



2024 -
2025

ANNUAL REVIEW



National Council of
Churches in Australia

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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***

This past year we have been praying for:

Peace for the many people of the world for whom this past and coming year will hold little joy or hope:

- Sudan,
- Myanmar,
- Middle East
- Ukraine
- Armenia - Artsakh
- Syria
- Lebanon
- Israel and Palestine.
 - A Ceasefire in Gaza
 - A just peace in Israel and Palestine
- Los Angeles & Ventura, California, USA [wildfires]
- Violence in India and Pakistan

We continue to pray for the countries in the WCC Weekly Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, our Members, Observers, State and Territory ecumenical colleagues, our partners in the Pacific, Asia and worldwide.

[Front and back cover image: Participants at the PCPAN meeting in Nadi, Fiji, March 2025. Credit: NCCA]



PRESIDENT'S REFLECTION

The purpose of the National Council of Churches is noted in our strategic plan. 'The NCCA brings churches together to engage with each other through prayer, deep listening, openness and respect, and acting for peace with justice'. It is clear from this that the NCCA exists to serve and partner with its member churches, as well as with those that are not yet members. During 2025 we began a process of 'deep listening'. We have met with Boards, Executives and staff, as well as with leaders from other faith communities and networks.

What we are hearing is shaping the way we work. The complexity of church and faith community life in Australia is growing. This is due to tensions and concerns about matters affecting church life. It also reflects the impact of conflict occurring outside of Australia on people groups and decision making in Australia. Challenges across church and faith communities include the task of engaging people across the generations and a lack of people being open to leading at a congregational level. These themes have been part of all our conversations.

We have also heard good news of continuing relationship growth across church and faith traditions. The stories of local ecumenical and inter-faith cooperation are encouraging. These included parishes and local churches working together to express their common Christian identity in ways that reflect unity and not division. Such local mission that is initiated together affirms our faith and identity.

Advocacy initiatives and activities at all levels bring people together around common points of concern and we see this through Micah Australia, Common Grace, the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network and other similar bodies.

The work of the NCCA is also expressed through our participation in activities including the Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce, the Pacific Church Partnership Advisory Network and continued engagement with the National Leaders of Australia's Churches and the State Ecumenical Councils as well as the NCCA Board. Activities in relation to Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation as well as Australia's First People and youth are ongoing.

In the coming year we will be bringing together First Nations church leaders to explore how the Australian Churches through the NCCA can continue to work for reconciliation. Another priority is the establishment of a network of young leaders who are open to working together and imagining what is possible for the future ecumenically.

Beyond Australia we are engaged with the broader Ecumenical movement and participate in the life of the Pacific Conference of Churches, the Christian Conference of Asia and the World Council of Churches. Our engagement with these bodies deepens our understanding of the realities that other communities face. It is a further reminder of our common life in the 'Global Village'.

All of these activities come out of the integrity of our relationships with each other as the NCCA. The NCCA is a reflection of our member churches and not an independent entity. The dynamic of our relationships affirms that together we are the Body of Christ and as Paul says 'Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.' We are together, we need each other and in this is our strength and life.

We have had a good year and thanks and appreciation go to Elizabeth Stone, NCCA General Secretary, for her committed and encouraging leadership of the NCCA. Thanks also to the rest of our staff for the ways they support the NCCA. Deep appreciation also to the members of the NCCA Board for their wisdom, insightfulness and commitment to the life of the NCCA.

*Rev John Gilmore
NCCA President*



(L-R) Bishop Daniel (Coptic Orthodox Church) with Rev John Gilmore at the NCCA Sydney webinar featuring WCC Executive, Rev Dr Mikie Roberts. Image: NCCA





Rev John Gilmore and Liz Stone with Thomas Ling at the Chinese Methodist Conference. Image: Rev Meewon Yang



GENERAL SECRETARY

One of the questions being asked of ecumenical leaders in this year of the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea is "do we need Christian unity?"

Many senior theologians, church and ecumenical leaders have been engaged on discussing this question in various fora but it is a question that seems to be both eternal and deeply contemporary.

