat Garvin RSM.



The **Interculturality Committee** has a backdrop of past achievements in producing educational video resources promoting a deeper cultural awareness. It is considering how to support Religious Institutes in this crucial area where intercultural challenges and opportunities are an ongoing reality for many Congregations, especially as many vocations come to our Religious Institutes from other cultures and provinces are expanding to include other countries.



Justice is a well-established priority for CRA. The **Justice Committee** has recently expanded its membership to seven people, including two with Aboriginal ancestry. Through the enterprise of the Committee, CRA delivered a well-attended, thought-provoking annual national Justice Seminar in October 2022, “Now is the Time.” It featured well-known justice animators addressing topics such as advocacy approaches and strategies (Cathy McGowan AO); a review of progress towards Aboriginal Treaty Making (Geraldine Atkinson); and a reflection on supporting asylum seekers and refugees (Brigid Arthur CSB). It also featured a climate change panel with local students moderated by Juliet Talarico of *Mercy Hub*. The 2023 Justice Seminar will focus on the *Uluru Statement from the Heart* and explore

issues in relation to constitutional change and an Indigenous Voice to Parliament, providing a platform for key speakers: Frank Brennan SJ, Rachel Perkins and Shireen Morris.



The **2023 National Assembly Planning Committee** is pleased to present another in-person Assembly and has followed last year's theme with a variation, 'Daring to Dream.' The Committee has selected three Religious and one First Nations presenter to unpack this theme, employing art, music, scripture and story-telling.



The purpose of the **2022 National Day of Sorrow and Promise Planning Committee** is to prepare the resources for the National Day of Sorrow and Promise each

year in a manner that reminds us to recognise all who have been harmed from abuse in the Church and to make a renewed commitment to a safer future through the implementation of safeguarding practices. Once again, the working group carried out its ministry with sensitivity, understanding and care (see safeguarding report for more information).



The **Safeguarding Committee** group is a valuable asset to CRA, meeting on an *ad hoc* basis. We are fortunate that it remains available for consultation on professional standards and safeguarding matters (see safeguarding report for more information).



The practical focus of the **Stewardship Committee** gives rise to clear goals and well-organised activities, such as assisting Religious Leaders to be adequately equipped to carry out their responsibilities and obligations in civil society. Josephine Heesh, partner at Carroll & O'Dea Lawyers, presented a highly successful online seminar on directors' duties, which was held in March 2023 with over 100 participants. The Committee is currently planning a further seminar addressing cyber security. The Stewardship Committee strives to assist Religious in keeping abreast with the essentials of relevant information relating, for example, to patrimony and Centrelink.

Over the past year, online Committee seminars have attracted registrants from Indonesia, Kiribati, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Timor-Leste, USA, and New Zealand, in addition to those from Australia.

#### HEALTH & WELL-BEING SEMINAR, MAY 2023





# With Thanks

We are grateful to Committee members for their expertise, energy and enthusiasm – their generous contributions further the work of CRA and bring many opportunities for enrichment to Religious across the country.

