

National Council of Churches in Australia

2021–2022

ANNUAL REVIEW



National Council of
Churches in Australia

CONTENTS

3 PRESIDENT'S REFLECTION

- The household of God

4 FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- Serving 'the least the lost and the last'.

5 GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

- Strategic Directions
- Focus areas
- BASIS
- NCCA Board

6 ENCOURAGING RELATIONSHIPS

- National Church Leaders
- Member Engagement

7 COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT

- Our Engagement
- Assemblies and Roundtables

8 CONNECTION & FELLOWSHIP

- Our Prayers
- Ecumenical participation

9 ECUMENICAL ADVOCACY

- ACRT
- Act for Peace

10 WITNESSING TOGETHER

- Act for Peace

11 ECUMENICAL ADVOCACY

- First Nations
- ATSI Development Funds
- Martung Upah Appeal

12 WITNESSING TOGETHER

- Faith and Unity Commission
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

13 SUPPORT & PARTICIPATION

- Safe Church Program
- Pacific Church Networks

14 ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS

- Australian Ecumenical Network
- Intercultural
- Interfaith

15 NCCA FUNDS

- Glenburnie Program
- Ronald Wilson Ecumenical Fund

NCCA PRAYER

*God of life, unity and peace,
you have called us to be your people.
Bring us to closer unity with you
within the household of your Church.
Direct our steps as we journey
In the National Council of Churches
in Australia,
that we may become what you have
called us to be;
and that together we may walk
in newness of life:
new and old, east and west,
indigenous and all
who have gathered in this land
from the corners of the earth.
We ask this in the name of Jesus
and through the grace and communion
of the Holy Spirit. Amen*

National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA) was formed in 1994 as an unincorporated association, succeeding the Australian Council of Churches established in 1948.

NCCA was incorporated in June 2016 as a company limited by guarantee and has 18 member churches:

Anglican Church,
Antiochian Orthodox Church,
Armenian Apostolic Church,
Assyrian Church of the East,
Chinese Methodist Church,
Churches of Christ,
Congregational Federation,
Coptic Orthodox Church,
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese,
Indian Orthodox Church,
Lutheran Church,
Mar Thoma Church,
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers),
Roman Catholic Church,
Romanian Orthodox Church,
Syrian Orthodox Church,
The Salvation Army, and the
Uniting Church in Australia.

PRESIDENT'S REFLECTION

The life of the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA) in any one year is hard to describe. This review gives an oversight of the various activities of the Council.

We are a small body with a surprising number of elements and activities. At its heart the Council seeks to express the unity that exists among the churches and to do so in the Australian community in ways that affirms relationships, takes matters that are before us seriously and expresses a gracious witness to our common faith.

Our approach flows from our understanding of what it means to be ecumenical. This word 'ecumenical' is derived from the Greek word: 'oikumene' and at the heart of this is 'oikos' which can be translated as "house," "family," "people," or "nation". Oikumene, then, in its fullest use means the whole inhabited earth or the household of all on earth.

We do not use the word 'household' all that frequently. In scripture a household is an inclusive concept – people (both slaves and free), including animals and possessions. There was an assumed diligence in caring for the household and an assumption that households were not chaotic and had rules (codes) and order. All members relied on the functioning of the household for their well-being.

In decades past the concept of us living in a global village was common. Maybe we can extend this and think of ourselves as belonging in a global household.

One implication of thinking in this way is that we are all responsible for each other and for our individual and collective well-being. Individualism is not present in a household. The well-being of one is connected to the well-being of all. A household is inclusive, and through the life of the household all benefit.



World Council of Churches plaque, 1st Assembly, 1948.



So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

(Galatians 6: 10 NRSV)

Exploring what it means to be ecumenical in this sense takes into a focus on about all those matters that impact on the household. As we reflect on the life of the NCCA, and this year in review we can see our activities in the household of Australia and by extension our participation in the global household of God.

In the following pages, the works of Act for Peace, investing with Australia's First Peoples in the Journey from the Heart, the Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce, the Safe Church Program, the Pacific Church Partnership Advisory Network, listening to people of other faiths, advocating for people and communities that are marginalised, caring for creation and the finite resources of our environment, building relationships with governments and strengthening our connections with, and appreciation of each other, are some of our 'household' activities.