In 1948 when the World Council of Churches and the Australian Council of Churches (predecessor to National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA)) were formed, the emphasis on the need for church unity rested on two primary pillars – Word and Witness.

Being united is pragmatic and functional whilst pursuing unity is both a spiritual quest and a gift from God. Christian unity is what Jesus prayed for in John 17:21 and we are exhorted to pray and act together also so that our visible unity will help the world to believe in Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God.

In the NCCA we see our visible Christian unity as deeply relational, based on 'love one for another' (John 13:34-35), and a sign of our shared discipleship. There are many happy photos of meetings and gatherings in this Annual Review and that is testament to the fact that we need to know each other in order to be 'visible unity' together.

“

"But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love."

(Ephesians 4:15-16)



In the past year NCCA has facilitated our church leaders and members in praying together; in learning and sharing together about the impact of the Council of Nicaea in our expressions of faith today; in meeting together to discern and advocate on matters in our society and communities with one voice; to listen to the distress and pain of our First Nations brothers and sisters, and others, living with displacement, conflict and natural disaster.

Together, we have explored new forms of governance such as synodality; given voice to those on the margins including migrants, refugees and asylum seekers; provided funding for mission and ministry activities to the glory of God.

Ultimately Christian unity gives glory to God when our Christian communities flourish in Word, Witness and Works in service to others. I give thanks for the blessings of serving the Council as General Secretary.

Liz Stone
NCCA General Secretary

NCCA LTD BOARD



Rev John Gilmore, PRESIDENT
Churches of Christ in Australia



Anne Hywood
Anglican Church of Australia

Geoff Officer
Catholic Church in Australia



Thomas Ling
Chinese Methodist Church in Australia

Commissioner Miriam Gluyas
The Salvation Army Australia



Ann Zubrick
Religious Society of Friends Australia
(Quakers)

V Rev Fr Dr Abanoub Attalla
Coptic Orthodox Church



Bishop Bartholomew
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia

Rev Dr Helen Richmond
Uniting Church in Australia



NCCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) 7 NOVEMBER 2024

The NCCA confirmed its Board of Directors for the next three years.

Rev John Gilmore was re-elected as President and Board Chair for a second three-year term.

Anne Hywood and Geoff Officer were re-elected to serve another three-year term after completing two terms.

Rev Dr Helen Richmond of the Uniting Church in Australia was elected to the Board as a new Director.

We acknowledge retiring Director Rob Floyd with deep gratitude for his six years of service, and pray for him as he continues his ministry with Frontier Services.

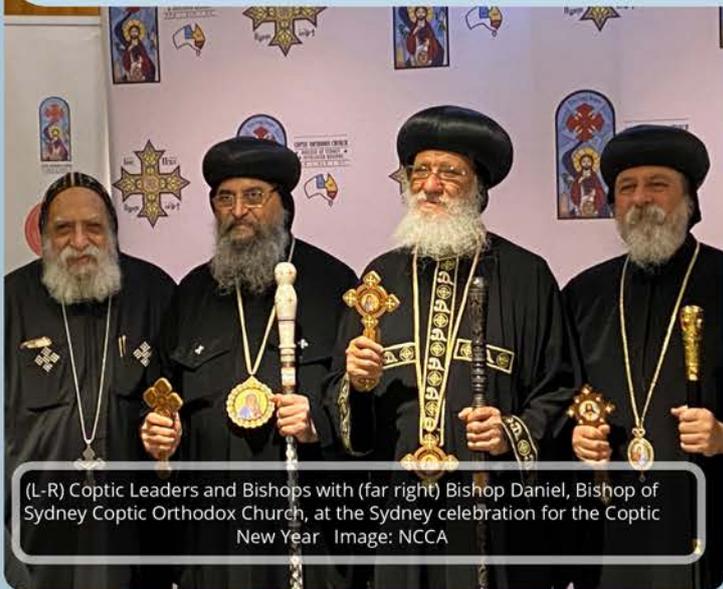
BASIS

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.