COMMITTEE	MEMBERS		
<b>Australian Mission Network</b> <b>Chair</b> Stancea Vichie MSS (acting) Marion Gambin RSJ (retired)	Albano Da Costa SVD Philippe Dulawan Maddy Forde Peter Gates Philippa Murphy FDNCS Asaeli Rass SVD Alison Ryan Catherine Simmonds Marilyn Bellett (retired) Grace Roclawska CSFN (retired)		
<b>Ecology Alliance Committee</b> <b>Chairs</b> Sue Martin Sally Neaves	Kelvin Barrett SSC Anne Boyd CSB Jane Collopy Luke Edwards Frances Maguire RSJ Jeffrey Regan CFC Beth Riolo		
<b>Health And Wellbeing Committee</b> <b>Chair</b> Antoinette Baldwin RSJ	Annette Coulthart Mary-Clare Holland OP Carolyn Hunt RSM Marie Mohr Paul O’Keeffe FSP Gabrielle Owen RSM David Hawke FSC (retired) Jacqueline Jones SJA (retired)	<b>Finance</b> <b>Chair</b> John Spillane Bernard Kenna (retired)	Josephine Dubiel RSJ Greg O’Brien Anne Walker (ex officio)
<b>Initial Formation Committee</b> <b>Chair</b> Marella Rebgetz SGS Mel Dwyer FdCC (retired)	Maria Bongiorno IBVM Ben Ho SSS Edna MacDonald FMA Erick Niyiragira CP Helen O’Connell CSFN Kathy Ryan RSM	<b>National Assembly Planning Committee</b> <b>Chair</b> Sylvia MacRitchie-Hook	Monica Cavanagh RSJ Ben Ho SSS Karon Donnellon RSM Sylvia MacRitchie-Hook Catherine Reuter RSM Anne Walker
<b>Interculturality Committee</b> <b>Chairs</b> Meg Kahler SGS Gaye Lennon RSM	Rita Apura CSFN (retired) Henry Adler SVD (retired) Melissa Dwyer FDCC (retired) Jenny Gerathy OP (retired) Peter Jones OSA (retired)	<b>National Day of Sorrow &amp; Promise</b> <b>Chair</b> Anne Walker	Vince Casey Tom McDonough CP Ann O’Brien James Parker Teresa Pirola Sylvia MacRitchie-Hook Anne Walker
<b>Interculturality Subcommittee</b> <b>Chairs</b> Gaye Lennon RSM and Jenny Gerathy OP (retired)	Paul O’Keeffe FSP Tom McDonough CP Bernadette Pattison PBVM	<b>Safeguarding Committee</b> <b>Chair</b> Anne Walker	Tracy Adams David Leary OFM Ambrose Payne FSC Jane Lace
<b>Justice Committee</b> <b>Chair</b> Sarah Menassa-Rose	Lisa Buxton Kevin Dance CP John Ferguson Melinda Jolly Anne McGuire RSM Peter O’Neill SSC	<b>Stewardship Committee</b> <b>Chair</b> Mary-Louise Groenewegen (acting) Kathleen Tierney RSM (retired)	Andrew Biddle Kathy Daini Campion Fernando Kathryn Yates Bernard Kenna (retired) Greg O’Brien (retired)

Stephen Middleton, CRA (*ex officio*) supports most committees

# SAFEGUARDING

CRA unreservedly expresses our sorrow for the pain and suffering that people have suffered through abuse and failures to respond appropriately to abuse in the Church. CRA supports its Members in the important work of embedding safeguarding practices and governance reforms throughout their communities. Action to address this takes the form of robust, preventative strategies in safeguarding, and ongoing work towards a necessary change of culture within our Church.

## NATIONAL DAY OF SORROW AND PROMISE

As a Church, it remains important to listen to the experiences of those who have been abused to ensure the lessons we are learning from this dark chapter in our history guide our actions into the future. We remember. We listen. We lament. We take action.

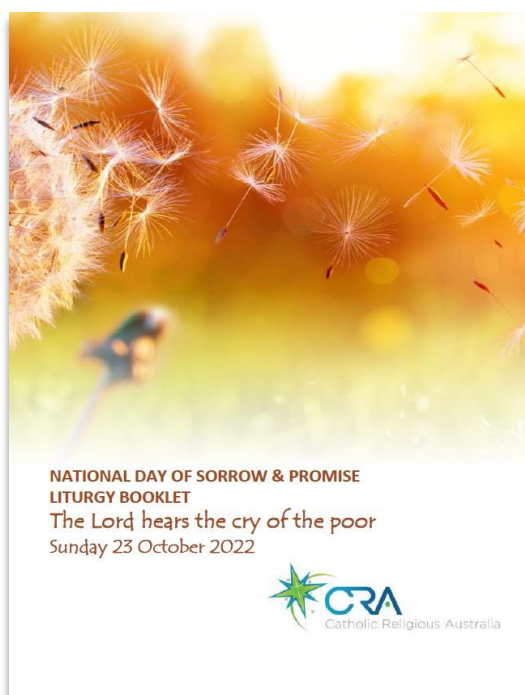
The annual CRA National Day of Sorrow and Promise is one of the many ways CRA is working to support our Church community to heal the wounds of abuse. A liturgical resource is produced each year to assist Members to gather locally in a way appropriate to the needs of their community. The resource

includes both traditional and creative elements of ritual prayer, with suggestions for scripture-based sharing such as Lectio Divina, music, silence and a renewal of their commitment to action.

The most recent CRA National Day of Sorrow and Promise was held on Sunday 23 October; the gift of *'listening'* was the theme – listening to the voice of God in many places: in those who have been abused, in 'the cry of the poor', in the Holy Spirit's movement within our own hearts, in the sacred texts of our faith tradition and in the world around us. A beautiful lament, "We Sing for Those Whose Song is Silent", was included courtesy of a recording by Maitland-Newcastle Diocese.

## PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE - EXTERNAL

CRA works collaboratively with Church and non-Church bodies towards a robust approach to safeguarding within our Church. As a peak body representing Catholic Religious Leaders, CRA is often a first point of contact for people who have been abused or for people who believe that they have not been heard. As part of the face of our multi-faceted Church, CRA responds with compassion and assists with navigating the various Church bodies, which can be challenging for those wishing to make a complaint.



## PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE - INTERNAL

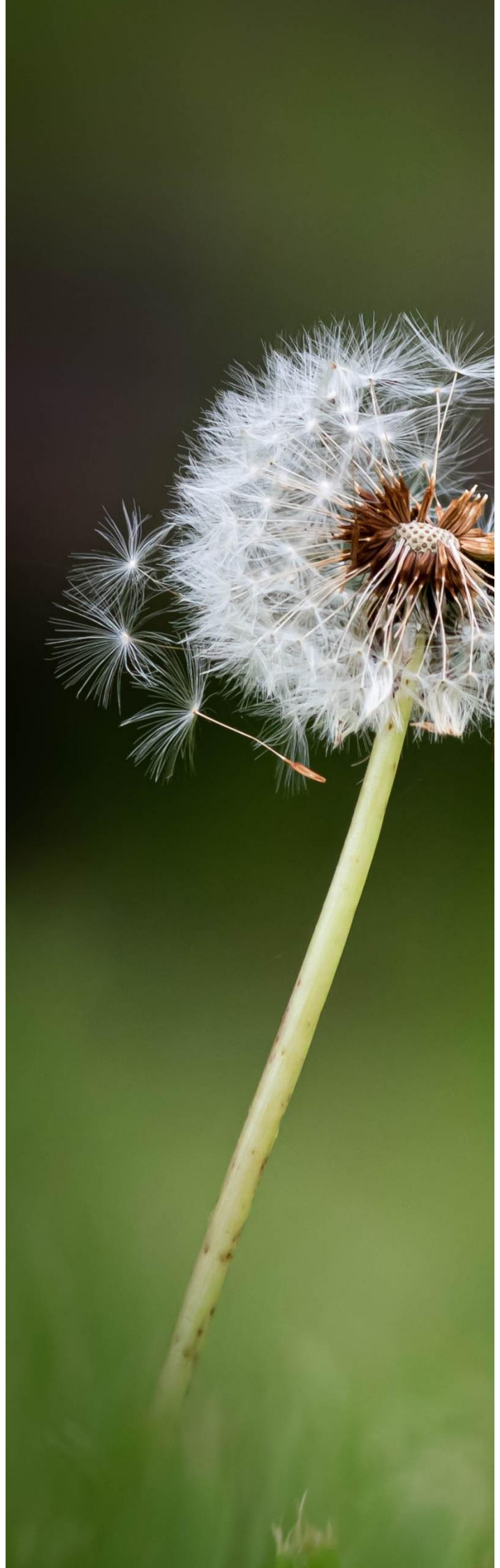
Religious Institutes approach CRA with their enquiries about safeguarding and professional standards on a wide range of topics and meet regularly with Members to provide one-on-one assistance. This covers a range of areas from compliance, redress, civil litigation, safeguarding strategies, application of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS) and responses to allegations.

In the past year, CRA has provided various safeguarding resources, such as updated model safeguarding documents in compliance with the recent Edition 2 of the NCSS. In forthcoming months, in consultation with Australian Catholic Safeguarding Limited (ACSL), CRA will be reviewing how the risk approach will apply to the new Standards.

When Pope Francis issued an updated version of *Vos Estis Lux Mundi* earlier this year, CRA provided detailed advice to our Members about changes from the 2019 version. The Pope has called for these procedures to be “universally adopted to prevent and combat these crimes that betray the trust of the faithful,” with responsibility falling not only on bishops, but all those who “assume ministries in the church, or profess the evangelical counsels, or are called to serve the Christian People.”

## CRA SAFEGUARDING COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

CRA’s Safeguarding Community of Practice (CoP) continues to be a significant group in the life of CRA, meeting bi-monthly and dedicated to those Leaders and practitioners working in safeguarding. The meetings are a source of information, discussion, exploration of common issues, sharing of resources, expertise and connection.