In every household not everything works well and not everything is tidy. This is true for the ecumenical movement and for the NCCA. There is more we want to do and some parts of our work that we wish were better and more effective.

Together as members of the household of God, the 'oikumene', we pray, encourage and support each other in our ecumenical life together.

Rev John Gilmore
NCCA President

GENERAL SECRETARY



Above: Liz Stone (front right) with Leaders of Australia's major religious organisations after signing the Joint Resolution of support for the Statement from the Heart.

In the lead up to the 11th General Assembly of the World Council of Churches in August 2022, we were encouraged to reflect on the assembly theme: 'Christ's love moves the world to reconciliation and unity'. The theme speaks into this time in Australia and our churches; that Christ's love moves us to reconciliation and unity. Moreover we know that Christ's love impels us. (2 Cor 5:14)

A visible expression of our movement to reconciliation and unity as loved members of the body of Christ is our engagement with the First Peoples of Australia. They are requesting our support for the realisation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart. For the healing of our nation we are committed to journey with them as churches and in our walking and talking acknowledge the intergenerational trauma, discrimination and racism that our First Peoples bear disproportionately. NCCA will continue to work with our Indigenous Christian leaders on the journey to Voice, Treaty and Truth.

On the fifth anniversary of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, 27 May 2022, leaders of Australia's major religious organisations signed a Joint Resolution of support for the Statement from the Heart. Present at Barangaroo in Sydney were leaders from Buddhist, Hindu, Sikh, Muslim, and Jewish organisations and Anglican, Catholic, Uniting Churches and the NCCA.

This public gesture was not just symbolic. The Joint Resolution is a statement of intentional action signalling our support for the coming referendum on the Voice to Parliament with education and opening our spaces for discussion and listening.

The NCCA's advocacy and support for people seeking refuge and protection in Australia is another important outreach that continues with the Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce. This is also a movement impelled by Christ's love to support our communities to be welcoming, compassionate, generous, hospitable with those living with visa uncertainty and distress in our midst.

May the love of Christ impel us to continue to serve 'the least the lost and the last'.

Liz Stone

NCCA General Secretary



Above: The signed Joint Resolution of support for the Statement from the Heart.

NCCA LTD BOARD

The NCCA Ltd Board met virtually in July and October 2021 and then again in March, April and June 2022.
As at 30 June 2022, NCCA Directors were:



NCCA President
Rev John Gilmore
Churches of Christ in Australia



Rob Floyd
Uniting Church in Australia



Anne Hywood
Anglican Church of Australia



Geoff Officer
Catholic Church in Australia



Thomas Ling
Chinese Methodist Church in Australia



V Rev Fr Abanoub Attalla
Coptic Orthodox Church



Fr Anastasios Bozikis
Greek Orthodox
Archdiocese of Australia



Ann Zubrick
Religious Society of Friends Australia
(Quakers)

BASIS

National Council of Churches in Australia gathers together in pilgrimage those Churches and Christian communities which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures and commit themselves:

- (i) to deepen their relationship with each other in order to express more visibly the unity willed by Christ for his Church, and
- ii) to work together toward the fulfilment of their mission of common witness, proclamation and service, to the glory of One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

2019 – 2022



Encouraging relationships



Connection and fellowship



Witnessing together



Enabling and resourcing

FOCUS AREAS

A

Building stronger relationships with members, key partners & the public

B

Coordinating member networks for mutual support & participation

C

Being a prophetic voice in society and to one another

D

Ensuring a strong, sustainable & relevant organisation

NATIONAL CHURCH LEADERS

The NCCA General Secretary facilitates meetings of National Church Leaders.

These meetings are for support, getting to know one another and topical discussion.

National Church Leaders meet online, three times a year.

Senator Deborah O'Neil joined the meeting on 15 June 2022 to discuss the priorities of the incoming Federal Government.