Present in person at the AGM - clockwise L-R: Bishop Daniel (Coptic Orthodox Church), Bishop Nee (Chinese Methodist Church), Rob Floyd, Geoff Officer, Rev John Gilmore, Thomas Ling, Liz Stone and Anne Hywood. [Commissioner Miriam Gluyas not in photo] Image: NCCA



(L-R) Coptic Leaders and Bishops with (far right) Bishop Daniel, Bishop of Sydney Coptic Orthodox Church, at the Sydney celebration for the Coptic New Year. Image: NCCA

THE NCCA

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

Member Churches as of June 30 2024

Anglican Church,
 Antiochian Orthodox Church,
 Armenian Apostolic Church,
 Assyrian Church of the East,
 Australian Catholic Bishops Conference,
 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),
 Romanian Orthodox Church,
 Syrian Orthodox Church,
 The Salvation Army, and the
 Uniting Church in Australia



Rev Charissa Suli, President of the Uniting Church in Australia Assembly, receives a blessing, at her inauguration service, St Stephen's, Sydney. Image: Uniting Church in Australia

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

2024- 2027

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.

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 (Matthew 18:20)

Churches collaboratively embody Gospel values in unity.

Relational (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Building meaningful connections across history, traditions, cultures.

Ecumenical (Ephesians 2:22)

Embracing diversity, Churches unite for shared purposes.

Unity in Diversity (Romans 7)

Celebrating differences, Churches find strength and harmony in unity.

Prophetic (Matthew 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

DEEP LISTENING AND ACCOMPANIMENT

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.

PROPHETIC VOICE (ECUMENICAL ADVOCACY)

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

ECUMENICAL FORMATION, EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION

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.

NATIONAL CHURCH LEADERS

The NCCA holds two to three gatherings of National Church Leaders each year.

These meetings offer a time for shared conversation and connection, often with a guest speaker joining the group.

“*For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.*
(Matthew 18:20 20)

WELCOMING AND SENDING

The NCCA joined with our Member churches in recognising the faithful leadership of Bruce Henry as Presiding Clerk of Quakers Australia and Dr Rob Nyhuis, National Chair of the Churches of Christ, Australia.

We celebrated with the Armenian Apostolic Church on the occasion of the retirement of Archbishop Haigazoun Najarian and prayed for his safe return to Armenia.

As the year unfolds, we look forward to working with Duncan Frewin of Quakers Australia.

We welcome Bishop Vardan Navasardyan, as he returns to Australia to be a shepherd for the Armenian Church community in Australia.

We are delighted to hear of the announcement that Bishop Rewis, has been called as General Bishop of Coptic Orthodox Church Diocese of Melbourne & Affiliated Regions.

As they step into the positions of leadership for their communities we pray that their ministries will be blessed.

“*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*
Romans 8:28

DEEP LISTENING AND ACCOMPANIMENT

National Church Leaders build relationships and cooperate and collaborate together.



(L) Liz Stone with Bishop Albert Wong, at the 23rd Annual Conference and 30th Anniversary of the Chinese Methodist Church in Australia. Image: NCCA



(L) Rod Benson (NSWEC General Secretary) and Liz Stone pictured with Archbishop Haigazoun Najarian (centre) of the Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church at his farewell event. Image: NCCA



(L) Bishop Bartholomew of the Greek Orthodox Church, with Liz Stone at the Sydney celebration for the 100th Anniversary of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in Australia. Image: NCCA

MISSION

... Christian communities of Faith, Hope and Love, committed to following Christ and serving to the Glory of One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit...



Church Leaders of the Eastern and Orthodox Churches at the Farewell for Archbishop Najarian, Armenian Apostolic Church. Image: NCCA



President of the Uniting Church Assembly, Rev Charissa Suli (far right) with past Presidents. (L-R) Jill Tabart, Dr Deidre Palmer and Rev Sharon Hollis at the UCA National Assembly, July 2024 Image: Uniting Church in Australia

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Participating and sharing at significant Member events

The NCCA was present for number of significant events in the life of its member churches.