Over the last year, the group has discussed, and provided feedback to ASCL, on the NCSS, the Australian Catholic Formation Register, 'A Common Mission' and the ACSL risk approach. The CoP has discussed the National Redress Scheme and the proposed Victorian Redress Scheme and considered tailoring online safeguarding training for the Religious Institutes for whom its members work.

CoP members are invited to give informal presentations on projects in which they are involved. As an example, the Good Samaritans gave an inspiring and hope-filled presentation on strengthening the culture of safeguarding in overseas ministries, particularly in Kiribati and the Philippines. These presentations reflect the significant commitment and expertise in safeguarding in our Religious Institutes.

The first in-person safeguarding CoP meeting was held in Melbourne in June (*pictured below*). Recognising the significant impact that safeguarding has on Leaders and practitioners,

the focus of the day was on self-care and Canon Law in relation to safeguarding. It also provided an opportunity to discuss issues particular to male and female Religious Institutes. Social time allowed for inter-congregational connections to be made amongst peers.

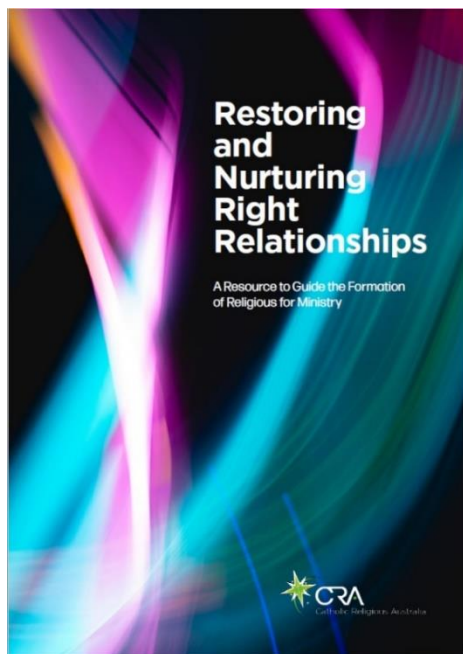
### **FIVE-YEAR REPORT IN RESPONSE TO THE ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS**

In August 2018, the ACBC and CRA released a response to each Royal Commission Recommendation which related to the Church. It was decided that a high-level update of action taken in respect of each recommendation should be provided on the anniversary of the initial response. While the proposed response does not purport to capture details of the extensive work that has been undertaken by Religious Institutes and other Catholic organisations across the country, it does reflect the seriousness with



which the Australian Catholic Church has approached each Recommendation. Related work has been undertaken in the preparation of the joint ACBC-CRA Frameworks to support Recommendations.

## RESTORING AND NURTURING RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS



Initially drafted in 2016, *'Nurturing Right Relationships: a Resource to Guide the Formation of Religious for Ministry'* was recognised as a significant document. It has been updated over the last year in light of new learnings, practices and the Royal Commission Recommendations. The 2023 document, *Restoring and Nurturing Right Relationships*, outlines formation guidelines in which we "acknowledge and face our past and present, with lessons to be learned and work still to be done. It is about that ancient and yet perennial theological and psychological truth: Grace (theology) and Growth (psychology) happen as we set ourselves on the path of restoring and nurturing right relationships." While we believe that this is an authoritative guide to assist in the development of formation in post-Royal Commission times, and a resource which provides a vision that can lead to significant reforms and widespread cultural and

attitudinal change, it will always be open to further review and improvement.

We are grateful to the lead author, David Leary OFM and also Megan Brock RSJ, Anne Walker and Emma Carolan from CRA, for their wisdom and expertise in giving life in a new way to such an important document for Religious Institutes.

## AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC SAFEGUARDING LIMITED

CRA continues to advocate for NCSS which safeguards children and adults at risk, and has provided detailed feedback to ACSL for Edition 2 of the Standards. CRA also advocated on behalf of our Members for amendments to the Standards which are appropriate for Religious Institutes. As an advocate for a safe Church and for its Members, CRA has continued to work with ACSL to achieve an audit/review process which is commensurate with the level of risk in a Religious Institute and takes into consideration its ministries, size, structures and safeguarding responses. To assist in discussions about the ACSL proposed Subscriber Model, CRA designed a member survey to gather data relating to Religious working with children and working formally with adults at risk, to ascertain the levels of risk within our Religious Institutes as a collective. We received responses from 70% of our Members, which reflects the high level of engagement of our Religious Institutes with safeguarding issues.