FAREWELL

Lutheran Church of Australia



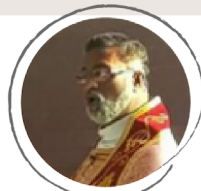
Bishop
John Henderson

WELCOME

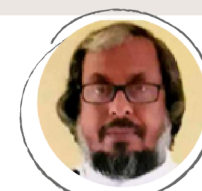


Bishop Paul Smith

Mar Thoma Church



Rev Nixon Daniel



Rev Eapen Mathew

Catholic Church in Australia



Archbishop
Mark Coleridge



Archbishop
Timothy Costelloe

Religious Society of Friends Australia (Quakers)



Ann Zubrick



Bruce Henry

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

NCCA PARTICIPATED IN:

Bishop Bartholomew's ordination

Greek Orthodox Church

Sunday, 21st November 2021



Reception with Catholicos-Patriarch

HH Mar Awa III

Assyrian Church of the East May 2022



Fifth Plenary Council

Catholic Church in Australia

President, Rev John Gilmore attended as an Ecumenical observer

Below: With Cardinal John Dew of New Zealand



Ecumenical Dinner

Catholic Church in Australia Plenary Council

President, Rev John Gilmore and General Secretary Liz Stone attended



OUR ENGAGEMENT

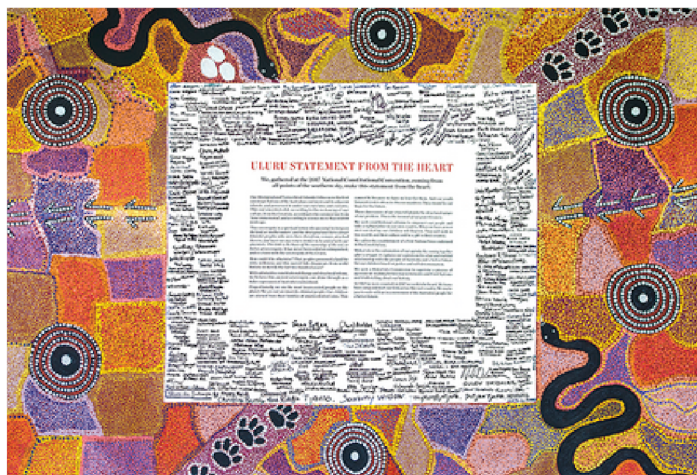
NCCA ASSEMBLIES & ROUNDTABLES

Assembly Roundtable

Engaging with the 'Uluru Statement from the Heart'

How can Australian Churches hold and energise 'The Statement from the Heart'?

29 July 2021



"We as the Australian Christian community following in the footsteps of Jesus are called to be sensitive, courageous and prophetic. This leads us into listening without judgement, compassion without limit and confession for the pain and trauma so many live with."

"Together we pray for real change and maybe we need a response to the Statement from the Heart that says we hear, we care, and we want deep and lasting change."

Rev John Gilmore, NCCA President

NCCA Assembly

Ecumenical Dialogue

Where are we at with dialogues as the 'heart' of Ecumenism?

28 October 2021

AGM Presentation

Spiritual Ecumenism

27 October 2021

Presenter:

Dr Antonia Pizzey

Lecturer, School of Theology

Australian Catholic University



Talanoa:

Update from Pacific Conference of Churches with PCC General

Secretary, Rev James Bhagwan

27 May 2022



Above: Rev James Bhagwan pictured with Rev Dr Matagi Vilitama (UCA) and right, delivering his address.



NCCA HELD

online Ecumenical Prayer Services

- Season of Creation
'Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor'
10 October 2021
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
2 June 2022



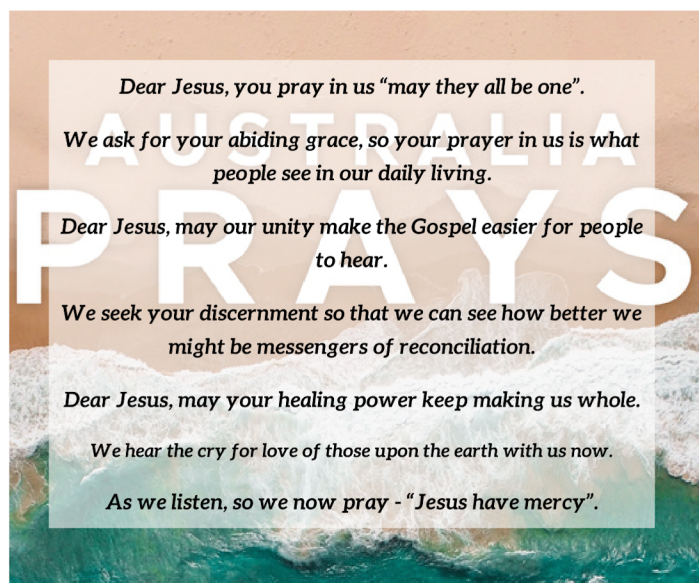
OUR PRAYERS

National Day of Prayer

The Church Together in Prayer - 'Lord Have Mercy'