The NCCA President and General Secretary were invited to attend a variety of member events, which included:

- 7/24 The installation of Rev Charissa Suli as 17th President of the Uniting Church in Australia Assembly. John Gilmore and Liz Stone also attended the meeting of the National Assembly 11 – 16 July 2024.
- 8/24 The Salvation Army rally with the International General was attended by Liz Stone in Sydney and John Gilmore in Melbourne.
- 9/24 The Coptic Orthodox Church - El-Nayrouz. (Coptic New Year) celebration at NSW Parliament House attended by Liz Stone.
- 10/24 Audience with the Greek Ecumenical Patriarch and celebration dinner on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in Australia
- 11/24 Ecumenical gathering of the Leaders of Middle Eastern Churches for the visit of the Ecumenical Patriarch and Catholicos, Mar Awa III - Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East, in Sydney.
- 12/24 30th Anniversary celebration of the establishment of the Chinese Methodist Church in Australia and their 23rd Annual Conference.

- 2/25 Farewell dinner and 50th Anniversary of the Priestly Ordination for Archbishop Haigazoun Najarian - Armenian Church of Australia and New Zealand).
- 4/25 110th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide - Diocese, Armenian Church of Australia
- 5/25 Meeting with National Council of Baptist Ministries by John Gilmore and Liz Stone.

Sharing in online prayer

We bring together representatives from member churches, and our wider networks for prayer, offering times for reflection in certain seasons of the year.

Throughout the year, our online public ecumenical prayers also took place at time of need for peace. They included:

- 9/24 World Week for Peace in Palestine & Israel
- 9/24 Season of Creation 2024
- 3/25 Webinar with World Council of Churches (WCC) executive Rev Dr Mikie Roberts
- 6/25 Lunchtime Prayer for the Week of Christian Unity
- 6/25 'End the waiting' webinar – facilitated by ACRT in collaboration with Common Grace

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.
1 Thessalonians 5:11 11

GATHERING IN UNITY

The NCCA works in relationship with our member and observer churches and their networks. Through shared prayer and attentive listening, we seek clarity on how we are invited to act together.

We are called into unity, to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to all people.

FAITH AND UNITY

The first Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, in 325 AD was a key moment in the history of Christian faith, and also for our ecumenical journey today. In 2025 we marked the 1700 Anniversary of the meeting which resulted in the development of the Nicene Creed.

In a year of significant celebration among Australian Church communities this was a particularly important anniversary and was marked across a number of our member churches with seminars and conferences.

In March 2025, NCCA hosted a hybrid webinar in Sydney with visiting speaker Rev Mikie Roberts WCC Program Executive for Spiritual Life and Program Executive for Faith and Order. Rev Mikie's keynote was followed by panel discussion on current developments in contextual ecumenical theology and spirituality. The webinar was held at the Catholic Institute of Sydney (CIS). NCCA is grateful to Fr Gerard Kelly for hosting.

MISSION

...the NCCA brings churches together to engage with each other through prayer, deep listening, openness and respect, and acting for peace with justice.

WORKING TOGETHER

We partner closely with our member and observer churches, and their practitioner networks. Through these connections, we are able to discern when and how we are being called to act together and become a united voice of hope, love, and reconciliation for the good of our communities.

NETWORKS

Communities of Practice continue to meet through the year. These include the **Australian Churches Ecological Taskforce** (ACET) and **The Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce** (ACRT).

Both these networks aim to refresh and strengthen networks among member churches and Church practitioner networks. They come together to share experiences, resources, and expertise.

The **Pacific Church Partnership Advisory Network** (PCPAN) also met during the year. This network links Pacific and Australian churches. It is facilitated by the NCCA and Act for Peace, with Pacific Conference of Churches and supported by funding from the Department Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

Discussions focus on organisational strengthening, gender equality, disability inclusion, humanitarian response, disaster risk reduction, climate change, labour migration and transnational crime.

“ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-13



(L-R) Fr Anastasios (Greek Orthodox Church), with Fr Antony (Coptic Orthodox Church) Liz Stone and David Rose (former NSWEC General Secretary) at the Sydney celebration for the Coptic New Year. Image: NCCA



(L-R) Archbishop Mar Meelis Zaia (Assyrian Church of the East), the Ecumenical Patriarch and Catholicos, Mar Awa III, (Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East), Fr Anastasios (Greek Orthodox Church) and Liz Stone pictured at the official meeting with Mar Awa III. Image: NCCA

PROPHETIC VOICE (ECUMENICAL ADVOCACY)

Greater coordination and collaboration between the church policymakers on longterm issues...