## CRA SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

The CRA Safeguarding Committee continues to be available as a reference group and 'brains trust' for safeguarding issues and concerns for CRA. In the past year, it met to discuss the joint 5-year ACBC-CRA response to the Royal Commission Recommendations and a review of the 2016 version of *Nurturing Right Relationships*.

## REDRESS SCHEMES – NATIONAL AND STATE

When the Victorian government announced a plan to introduce a Redress Scheme for those who experienced abuse or neglect in out of home care, CRA promptly gathered interested Members to discuss the involvement of CRA and our Religious Institutes in the co-design of this Scheme.

CRA and Robyn Davis from ISMAPNG consulted with the Victorian Government regarding its involvement in the co-design process. It has discussed several issues relating to the proposed Scheme, based on the experience of Religious Institutes with the National Redress Scheme.

After changes to the National Redress Scheme were announced by the Australian Government, CRA provided an outline to members of changes that may particularly impact Religious Institutes. CRA also reported that unfortunately, submissions to the Kruk Review seeking a change to the law relating to protected disclosures was not accepted, nor was our submission seeking a right of review of the decisions made by the National Redress Scheme.

CRA continues to advocate for Religious Institutes to the National Redress Scheme, with some success in numerous individual cases, as well as across policy responses to decision-making within the Scheme.

## APPORTIONMENT OF LIABILITY DOCUMENT

At the request of CRA, the ACBC agreed on a joint working party to draft a document regarding apportionment of liability when more than one Catholic entity is involved or have been joined in proceedings. The ACBC and CRA agreed on a document outlining principles to achieve a just, fair and equitable apportionment of professional standards liabilities.

## WORKING TO SUPPORT GLOBAL SAFEGUARDING INITIATIVES THROUGH THE INSTITUTE OF ANTHROPOLOGY OF THE PONTIFICAL GREGORIAN UNIVERSITY



PETER CARROLL FMS, CLAIRE PIROLA (CHAIR, BRIGIDINE SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE), ANNE WALKER, HANS ZOLLNER SJ

CRA has been liaising with the Institute of Anthropology of the Pontifical Gregorian University (IADC) about supporting an internship opportunity in Australia for a Religious studying safeguarding to acquire practical competencies. Working with Michael Elphick, who supports the Scalabrinians and Columbans, CRA is supporting the IADC through placement of a student in Religious Institutes to find a programme of experiences across both religious entities and diocesan safeguarding teams. Such an exchange with the IADC would be a positive contribution from Australian Religious Institutes to the global safeguarding ministry of the Church, allowing them to share their learnings, experience and wisdom in safeguarding.





# RELIGIOUS LIFE AROUND THE STATES

State networking among Religious continues in a variety of ways according to the needs discerned by local leaders. While some States feature highly organised programmes, others prefer a less formal arrangement. CRA recognises and affirms the unique story of each State's religious network and its particular gifts and challenges. The CRA Secretariat offers administrative support to state events as requested.

## NEW SOUTH WALES

Mary-Louise Petro RSM reflects on the value of religious networking, saying that the atmosphere of goodwill and supportive conversation was palpable at the NSW Leadership Dinners. After all the COVID-19 restrictions, people were so pleased to be together, to be able to see the whole person and not just their 'head and shoulders' on a zoom screen.

Mary-Louise notes that amidst all the present-day challenges, the gift today seems to lie in the growing need and intensity whereby Religious Leaders come together in safe spaces to discuss the difficulties and opportunities of leadership. Whether they are talking about safeguarding or intercultural issues or planning for the future, being connected with other Leaders is a saving grace. Congregational Leaders often rely heavily on lay and religious advocates through the CRA network; people with an eye on the big picture and whose expertise can help. She continues, "And we rely on each other — Congregational Leaders truly care about one another." Many congregations have a similar trajectory of ageing and future leadership challenges and Leaders accompany their community in facing this reality, but they also celebrate their legacy and continue to explore what their charism means today and how it may evolve into the future.

## VICTORIA

The Victorian Religious Network meets regularly to discuss current issues. Recently, it unpacked key themes regarding an Indigenous Voice to Parliament to assist Leaders to empower their communities with a better understanding of issues relating to the Voice



HELEN-ANNE JOHNSON RSJ AT MUM'S COTTAGE WITH VOLUNTEERS, NEWCASTLE, NSW. PHOTO: AURORA



SISTERS OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH, NSW



VICTORIAN NETWORKING GROUP DINNER, VIC

Referendum. The networking group also reflected on the Plenary Council, proposing a letter to CRA Council for the ACBC addressing concerns about women and leadership. Discussion of religious life in transition shone a light on the personal impact felt by those Leaders who are guiding their communities through congregational challenges of diminishment, loss and conclusion.