22 August 2021

Australia's Churches were invited to pray for our local, national and global communities experiencing great need and distress caused by COVID-19.



World Council of Churches - Ecumenical Prayer cycle

NCCA President, Rev John Gilmore joined with WCC staff online to pray for Australia/Aotearoa-New Zealand.
November 2021

Ecumenical Day of Prayer for Myanmar

Led by NCCA President, Rev John Gilmore
28 November 2021

Many of the voices and the some of the songs sung were led by Australians with family members still in Myanmar.

In prayer we were one - people from across Christian churches, faith traditions and cultures. Prayers were shared quietly and sensitively.

Rev John Gilmore, NCCA President

ECUMENICAL PARTICIPATION:

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Ecumenical Service

Held at - Assyrian Church of the East
Joined with NSW Ecumenical Council



Ecumenical Prayers for Ukraine

Held at - Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church
Joined with NSW Ecumenical Council



Interfaith Prayers for Peace in Ethiopia and Ukraine

NCCA General Secretary, Liz Stone joined the NSWEC and representatives from other faiths at the St Demiana & St Athanasius Coptic Orthodox Church Punchbowl.



NCCA PRAYERS

Throughout the year we prayed for world issues including:

- National Council of Churches in Sri Lanka
- COVID 19
- Myanmar
- Afghanistan Crisis
- Peace - nuclear agreement (AUKUS)

ACRT

The Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce meets monthly via videoconference throughout the year.

The taskforce is made up of 14 people from within our NCCA Church family who are actively involved either organisationally or personally in supporting refugees and asylum seekers in Australia.

During each meeting we receive an update on the key issues that are being felt across the wider refugee support sector as well as updates relating to government policy and programming in this area.

Members share their own work as well as advocacy priorities of their organisations. Opportunities to share wisdom and experience, as well as opportunities for shared advocacy on significant issues is considered.

During the last year the Taskforce's areas of advocacy focused on

1. increased humanitarian refugee intake
2. closure of all detention facilities
3. fair and timely processing of claims for protection
4. support for refugees living in community awaiting determination of status
5. developing a community refugee sponsorship program that allows and encourages people in communities and churches across Australia to sponsor and support refugees coming to Australia

The Taskforce has been delighted to see the establishment of an annual Refugee Support Grants mechanism by the NCCA Board and we encourage organisations to make applications.

Rob Floyd, ACRT Chair

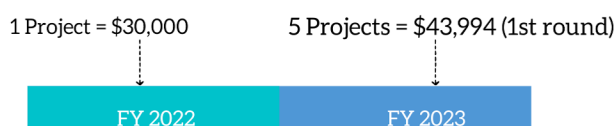
<https://www.ncca.org.au/departments/acrt-2>

REFUGEE SUPPORT FUND

The Refugee Support Fund makes grants available to enable assistance for vulnerable groups that are unable to access Australian Government support and assistance or can only access limited government-funded programs and services to meet their needs.

For more information visit the NCCA website page:

<https://www.ncca.org.au/support-grant-funding>



Members of the Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce:

- Rob Floyd, Uniting Church in Australia
- Carmen Lazar, Assyrian Resource Centre
- The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt, St John's Anglican Cathedral
- Rev Meewon Yang, Baptist Union of Victoria
- Peter Arndt, Catholic Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service
- Sr Brigid Arthur, Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project
- Craig Heidenreich, Lutheran Church
- Dr Jill Parris, Quaker, HOPE Cooperative
- Major Karen Elkington, Salvation Army

Associate Members:

- Rev. Dr. John D. Jegasothy, Sydney Tamil Community
- Rev Ian Phillips, Lismore Church of Christ
- Mr Mazin Kalakvan, The Brotherhood of St Laurence
- Rev Deacon Sandy Boyce, Victorian Council of Churches

ACT FOR PEACE

Act for Peace is the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia.