Apostle birds in shade - Western NSW. Image: NCCA



Members of ACRT promoting 'Back Your Neighbour' Campaign. (L_R) Liz Stone, Rev Ian Phillips, Sr Brigid Arthur, Rev Lindsay Cullen, Dn. Sandy Boyce, James Harris, and (seated) Maj. Karen Elkington. Image: NCCA



(L-R) Roger Joseph (PNG), Rev Dr Edward Kolohai (Solomon Islands) and Ps Bernard Yalmyau (Vanuatu), Nadi, Fiji PCPAN meeting. Image: NCCA

AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES ECOLOGICAL TASKFORCE (ACET)

ACET exists to inspire and equip NCCA member churches to live out a shared Christian vision of care for creation—grounded in mutuality, interdependence, and reconciliation with God's world. The ACET seeks to:

- Engage with Churches and Agencies,
- Amplify a strong moral voice,
- Share resources for prayer and action,
- Provide coordination, collaboration and advocacy.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES REFUGEE TASKFORCE (ACRT)

The Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce meets each month online. The taskforce met in Melbourne for a face to face meeting in late February 2025. Co-chair, Major Karen Elkington, of the Salvation Army, was fare-welled as she stepped away from the taskforce.

The NCCA is grateful for Karen's leadership and grace during her term of service in the group.

During the year the taskforce developed a Resource Kit for Anti-Poverty Week in October 2024. In March 2025, in the lead up to the Federal elections in May 2025, the Taskforce wrote to leaders of the major parties during the election campaign.

In June, the Taskforce held a webinar for the "End the Waiting" campaign, in collaboration with Common Grace.

Refugee Support Fund Grant

For more information on this fund see page 15.

PACIFIC CHURCH PARTNERSHIP ADVISORY NETWORK (PCPAN)

The PCPAN met in Sydney in December 2024 and again in Nadi, Fiji in March 2025 to discuss the design for Phase 2 of the collaboration between Pacific and Australian churches, which is funded by the Department Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through Act for Peace.

PUBLIC THEOLOGY AND ADVOCACY

The NCCA made a number of public statements over the year, which included:

- *Statement "regarding the ongoing conflict in Palestine and Israel"*
- *"A Call to Continuous Prayer for Peace in the Middle East"*
- *"NCCA condemns attack on Melbourne synagogue."*

JUSTICE & PEACE

The NCCA continues to support churches and advocacy groups to promote justice and peace.

In October 2024 Rev John Gilmore joined Act for Peace (AFP) representatives at the ACT Alliance General Assembly, where he met with the Director of the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR). The MECC are AFP's Palestinian partner in Gaza.

NCCA joined the Quakers in signing their civil society sign-on statement, calling for the Australian Government to advocate for policies that would reduce the harm of armed violence.

We anticipate contracting a Policy and Advocacy Consultant as the year progresses.

ACT FOR PEACE

Is the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. Founded by Australian churches and inspired by Jesus' example.

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.

Act for Peace works with, and for, people around the world who are uprooted by conflict and disaster. Together with local partners, in affected communities, they work restoring hope for those displaced by climate change in the Asia-Pacific, opening doors out of poverty in Africa, and offering refuge to those seeking safety in the Middle East. Every program is a step toward dignity, resilience, empowering people to rebuild their lives.

In April 2025, Archie Law AM joined Act for Peace as interim CEO. An experienced humanitarian leader, Archie brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to Act for Peace including leadership development, and humanitarian programs.

We are grateful for the work of Elijah Buol OAM in his term as CEO and bless him as he steps into his next role.

CHRISTMAS BOWL

The Christmas Bowl celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2024, honouring a journey of faith, love, and compassion. The annual campaign supports the work of Act for Peace.