Julianna Drobik OP highlighted the much-appreciated social component which is also integrated into the regular gatherings. A Victorian initiative of pastoral care and group pastoral supervision for Religious continues to thrive, as does the Remembrance Ritual for deceased community members. The annual meeting between the network and the Victorian Bishops took place in 2022 to discuss matters of mutual interest.

### QUEENSLAND

The Religious of Qld Network (RoQ) is an informal network of Congregational Leaders and/or representatives of Religious Institutes who are based in Queensland. It holds 3-4 gatherings each year, with an agenda encompassing local and national topics.

Catherine Reuter RSM reports that there is good representation of male and female Religious Institutes, along with new institutes in the Archdiocese, and excellent support from the Vicar for Religious.

The RoQ Network is grateful to be able to facilitate a small grants process for social justice projects in Queensland, on behalf of the Brisbane Archdiocesan Development Fund. Memorable aspects of the past year are the collaborative processes that surrounded the final allocation of grants, as well as a heartfelt celebration of the November Liturgy of Remembrance for deceased Religious.

Continuing challenges include the engagement of members in the network, informally and formally, given the decrease in numbers of Religious. The reliance on network members for funding of events has worked well to this point, however there is also an appreciation of the secretarial support provided by the Queensland Presentation Sisters at the local level and by the CRA Secretariat.



VIC NETWORKING GROUP AT TARRAWARRA ABBEY, VIC



VIC NETWORKING GROUP DINNER, VIC



QLD RITUAL OF REMEMBRANCE, QLD



CANOSSIAN SISTERS, QLD



Catherine notes that, the hope for the year ahead is that RoQ remains a welcoming and inclusive network for Religious Institute Leaders and representatives, and that informal gatherings with the Bishops of Queensland continue to occur, with fruitful and challenging conversations for all involved.

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Catholic Religious South Australia (CRSA) is a small but supportive and active network comprising two Congregational Leaders based in SA, with others who represent their Congregations in South Australia as their leadership teams are located elsewhere. Bernadette Kiley OP reports that their oldest member, Carmelite Sister Alice Foley OCD, celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in December last year and that they were delighted to join her to mark this amazing milestone.

Over the past year, CRSA was able to offer modest financial assistance to the SA Justice for Refugees network so that its members could advocate more strongly for refugees at risk. Members continue to be involved in wider Church activities, including the Assembly of the Archdiocese of Adelaide held in September 2022 and CRA events.

A highly successful gathering for Religious in SA took place in November 2022, exploring the theme of interculturality. A panel comprised of four Religious who have come to Australia from elsewhere in the world shared their experiences, with words of advice and encouragement for Anglo-Celtic Religious who seek to understand cultures different from their own. Archbishop Patrick O'Regan (Adelaide) joined the conversation and Bishop Karol Kulczycki SDS (Port Pirie) was on the panel.

### WESTERN AUSTRALIA

At an Annual Gathering of Religious in Western Australia, deceased members of Congregations were prayed for in a beautifully prepared ritual of remembrance. Religious in WA also celebrated World Day of Consecrated Life with a Mass and social gathering as significant milestones were celebrated, including 25, 50, 60 and 70 years and more of Religious profession.

In July 2022, three Congregational Leaders in WA attended the Second Assembly of the Plenary Council in Sydney.



ALICE FOLEY OCD, A MEMBER OF SA NETWORKING GROUP



DES HOWARD SM, TAKING UP NEW MINISTRIES AT 80, SA PHOTO: THE SOUTHERN CROSS



MASS FOR DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE, WA PHOTO: MICHELLE TAN



MARY RYAN OP CELEBRATES JUBILEE, WA PHOTO: MICHELLE TAN



Following the Assembly, the three religious women joined with the other four female Plenary Council members from WA, in presenting their impressions and hopes for the future of the Catholic Church in Australia at a Perth gathering of over 50 people.

Mary Ryan OP noted that in the coming year, those involved in safeguarding expect to continue the hard work of dealing with responses to sexual and other abuse, both for Redress and civil actions. There needs to be ongoing conversation with ACSL about appropriate safeguarding Standards for small Congregations where most are retired. Mary remarked that they are very grateful for the advocacy provided by CRA staff and in particular, the work done by Anne Walker. Another issue in the year ahead is managing archives for Western Australian Congregations and negotiating with the Catholic Archdiocese of Perth about housing them when there are no longer Sisters in WA. This has been well advocated by Isobel Moran SJG. Several Congregations in WA are working with EFCL to plan for the future leadership and management of day-to-day issues, while others are considering different ways.