Act for Peace is also a member of the Church Agency Network, the Emergency Action Alliance, Micah and the ACT Alliance, a coalition of churches and faith-based organisations working together in more than 120 countries.

VISION

A world where everyone belongs.

PURPOSE

To create, together, a world where people uprooted by conflict and disaster have a safe place to belong.



Above: Jamtoli refugee camp in Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh. The camp is home to over 50,000 Rohingya people who've fled violence and persecution in Myanmar. Richard Wainwright/Act for Peace.

ACT FOR PEACE

BELIEFS

"Our beliefs are foundational to our identity. They articulate our understanding of peace, and our role in creating the world we want to see. Together, with others, we believe in a world where all are created equal and should be treated this way, and to achieve this belief we must work together, seek justice, and care for our planet."

Janet Cousins, Chief Executive Officer



Working Together: (ROMANS 12:4-5)



Peace with Justice: (EPHESIANS 4:1-3)



The Interdependence of People and Planet: (PROVERBS 27:18A)

Goal 1:

People live in safety, with dignity, while displaced.

Goal 2:

Uprooted people find a permanent place to belong.

Goal 3:

Reduce the number of people forced to flee their homes.



In May 2022, the number of people displaced by violence and conflict around the globe exceeded 100 million.

It is predicted this number will double in 10 years.

The number of people displaced by climate related disasters is predicted to surpass 200 million by 2050.



CHRISTMAS BOWL

Over 1,100 congregations, across 15 denominations across Australia, came together to share God's love through the Christmas Bowl.

<https://www.actforpeace.org.au/>



Above: Christmas Bowl 2021 at Thornleigh (L) and Roseville (R) Uniting Churches, Sydney. Ben Littlejohn/Act for Peace.



In December 2021, thousands of Australian Christians joined together in practical action, and shared Christmas with refugees in Ethiopia – and communities around the world forced from their homes by conflict and disaster.

Thank you to all those who took part in the Christmas Bowl in 2021.

Janet Cousins, Chief Executive Officer

FIRST NATIONS

NCCA is committed to the churches working together for justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, and for the healing of our peoples.

We believe that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, nurtured and sustained by God before colonisation, are celebrated at the very heart of what is means to be Australian.

We support First Peoples through affirmation of the Statement from the Heart and focused indigenous ecumenical advocacy.

<https://www.ncca.org.au/departments/first-nations>

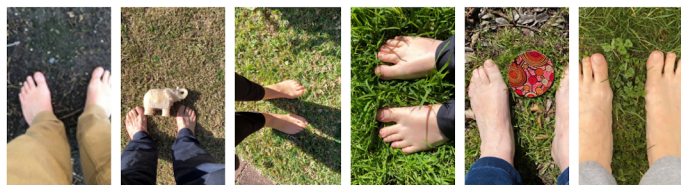
National Yarning Assembly

Voice. Treaty. Truth

Participants at this assembly were invited to place their feet on country and take a photo.

29 July 2021

<https://www.ncca.org.au/about-first-nations/yarning>



Deaths in Custody

Bell ringing

In the wake of the most recent "death in custody", the 480th* since the Royal Commission of 1987 the NCCA encourages churches to 'ring out' their bells whenever there has been yet another Death in Custody.

ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

Supporting Sovereignty and the determination of First Nations Peoples for Voice, Treaty and Truth-Telling.

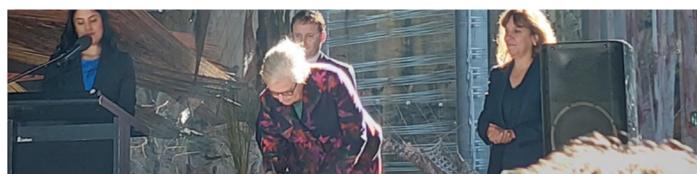
Resources from churches are available on the NCCA website:

<https://www.ncca.org.au/about-first-nations/resources>



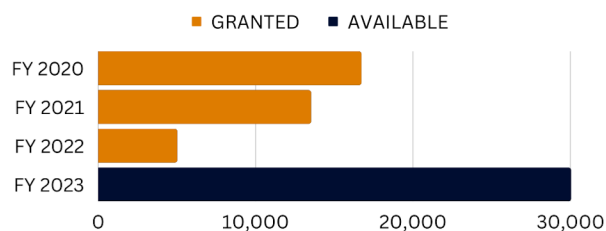
NCCA signs INTERFAITH JOINT RESOLUTION

On 27 May 2022, the fifth anniversary of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, major religious organisations of Australia released a Joint Resolution in support of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.



ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER DEVELOPMENT FUND

A tax-deductible fund set up to assist Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Peoples by giving small, usually one-off grants for community development projects.



<https://www.ncca.org.au/about-us-1/development-fund>

MARTUNG UPAH APPEAL

martung upah appeal

Martung Upah* is NCCA's annual fundraising appeal. Income received from this appeal allows us to fund the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Development Fund.

Your gift makes an enormous difference to help provide educational resources to the wider community; engage the Churches in Indigenous issues or fund important community development projects.

Our aim is to build a better tomorrow for all First Nations children so that injustice and discrimination will not be part of Australia's future.

We look forward to our continued partnership and thank you for your support.

*Martung Upah is from Western Australia and means 'partnership'.

To make a donation visit our website:

<https://www.ncca.org.au/martung-upah-appeal-2>

JOINT RESOLUTION – 27 May 2022

"On this day in 2017, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples came together at Uluru and asked Australians to walk with them towards a better future.

Through the Uluru Statement from the Heart, Indigenous Australians asked for constitutional recognition through a constitutionally guaranteed voice in their own affairs.

As leaders representing diverse religious communities, we declare our support of the Uluru Statement and its call for a First Nations Voice guaranteed by the Constitution.

We endorse this reform as necessary, right and reasonable. Indigenous Australians must now be afforded their rightful place in the Australian Constitution.

There have been many processes and much work completed. The one thing left to do is let the Australian people have their say.

We call on political leaders to take immediate action to hold a referendum on a First Nations Voice."

FAITH AND UNITY

The Commission engages with the theological work of the wider Church, both to learn and to contribute.

The Faith and Unity Commission met in Melbourne:
21 & 22 September 2021 and
28 and 29 April 2022.

Mandate

To focus, and reflect theologically,

- on the faith that unites us;
- on the Gospel imperative to work towards unity; and
- on the way in which our member (and other) churches can move towards greater visible unity in worship, common life and mission in Christ.

The Commission will:

- invite the Churches to engage in particular projects work to challenge the churches to take specific steps towards unity through engaging with the document *Australian Churches Covenanting Together*.
- facilitate focussed study on topics when requested by the Assembly.

The Commission assisted with the NCCA Assembly Ecumenical Dialogue held on 28 October 2021 on the question: *Where are we at with dialogues as the 'heart' of Ecumenism?*

For resources offered by the Commission visit:

<https://www.ncca.org.au/departments/faith-unity>



Above: Church Leaders attending, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service held at the Assyrian Church of the East, Sydney.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY



Above: Brooke Prentis, a Wakka Wakka woman, delivers the Welcome to Country at the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service held at the Assyrian Church of the East, Sydney.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was held in Australia from 29 May to the 5 June 2022 with many churches across the nation holding ecumenical services.

The Faith and Unity Commission prepared the Australian worship resources and documents for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on the theme:

"We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him"
(cf Matthew 2:2)



The theme was chosen by the Middle East Council of Churches. and included the story of the Magi following the star that shone in the east to worship the baby Jesus, the revelation of God and saviour of the world.

In Australia, the Southern Cross was the symbol chosen. It is the constellation imprinted on our flag with historical and cultural significance for the indigenous people of Australia.

In the magnitude of the night sky, the Southern Cross provides us a reference point amidst the greatness of creation. It too points us to Jesus, the one who redeems us all and enables us to rise to new life both now and evermore.

SAFE CHURCH PROGRAM

The Safe Church Program (SCP) is an initiative of the NCCA.