For over 75 years, Australians have given to the Christmas Bowl as an act of faith, generosity, and hope. In the aftermath of World War II, it began as a simple idea: churches across the country joining together at Christmas to share what they could so that others, far away, could have food, shelter, and safety.

For more about AFP and the Christmas Bowl visit:

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



PROPHETIC VOICE (ECUMENICAL ADVOCACY)

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



L-R Geoff Robinson (AFP Head of Partnerships and Programs), Rev John Gilmore, Mr. Nader Abu Amsa (Director, MECC - DSPR), and Elijah Boul OAM, (AFP CEO). Image: NCCA



(L-R) AfP CEO, Elijah with aid program participant Kal and Vanuatu Christian Council General Secretary, Pastor Bernard Yalimyau. Image: Sarah Doyle/Act for Peace-Vanuatu



Pitt St. Uniting Church, Sydney, Advent service Sunday 1 December 2024. Image: Act for Peace

ECUMENICAL FORMATION, EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION

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



Participants at the PCPAN meeting in Sydney, December 2024. Image: NCCA



NCCA President, Rev John Gilmore (top row, 2nd left) pictured with participants at the CCA Executive Meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand, 2024. Image: NCCA

ECUMENICAL NETWORKS

AUSTRALIAN ECUMENICAL OFFICERS NETWORK (AEON)

Three meetings with State and Territory council officers are held each year by the General Secretary, with two online sessions in October 2024 and March 2025.

The President and General Secretary also attended ecumenical events held by our state networks.

In August, the Victorian Council of Churches (VCC) celebrated their 75th Anniversary, led by Rev Sandy Boyce, with Rev John Gilmore participating.

In Adelaide, South Australian churches held a Thanksgiving for the former council, Churches Together SA (CTSA) in November 2024.

In November, the General Secretary participated in the NSW Ecumenical Council's Domestic and Family Violence Webinar, attended the farewell for outgoing General Secretary David Rose in December, and welcomed Rev Rod Benson as his successor in early 2025.

Queensland Churches Together farewellled Rev David Baker and welcomed new General Secretary Dr Kate Power.

Rev David Campbell of the ACT Council of Churches handed leadership to Robbie Tulip.

Bishop Greg Anderson continues to lead the Northern Territory Council of Churches.

PACIFIC

In the past year the NCCA strengthened our relationship with the **Pacific Conference of Churches** (PCC)

The NCCA has a long standing relationship with our Pacific neighbours and Churches, and also with the PCC as one of its newest members.

We are committed to walking with our Pasifika family as they face great challenges with climate change, social and economical stress.

“ *Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.*
Ephesians 4:15

ASIA

The NCCA is a member of the **Christian Conference of Asia** (CCA). Continuing our relationship in this region of the world.

The NCCA facilitated the participation of Oliver Slew to attend the CCA's Asian Ecumenical Institute (AEI) in August 2024. Oliver joined over twenty other participants from across Asia for the month-long residential program.

The NCCA President, Rev John Gilmore attended the CCA Executive Committee meeting held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, 2024.

“ *And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.*
Ephesians 2:22

ECUMENICAL FORMATION, EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION

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

ECUMENICAL DIALOUGE INTERFAITH & SOCIAL COHESION

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Our ongoing relationship with the **World Council of Churches** (WCC) continued across the year, strengthening shared learning and relationships.

NCCA President Rev Gilmore participated in the WCC Central Committee meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The NCCA continues to affirm and promote the work of the WCC, particularly in sharing resources for significant times of the year. These include yearly observances of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, The Week of Prayer for Palestine and Israel, and The Season of Creation, along with the Weekly Ecumenical Prayer Cycle and the gender violence awareness campaign *'Thursdays in Black'*.

COMMUNICATIONS

Our new NCCA website launched in early 2025. We invite you to visit <https://www.ncca.org.au/> to explore updates and resources.

Our newsletter now reaches 1,300 readers and is shared widely.

We remain active on LinkedIn and Facebook, posting reflections, seasonal prayers and statements. The Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce (ACRT) also highlights key issues through their Facebook page.

A new communications role will be introduced in 2026 to strengthen these efforts.