### TASMANIA

Religious in Tasmania are invited and welcomed to join the Victorian networking group because of the demographics, there were no formal networking activities held during the past year.



MASS FOR THE DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE, WA  
PHOTO: MICHELLE TAN



MINISTRY OF LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR, NSW



MISSIONARIES OF GOD'S LOVE SISTERS, ACT



PATRICIAN BROTHERS GATHERED WITH STAFF AT ALL SAINTS COLLEGE, MAITLAND AS THEIR COMMUNITY CELEBRATED 140 YEARS OF MINISTRY IN AUSTRALIA. PHOTO: MNNEWS.TODAY

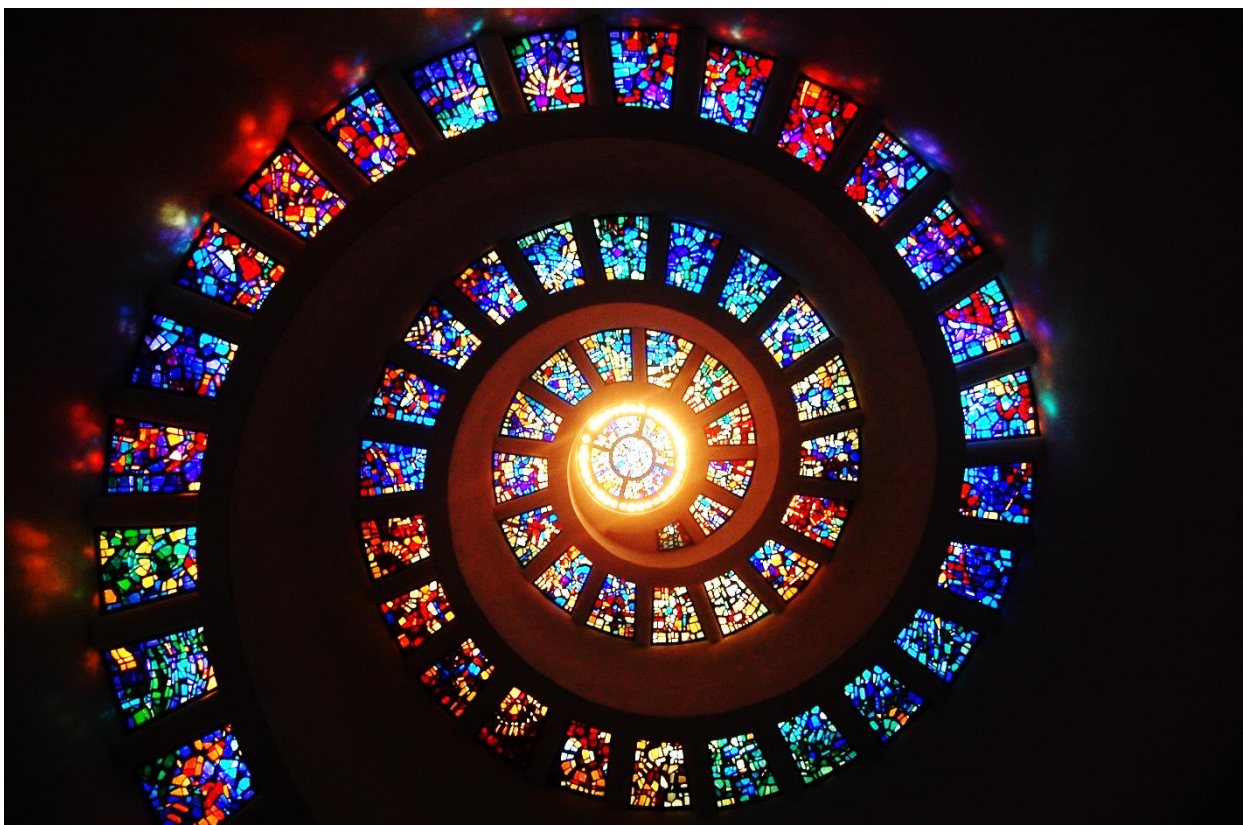
# EXTERNAL REPORTS

With their vocational, professional and ministerial experience, Religious bring an important voice and presence to myriad aspects of Church life beyond the immediate circles of their own Congregations. For this reason, CRA has representatives who are part of the governance of several Church organisations dealing with issues such as health, welfare, education and mission. We are very grateful to each of our CRA representatives for extending the wisdom of Religious across these important bodies.