It is our core business to strengthen relationships across churches and Christian communities and with government agencies and other bodies to create safer organisations.

the “National Council of Churches in Australia is well positioned to work proactively with the independent oversight bodies to ensure that individual religious institutions are able to comply with the requirements”

(Final Report, Volume 16 Religious Institutions, Book 3, page 293)
Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child

Safe Church Network

Purpose

The Safe Church Network is a group of denominational representatives in areas of professional standards and safeguarding who gather under the auspices of the National Council of Churches in Australia...

The full revised draft of Safe Church Network Purpose Statement (July 2021) Approved by Resolution of Directors in NCCA Board meeting on 28 July 2021

<https://www.ncca.org.au/safe-church-network/purpose>

Professional Learning Webinars

22 October 2021

NCCA's Safe Church Network presented this webinar on embedding **National Child Safe Standard 2: Children participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.**

Presentations were given by Uma Komalan and John Marion of The Salvation Army.

7 June 2022

Current Practices in Professional/Pastoral Supervision and Accountability: Clergy Support and Ministry Review

Panel discussions were held with

- Very Rev Darryl Cotton, Anglican Church of Australia,
- Rev Dr Rob Nyhuis, Churches of Christ VIC/TAS & Federal Coordinator
- Rev Fr Abanoub Attalla, Coptic Orthodox Church
- Ms Sue Crittall, Professional Supervisor

Recordings of these webinars are available on our website:

<https://www.ncca.org.au/safe-as-churches/professional-learning-2022>

PACIFIC CHURCHES

Pacific Church Partnership Advisory Network – PCPAN

The Pacific Church Partnership Program has been established by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to support the leadership and organisational needs of Pacific churches and church leaders to contribute to development outcomes more effectively in Pacific Island countries

Under the program, NCCA has been funded by DFAT to facilitate meetings of the PCPAN over 2022-2023.

There are 12 Pacific seats and 10 Australian Seats for the Advisory Network.

Future meetings of the Network will aim to strengthen existing and building new strategic partnerships with Australian church and church-based development leaders including with First Nations people and members of the Pacific diaspora in Australia.



Above L to R: Pastor Shem Tema, Vanuatu; Rev Roger Joseph, PNG; Rev Siera Bird, PCC; Rev Ikani Tolu, Tonga.

Pacific Church Leaders

NCCA and PCPAN will host a meeting of over 30 Pacific leaders of the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) in Sydney in November 2022.



Above L to R: Archbishop Peter Loy, Fiji; Mr & Mrs Setareki Macanawai, Fiji; Rev Viniana Ravetali, UCA Fijian Congregation; Ms Ema Vueti, Pacific Islands Council of QLD; Ms Olivia Baro, PCC; Rev James Bhagwan, PCC.

ECUMENICAL NETWORKS

AEON

Australian Ecumenical Officers Network

Representatives from Church Councils in Australian Capital Territory, Tasmania, Queensland, Northern Territory, South Australian, Victoria, New South Wales and Western Australia meet to share and exchange ideas.

The group meets three times a year with one in-person meeting.

In 2022, the group met in Adelaide.



Above: AEON members meet in Adelaide, and online.

INTERCULTURAL

The NCCA is enriched in its involvement with our ecumenical networks. We are blessed to be able to participate in, and experience the richness of the many cultures that make up the communities of our members and partners.



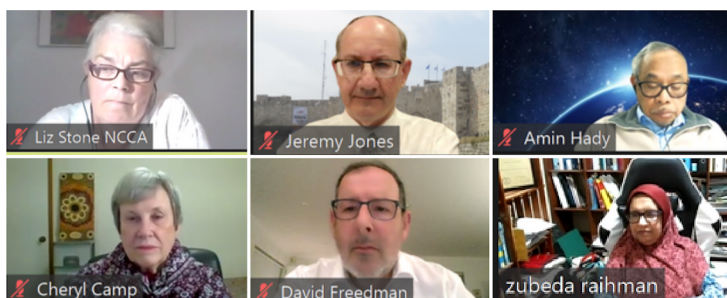
Above: Cultural performance from the Assyrian Community of Sydney for the NSW Ecumenical Council fundraising dinner.

INTERFAITH

Interfaith Prayer meeting

11 September 2021

The sharing of prayers and reflections was a gathering of the Australian National Dialogue of Christians, Muslims and Jews (ANDCMJ) on the 20th Anniversary of 9/11.