NCCA is involved in a number of initiatives to promote relationships with people of other living faiths in Australia.

In July 2024, the release of the Government's Multicultural Framework Review – An Australia for all – presented an opportunity to discuss the strong faith dimension to disaster resilience and recovery in a multi-cultural society. A suggestion was made that Australia should build national multi-faith capacity in the disaster response sector. This will need good coordination with state bodies and sensitivity about existing Christian chaplaincy services and their established relations with first responders and other faith groups across the country and suggests an opportunity for NCCA to extend its relationships.

Both the General Secretary and President visited Hon Peter Khalil MP, Special Envoy for Social Cohesion at his Electorate Office in northern Melbourne in November 2024. This was opportunity to talk about his role and how the Australian Government may involve and partner with national Christian and other faith leaders. It has been obvious the there has been no ongoing Government engagement with Christian leaders between global, national, local crisis events.

In 2025, individual meetings were held with two Rabbis, one in Sydney, another in Melbourne, which offered a time of sharing and understanding for all parties.

“ *For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.*
(1 Timothy 4:4-5)



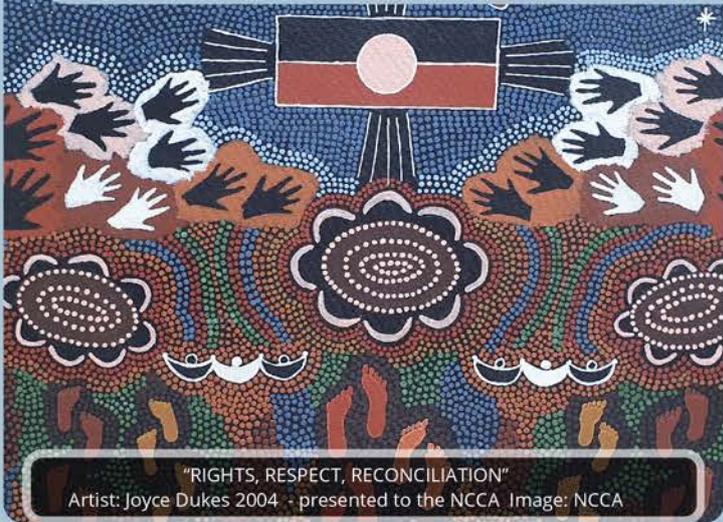
(L-R) Fr Gerard Kelly (Catholic Institute Sydney) with Rev Mikie Roberts, WCC Program Executive for Spiritual Life and Program Executive for Faith and Order) at the NCCA webinar.
Image: NCCA



NCCA President, Rev Gilmore (L) with fellow Australians to the, WCC Central Committee meeting in Johannesburg SA. Image: A Hillert, WCC

DEEP LISTENING AND ACCOMPANIMENT

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



"RIGHTS, RESPECT, RECONCILIATION"
Artist: Joyce Dukes 2004 - presented to the NCCA Image: NCCA



Deacon Oliver Slewa, participating in the CCA's The Asian Ecumenical Institute (AEI) August 2024. Image: Christian Conference of Asia.



NCCA's Oliver Slewa (centre back, blue shirt) with participants of the CCA's The Asian Ecumenical Institute (AEI) 2024 visit a Buddhist temple in Thailand. Image: Christian Conference of Asia

FIRST NATIONS - RECONCILIATION

The NCCA continues to walk in solidarity with the people of our First Nations community, in the spirit of the invitation given in the Uluru Statement from the Heart, in 2017.

Deep listening is a key part of our work focus in this area and being open to encouraging Australia to 'do better' for First Nation justice.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER DEVELOPMENT FUND

For more information on this fund see page 15.

YOUNG ADULT FORMATION

NCCA's Oliver Slewa joined over twenty other participants from across Asia for a month-long residential program, from July to August 2024. Topics explored included ecological justice and social welfare. Participants were given the opportunity to participate in interfaith dialogue.

FUNDING

The NCCA administers two Ecumenical funds:

RONALD WILSON ECUMENICAL LEADERSHIP FUND

Grants from this fund support young people in enhancing their ecumenical experience and leadership skills, helping them develop their talents and refine their vision.