At the **Advisory Council for Anglican Religious Life in Australia (ACARLA)**, Jill Harding FCS brings her experience to the work of a committee that advises the Bishops Conference of the Anglican Church in Australia. ACARLA facilitates communication between 15 Anglican religious communities, comprised of various forms of consecrated living, and supports local initiatives in the promotion of the religious vocation. Drawing on her insights

into Catholic religious life and CRA, Jill shares with her Anglican counterparts relevant information arising from initiatives such as safeguarding, Religious Institutes moving to completion, archives, as well as from her experience of responding to various challenges and relocation of ministry.

At Australian Catholic University, first, Kristin Johnston RSJ and now, Caroline Ryan RSM, sits on the Advisory Board that drives the project titled the **Biographical Dictionary of Australian Catholic Educators (BDACE)**, which was officially launched on 20 July 2022. BDACE details the lives and work of Religious who have made a significant contribution to Australian Catholic education for the past 200 hundred years through to the present. Over the past year, Kristin and Caroline have seen the enthusiastic endorsement of an internship model, introduced to enable honours students to be linked to an archivist to support research for the BDACE project. In this way, the goals of



"WE ALL BECOME DOORS AND WINDOWS THROUGH WHICH GOD SHINES BACK INTO HIS OWN HOUSE."  
THOMAS MERTON



BDACE are progressed while allowing students to gain credit in their academic programme for their work with BDACE.

In another educational venture, also located at Australian Catholic University, Helga Neidhart RSC is CRA's representative to the **Xavier Centre for Theological Formation Advisory Council**, where she says she observes the excellence of the people gathered, the breadth of the work of the committee and the relevance of the courses they run.

Karon Donnellon RSM joined the Board of **Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA)** at the end of 2022. Karon observes that each of the member agencies is dealing with unprecedented demands on services and resources yet continue to advocate and speak for those they serve with courage and determination. Karon expresses her delight in being able to bring her gifts and experience to her role as CRA representative and her hope that, under the CSSA banner, a concerted effort can bring this voice to those who hold authority and power in the political, social and economic areas of Australia. "Our country and perhaps, indeed, our world is in need of strong leadership that offers a values compass and, for CSSA, a values compass with a faith centre," she says.

At **Catholic Social Services Victoria (CSSV)**, Nicole Rotaru RSM reports that CSSV's work is empowering the local community to actively seek deeper understanding of what a constitutionally enshrined Voice to Parliament would mean. It has co-launched the most recent book by Frank Brennan SJ, *An Indigenous Voice to Parliament* (Garratt, 2023), as well as issuing a statement *Relentlessly Pursuing Reconciliation*, which can be adopted or adapted by local agencies who are part of CSSV. At last year's election, CSSV made practical efforts to ensure that those campaigning met face-to-face with local people facing hardship, especially in rural Victoria, to hear their

concerns and to speak about what they as government representatives might offer in response to local community needs and struggles.

At **Catholic Health Australia (CHA)**, Clare Nolan RSC reports that it has been a difficult and busy year. Financial pressures, the impact of COVID-19, thin labour markets, a rapidly ageing population, and the growth in chronic and mental illness, are all taking their toll on the aged care sector and the work of hospitals. In this context, CHA's work to improve operating and regulatory environments and find new and better ways for Catholic providers to collaborate, is as important as ever. CHA has advocated on the practical implementation of aged care royal commission recommendations, the introduction of the new AN-ACC funding system, and workforce reform. In the Health space, CHA has advocated on prostheses reform, critical infrastructure, and reform options for the hospital sector. In Mission, CHA has advocated against the rollout of voluntary assisted dying schemes in multiple jurisdictions, as well as having worked towards the publication of a revised code of ethical standards for the sector. In August 2022, CHA held its national conference for more than 300 leaders from the Catholic health and aged care sector. Following the conference, the sector resolved to discern the future of the Catholic ministry of healing. Following an amendment to their constitution, CHA has welcomed a non-Catholic member as its most recent member of CHA.







Level 1, 9 Mount Street, North Sydney NSW 2060

Ph: +61 2 9557 2695

[www.catholicreligious.org.au](http://www.catholicreligious.org.au)