



Annual Report 2017 - 2018

Whenever we make the effort to return to the source and to recover the original freshness of the Gospel, new avenues arise, new paths of creativity open up, with different forms of expression, more eloquent signs and words with new meaning for today's world.

(Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* #11)

Since 1994, ten ministerial public juridic persons (PJPs) have been established in Australia. These Church bodies are responsible for the education, health and community service ministries formerly under the care of sixteen religious institutes.

In fulfillment of the direction of Vatican II, the Trustees of these PJPs are almost always lay people. These PJPs established the Association of Ministerial PJPs Ltd in May 2016 as their umbrella organisation to facilitate communication and cooperation between themselves and with the wider Church and others. While PJPs exist in other parts of the world only in Australia have they established their own association.

Mission

In fostering the ministry of canonical governance, the Association of Ministerial PJPs, as an umbrella body, supports its Members to flourish individually and together in communion with the Catholic Church.

Vision

Our vision is for flourishing, vibrant Catholic ministries governed by well-formed members, continuing Jesus' mission in Australia and beyond in the 21st century.

Values

Inclusive, relational, collaborative and prophetic.



AMPJP Council Chairperson

The past year has seen our Association move from a period of establishment to the beginnings of engagement.

I know the rest of the Council will join me in thanking our interim Executive Officer, Patrick Bugden, for his diligent and personable work with us while we established the Association. Since November 2017, we have been pleased to work with our new Executive Officer, Lawrie Hallinan. Since his appointment Lawrie has shown himself to be very capable and productive. We have certainly appreciated his assistance in preparing our Strategic Plan, our Operational Plan and our Governance document.

Our Association through our Council meetings has considered aspects of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and of the National Redress Scheme and National Catholic Safeguarding Standards. Having our Association structure has certainly eased the task of our communication and cooperation with other entities in the Catholic Church on these issues.

I want to thank Eva Skira, our Deputy Chair, the other Council members and Member Representatives for their good hearted and conscientious approach to working together. We are certainly aware, both in our particular MPJPs and in our Association, of the leadership and role of service to others that we have been entrusted with in the Church. Vatican II spoke boldly and clearly of the dignity of all the baptised and of the need for the laity to be more involved in the Church. Ministerial PJPs are one of the areas of the Church where the dream of Vatican II is becoming a reality.

I look forward to the continuing development of the Association in the year ahead.

Paul Oakley cfc

The Association of Ministerial PJPs works collaboratively with other peak Catholic bodies on shared issues. The Association has the unique roles of developing/ supporting Ministerial PJP canonical stewards and of representing them - when they decide to speak as a group.

Individually, and collectively, Australian Ministerial PJPs eagerly accept their calling to embody the justice and life-giving ways of Jesus Christ in both the governance and the activities of their organisations.



In August 2017, Forty-eight people attended the AMPJPs annual **canonical stewards' forum** in Melbourne. Discussion involved Catholic Professional Standards Limited, and an AMPJP Mission Statement, Vision Statement and priorities.

The draft AMPJP **Strategic Plan** was initially accepted in February 2018. Further consultation and refinement followed until its adoption in June 2018.

Six Council meetings. In addition to the AGM, the AMPJP Council held one face-to-face meeting in Melbourne in February 2018 and five teleconferences. Through these meetings and a number of working groups, information was exchanged and decisions made regarding: The National Redress Scheme; Catholic Professional Standards Ltd; National Committee for Professional Standards and the Sharing of PJP Statutes.

A survey of AMPJP members in late 2017 found some good news on the **participation of women** in Catholic Church governance:

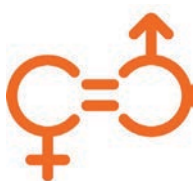
- › 60% of Ministerial PJP Trustees are women; and
- › 52% of the members of the Boards of Ministerial PJPs are women.

Full details are available in the paper: Gender equity in Australian PJPs.



AMPJP consulted extensively both within AMPJP member organisations and with external experts to develop the document Ministerial PJP **Governance principles, foundations and applications**.

Communication and Cooperation. Throughout the year, the AMPJP has worked with: The Truth Justice and Healing Council and its Supervisory Group; Catholic Religious Australia; Australian Catholic Bishops Conference; Plenary Council 2020; The Canon Law Society of Australia and New Zealand; BBI - The Australian Institute of Theological Education; Yarra Theological Union; Australian Catholic University; Catholic Health Australia; and Catholic Social Services Australia.



Association of **Ministerial PJs**

In 2018, Francis Sullivan, Chief Executive Officer of the Truth Justice and Healing Council noted The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse's praise of ministerial PJs when he said:

... the Commission went out of its way to affirm the more recent Church structures that have deployed the best practices of corporate governance in the arrangements for ministries across education, health and welfare services. One glaring feature of these structures is their lay leadership. Even more notable is that these structures are legitimate Church companies that have the same status in the Church as any diocese or religious order

The AMPJP, and its members, take seriously the trust that the Church and society place in us to operate with accountability, transparency and faithfulness following the example of Jesus.

The AMPJP was formed in 2016 and its Member organisations are:

St John of God Australia Limited (Hospitals and health care in WA, Vic, NSW);

MercyCare Ltd (aged care, family, community, health and disability services in WA);

Mercy Partners (Education, hospitals, aged care and community services in QLD);

Trustees of Edmund Rice Education Australia (Schools and youth programs in WA, NT, SA, Vic, NSW, Tas, NSW, QLD);

Dominican Education Australian Limited (Schools and learning centres in SA, Vic and NSW);

Trustees of Catholic Healthcare (Hospitals, health services, aged care and community services in NSW and QLD);

Calvary Ministries Ltd (Hospitals, health care, aged care and community care in NT, SA, Vic, NSW, Tas);

Mary Aitkenhead Ministries (Hospitals, health services, aged care, schools and social services in NSW, QLD, Vic);

Good Samaritan Education (Schools in QLD, NSW and Vic); and

Trustees of Kildare Ministries (Schools and women's/family services in QLD, SA, NSW and Vic).