In 2025, support was given to Oliver Slewa to attend the Christian Conference of Asia - Asian Ecumenical Institute (AEI) in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

GLENBURNIE PROGRAM

Funds from this program are "to provide resources for the churches and the community on issues relating to a just, participatory and sustainable society."

In 2025, support was given to two projects: one to help fund a part-time content and communications role, and the other to help an organisation expand its work in food relief across WA.

“*Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.*

Luke 12:48

FUNDING CONT.

DEEP LISTENING AND ACCOMPANIMENT

A renewed deeper relationship with God's creation

The NCCA administers the following community funds:

REFUGEE SUPPORT FUND GRANT

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 that meet their needs.

In 2025, support was provided to Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project to assist asylum seekers in 12 households; to Palestinian Christians in Australia to assist Gazan families settle in Australia; to Act for Peace for the ACT Alliance humanitarian work in Gaza.

Enquires are to be made to the secretariat@ncca.org.au as this is not advertised regularly.

TAX DEDUCTIBLE FUNDS

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER DEVELOPMENT FUND

This is a tax deductible fund set up to assist Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Peoples by giving small, usually one-off grants for community development projects by community based organisations. Grants can be made up to \$5,000. This is funded through the NCCA Martung Upah Appeal.

Funded in 2025

- On-Country Day at the 2025 National Assembly where NATSICC delegates engaged with local custodians of the lands of the Wonnarua people.

NEW COMMUNITIES FUND

In the coming year, the NCCA looks forward to opening a new tax deductible fund to assist communities in Australia eg. at times of disaster - preparing for, responding and recovery.

MARTUNG UPAH APPEAL

The Development Fund projects are funded through gifts given to the Martung Upah Appeal.

Visit: www.ncca.org.au/donate/

For all funding, it is expected that you will have read the guidelines before making a grant submission.

More information on each of these funds can be found on the NCCA website - www.ncca.org.au/funds/

All funding enquires are to be made to the secretariat@ncca.org.au



Glenburnie Program
Towards a Just, Participatory and Sustainable Society

GLENBURNIE PROGRAM
VISIT - <https://www.ncca.org.au/glenburnie-program/>

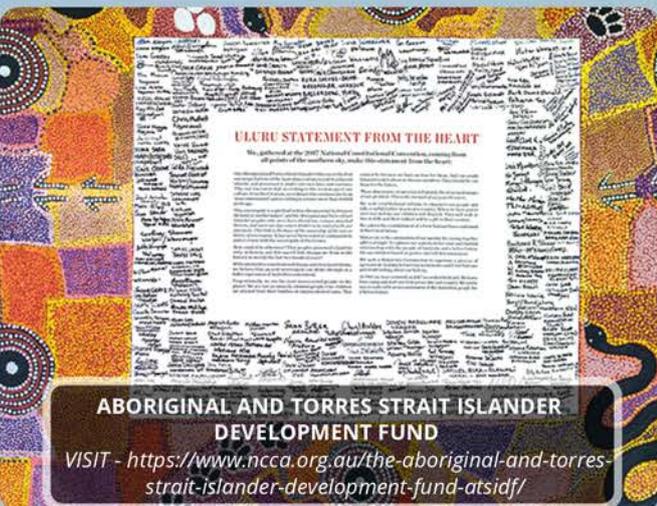


RONALD WILSON ECUMENICAL LEADERSHIP FUND
VISIT - <https://www.ncca.org.au/ronald-wilson-ecumenical-leadership-fund/>



ACRT
AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES
REFUGEE TASKFORCE

REFUGEE SUPPORT FUND GRANT
VISIT - <https://www.ncca.org.au/refugee-support-fund-grant/>



ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER DEVELOPMENT FUND
VISIT - <https://www.ncca.org.au/the-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-development-fund-atsidf/>



martung upah appeal

ANNUAL REVIEW

2024 - 2025



National Council of
Churches in Australia

ABN: 47 000 391 104

NCCA's audited financial statements for 2024-2025 are available
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