



# National Council of Churches in Australia

## MEDIA RELEASE

23 May 2024

### Rev. Prof. Dr. Jerry Pillay, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, to Embark on Inaugural Visit to Australia in June 2024

The National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA) is delighted to announce the visit of [Rev. Prof. Dr. Jerry Pillay, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches \(WCC\)](#), to Australia in June 2024. This visit represents a significant step in supporting Australia's churches and bolstering ties within the global Christian community.

Rev. Prof. Dr. Jerry Pillay, a leading theologian from South Africa, will be a guest speaker at the 11th National Forum of the [National Council of Churches Australia \(NCCA\)](#), which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year.

[Rev. Pillay](#) began serving as general secretary on 1 January 2023, as the 9th General Secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC). He is a Reformed pastor, a member of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa, and has previously served as the Dean of the Faculty of Theology and Religion at the University of Pretoria.

It is his first visit to Australia and his visit promises to enrich discussions on church unity and provide fresh insights on ecumenism amid societal fragmentation.

*"We are increasingly disturbed by the poly crisis pervading the world such as poverty, hunger, humanitarian needs, wars, conflicts, violence, climate catastrophe and the list goes on. The WCC is keen to engage with our member churches, ecumenical partners and governments as to how we may contribute to making the world a safer, peaceful and sustainable place for both people and planet. I look forward to having conversations with our colleagues, leaders, members and partners in Australia on these important global issues. Together we can make a difference as we obey God's call to us all." - [Rev. Prof. Dr. Jerry Pillay](#)*

As an eminent guest of the NCCA, Rev. Pillay will participate in the national forum and participate in various ecumenical gatherings in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney. The NCCA's forthcoming forum marks 30 years of the Council that succeeded the Australian Council of Churches founded in 1948. Christian leaders are eager to seize this opportunity for cross-cultural learning and dialogue with Rev. Pillay.

The NCCA's 11<sup>th</sup> National Forum will be held in Adelaide, South Australia, from June 21st to 24th, 2024. Rev. Pillay's presence and insights are expected to inspire attendees towards a deeper commitment to unity and collaboration among 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 Church

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

Uniting Church

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## Public Events

[On Saturday 22nd June at 4pm, Rev. Pillay will be at Adelaide West Uniting Church](#), in conversation with Rev. Dr Lynn Arnold AM, former SA Premier, Anglican priest and Life FM radio presenter. Following Adelaide, he will be in [Melbourne on June 24th and 25th, and in Sydney on June 25th and 26th, 2024.](#)

These public engagements will provide unique opportunities for dialogue, exchange, and mutual learning for the wider community from across Australia's diverse Christian traditions.

Rev. Pillay's visit holds particular significance as he shares his reflections on his role as General Secretary of the World Council of Churches. In his short time in the role he has been instrumental in advancing the WCC's mission of promoting Christian unity, interfaith dialogue, and social justice at global, regional, national and local levels.

This is highlighted by his recent meetings with the [Israeli and Palestinian Presidents in February 2024.](#)

*"It is clear that collaboration is required in the efforts to end the war in Gaza, provide humanitarian support for all people affected, ensure the freedom of religion, and encourage the necessity of dialogue to create a secure and safe future for both Israeli and Palestinian people."*

[Rev. Prof. Dr. Jerry Pillay](#)

The NCCA looks forward to welcoming Rev. Pillay to Australia and hopes that his visit will deepen relationships, foster collaboration, and inspire collective action by churches together in our Australian communities for the common good.

## Contact

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## About the National Council of Churches in Australia:

The [National Council of Churches in Australia](#) has 18 national church members. The NCCA brings together a diverse range of Christian denominations to promote unity, dialogue, and cooperation among churches in Australia. With a commitment to social justice, peace, and reconciliation, the Council seeks to embody the love and compassion of Christ in contemporary society. For more information, visit [our website](#).