

# 2024 - 2027 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

## OUR VISION

The National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA) is a communion of national churches sharing a common faith in Jesus Christ and together building a future of hope, justice and peace for all people in the land now called Australia.

*Jesus prayed that we may all be one (John 20:17) with him and with God the Father so that the world may believe and know God's love and peace for all people.*

## OUR MISSION

As Christian communities of Faith, Hope and Love, committed to following Christ and serving to the Glory of One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit: the NCCA brings churches together to engage with each other through prayer, deep listening, openness and respect, and acting for peace with justice.

## OUR VALUES

### Christian (Matt 18:20)

Churches collaboratively embody Gospel values in unity.

### Relational (1 Thess 5:11)

Building meaningful connections across history, tradition, culture.

### Ecumenical (Eph 2:22)

Embracing diversity, Churches unite for shared purposes.

### Unity in Diversity (Rom 7)

Celebrating differences, Churches find strength and harmony in unity.

### Prophetic (Matt 25:40)

Guided by our common faith, Churches speak truth and advocate for justice and righteousness for the flourishing of all people and creation.

## PURPOSE PILLARS

### 1 Deep Listening

To listen deeply to the Holy Spirit present among us, listen to each other across our churches so as to discern when and how we are being called to act together to give witness to the Gospel message of love and hope.

### 2 Prophetic Voice

To practise good leadership and governance in Churches and Christian organisations and be a united voice of hope, love and reconciliation for the common good.

### 3 Ecumenical Formation

To raise awareness of the importance of ecumenism among the members of our churches and embed it as integral to proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ to all people.

# TOWARDS 2027

## 2025 FOCUS AREAS

### 1 Deep Listening and Accompaniment

We believe that the Holy Spirit strengthens our faith and enables us to share the grace and love of Christ.

#### 1 OUTCOMES

National Church Leaders build relationships and cooperate and collaborate together.

We will listen to the experiences, insights and perspectives of First Nations peoples so that we can journey in reconciliation together.

Church communities will be engaged with the voices of people on the margins of society and advocate for a fairer and more just Australia.

A renewed deeper relationship with God's creation and solidarity with those affected by climate change especially in the Pacific region.

Increased engagement of churches with people of other faiths and no faith that nurtures social cohesion.

#### 1 ACTIVITIES

An annual retreat and reflection day for Christian leaders.

Opportunities for Church communities to listen deeply to and learn from First Nations Elders and accompany them in discerning the next stages of reconciliation and recognition of Indigenous rights.

An ecumenical forum for young people with a focus on the Biblical basis for Christian Unity. (2026)

### 2 Prophetic Voice (Ecumenical Advocacy)

We believe that Jesus delivers a hopeful message that promotes peace, justice, and reconciliation.

#### 2 OUTCOMES

A vibrant ecumenical public theology covering justice, peace and care of creation.

Greater coordination and collaboration between the church policymakers on long-term issues (First Nations reconciliation and rights, climate justice, domestic and family violence, rights of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants).

Churches continue to action the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults and support healing and justice for victims of clerical and institutional abuse.

Churches sharing what is being done to ensure good governance and accountability.

Strong two-way connection with State/Territory Councils, church voices of the Pacific and Asia and with the advocacy of World Council of Churches.

#### 2 ACTIVITIES

Gather those engaged with advocacy, policymaking and public theology in a Church network to combine efforts, avoid duplication and amplify voice.

Maintain relationships with State/Territory councils, Pacific Conference of Churches, Christian Conference of Asia and World Council of Churches and identify opportunities to work together on matters of justice and peace.

Enable taskforces to be formed from church representatives in the areas of people seeking asylum and climate justice.

### 3 Ecumenical Formation, Education & Communication

We believe Christian unity relies on nurturing faith and commitment to all of God's creation.

#### 3 OUTCOMES

Greater awareness of the richness of history, tradition and culture of ecumenical life among church members.

Young people will meet with young people of other churches and other faiths and build understanding.

Greater coordination and collaboration between church media and communications officers.

Ecumenical and interfaith dialogue is normalised rather than being the exception.

#### 3 ACTIVITIES

Praying Together - four key ecumenical events per year aligned with the liturgical seasons: Advent/Christmas, Lent/Easter, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and Season of Creation.

Listening to the Word - annual ecumenical Scripture study event(s).

Convene an annual gathering of church communicators to assist with shared messaging and develop a communications strategy internally and externally to publicise good news stories of churches together.

Promote inter-church visits and encourage participation in important religious and cultural events of our multi-faith community.