Above: Some of the participants in the ANDCMJ online prayer meeting.

National Unity Week

22-30 October 2021

The NCCA partnered with the Lebanese Muslim Association (LMA) to promote the celebration of this week.

The aim of the week is to reach out and connect with your local Muslim community.



Australian National Dialogue of Christians, Muslims and Jews meeting

9 June 2022

We reflected on how we understand the action of God in times of disaster.

There were moments when I was led to reflect in a new way – such as understanding the initiative God takes in creation out of chaos being an expression of grace.

Rev John Gilmore, NCCA President.

Below: Liz Stone (L) at the signing of the Interfaith Joint Resolution - Uluru Statement from the Heart.



ECUMENICAL FUNDS

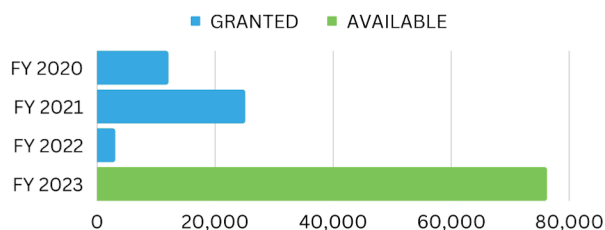
GLENBURNIE PROGRAM



Glenburnie Program
Towards a Just, Participatory
and Sustainable Society

Funding is intended to "provide resources for the churches and the community on issues relating to a just, participatory and sustainable society."

The object of the Program is to encourage the Australian churches and community to consider and act in ways that advance the creation of just, participatory, and sustainable societies.



The Just, Participatory, and Sustainable Society (JPSS) Vision

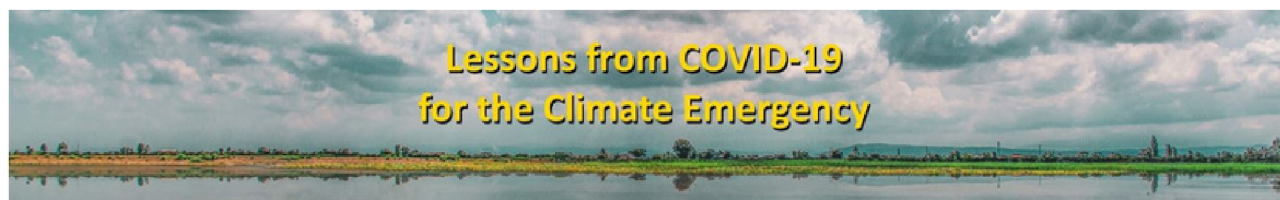
A Just Society: a society in which there is a fair and reasonable distribution of the world's resources with wastage and misuse minimised, and in which every human being has significance and dignity, and no-one is oppressed.

A Participatory Society: a society in which every individual has an opportunity to influence the decisions which shape their life.

A Sustainable Society: a society which cares for the health of the world's ecosystems in a changing Earth System and in which an acceptable quality of life can be maintained for all people.

To apply for funding from The Glenburnie Program it is necessary to complete an application form. Each application is taken on its merits.

Visit: <https://www.ncca.org.au/about/ecumenical/item/178-glenburnie-programme>



RONALD WILSON ECUMENICAL LEADERSHIP FUND

The Ecumenical Leadership Fund assists young people, aged 35 or less eager to enlarge their ecumenical experience and leadership skills.

It helps those who have exhibited leadership potential to develop their gifts and focus their vision.

In the financial year 2021-2022 no new applications were received.

Visit: <https://www.ncca.org.au/about/ecumenical>

"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one".

John 17:20 (NRSV)



The Holy Trinity icon - Rublev



Above and below left: projects funded by the Glenburnie Program



www.ncca.org.au



(+61 2) 9299 2215



Secretariat@ncca.org.au



Locked Bag Q199
QUEEN VICTORIA
BUILDING
NSW 1230



National Council of
Churches in Australia

ABN: 47 000 391 104

NCCA's audited financial statements for 2021-2022 are available on request:

secretariat@ncca.org.au

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN AUSTRALIA - ANNUAL REVIEW 2021-2022