



AMPJP Annual Report

2021-2022



The AMPJP's priorities are:

1. **Collaboration for Excellence in MPJP governance:** MPJPs working together to benefit each other and the MPJP sector; and
2. **Communion with the rest of the Church:** Coordination and communication between AMPJP and others in the Church

## Mission

In fostering the ministry of canonical governance, the Association of Ministerial PJPs supports its members, as an umbrella organisation, to flourish individually and together in communion with the Catholic Church. AMPJP facilitates Ministerial PJPs collaboration on common issues and communion with the wider Church.

## Vision

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

## Values

Inclusive, relational, collaborative and prophetic.

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AMPJP acknowledges the Traditional Custodians who have, for thousands of years, walked upon and cared for the lands upon which we live, work and pray.

We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to this Country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.



## AMPJP Council Chair

The AMPJP was established in 2016 and over the past year there has been comprehensive evidence of the maturity of our Association.

In June 2022, the AMPJP signed an Accord with the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) and a similar Covenant with Catholic Religious Australia (CRA). These frameworks set out our respective roles and how we intend to work together. The AMPJP started the process of developing these frameworks about 18 months ago. It is our hope that all parties will better fulfill their mission with a more planned and strategic approach

The AMPJP used the development of three papers to assist its members clarify their common mission, as well as their similar and different characteristics. These papers were titled: 'Ministerial PJs in Australia', 'Canonical Stewards in Ministerial PJs in Australia' and 'The 'Member' in Australian Ministerial PJs'. MPJPs found these papers very helpful and we will soon prepare summary versions that will be more appropriate for the public.

In mid-2021, consultant, Les Stahl, completed the report on his consultations with AMPJP's key stakeholders after reviewing the first five years of AMPJP and hearing respondents' hopes for the future. The AMPJP Council gratefully received this report and responded to the suggestions provided.

In early 2022, we welcomed our newest member, Mercy Ministry Companions. Shortly afterwards we welcomed two Associates: Loreto Ministries and Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat. It is heartening that like-minded organisations are keen to join the AMPJP.

As we look to the future, our focus will include collaborating with our members and with ACBC, CRA and others to follow-up both the Decrees and the broader agenda that will surely emerge from the Plenary Council in July 2022.

Yours in communion and mission.

**Eva Skira AM**  
*Chair of the AMPJP Council*

## AMPJP Councillors/ Member Representatives 2021-2022

**Eva Skira AM**  
(St John of God Australia)  
– AMPJP Council Chair

**Moira Najdecki**  
(Good Samaritan Education)  
– AMPJP Council Deputy Chair

**Professor Peter Steane**  
(Catholic Healthcare)  
– AMPJP Treasurer

**David Penny**  
(Calvary Ministries)

**Jennifer Stratton**  
(MercyCare)

**Julianna Drobik OP**  
(Dominican Education Australia)

**Kieran McCarthy**  
(Mercy Partners)

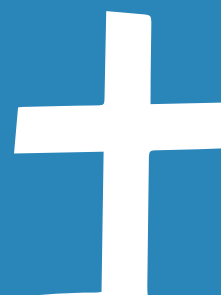
**Margaret Bounader**  
(Mercy Ministry Companions)

**Philomena Billington**  
(Edmund Rice Education Australia)

**Peter Pritchard**  
(Sophia Education Ministries)

**Richard Haddock AO**  
(Mary Aikenhead Ministries)

**Rosemary Copeland**  
(Kildare Ministries)





**CORMSAA Members 2022**

Paul Ould, Dale Morrow, Marea Nicholson AM, Brigette Sipa rsj, Phil Billington, Frank Malloy.

## Committee of Religious Institute and Ministerial PJP School Authorities Australia (CORMSAA)

The Committee for Religious Institute (RI) and Ministerial Public Juridic Person (MPJP) School Authorities Australia (CORMSAA), established by AMPJP in 2020 met via videoconference five times and held one 'in person' meeting during 2021. Jeff Burn (Kildare Ministries) was replaced by Paul Ould (Loreto Ministries) in May 2022.

Over the past year, CORMSAA has achieved the following:

- › Hosted a two-hour Forum via videoconference in Aug 2021 with 49 registrations from 20 of the 34 RI-MPJP School Authorities;
- › Continued the dialogue in response to the Position Paper on Governance including preparing to present a workshop at the 2022 National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) Conference;
- › Ensured the voice of RIs and MPJPs in dialogue and decisions of the NCEC through CORMSAA nominee Emeritus Professor Marea Nicholson AM and through Dr Frank Malloy's membership of the NCEC Enrolment Committee;
- › Provided a CORMSAA representative to attend the NCEC Diocesan Directors' Forum, October 2021;
- › Developed the CORMSAA Strategic Priorities 2022-2023 with an annual work plan in response to the feedback from the Forum;
- › Informed RI and MPJP School Authorities and fostered collaboration through regular communication; and
- › Contributed to educational conversations via CORMSAA Chair: Ms Philomena Billington's membership of ACU La Salle Academy Advisory Board.

## AMPJP Formation Committee

The AMPJP established a Formation Committee with members being: Jennifer Stratton (Chair), Eva Skira AM, Adjunct Prof. Susan Pascoe AM, Assoc. Prof. Peter Howard, Linda Ferrington RSC (formator), Dr Christiaan Jacobs-Vandegeer (formator) and Dr Caroline Thompson (formator).

Over the past year, the AMPJP Formation Committee met five times via videoconference. Their major achievement was the development of a three-year program of formation activities responding to the AMPJP Formation Framework.

The three-year plan includes: annual national Forum, written materials, occasional videoconference discussions on topical issues, and annual MPJP Steward (aka Trustee) conversations. These events primarily involve the sharing of current and former MPJP Steward's wisdom.

The COVID pandemic led to the postponement and eventual cancellation of the AMPJP's 2021 Forum. The AMPJP Council decided to reallocate the 2021 Forum funding to provide travel subsidies to enable more MPJP Stewards to attend the 2022 Forum.

The AMPJP Formation Committee also regularly updates the resource guide which supports the AMPJP Formation Framework. MPJP's report enormous benefit from the wide selection of online, paper and course options listed in the resource guide.



## Relationship with ACBC and CRA

The consultative process of developing the ACBC-AMPJP Accord and CRA-AMPJP Covenant enabled all parties to reach a clarity of purpose that will help the eventual implementation of these frameworks.

The AMPJP organised two meetings of the leadership of AMPJP, ACBC and CRA. These videoconference meetings in August 2021 and March 2022 enabled parties to update each other on current priorities and to discuss common issues. AMPJP sees regular communication, respect and trust as vital for the effective collaboration of these peak bodies of Church Authorities.

During the past year, the AMPJP Council Chair and Executive Officer gave a presentation to ACBC staff and to the CRA Assembly. These presentations spread awareness of the AMPJP to a wider group within both organisations.

## Plenary Council

The Plenary Council was a major event in the life of the Church in Australia. Four years of preparation culminated in the two Assemblies: October 2-10, 2021 and July 4-9, 2022.

AMPJP Council Chair, Eva Skira AM, was the AMPJP's nominee to the Plenary Council. Eva made several written and verbal contributions at the Assemblies. AMPJP held two webinars in June 2022 for MPJPs to discuss the Framework of Motions that were to be put to the final Assembly.

The AMPJP has endeavoured to make the most of the Plenary Council as an opportunity to inform the rest of the Church about MPJPs and their ministries.

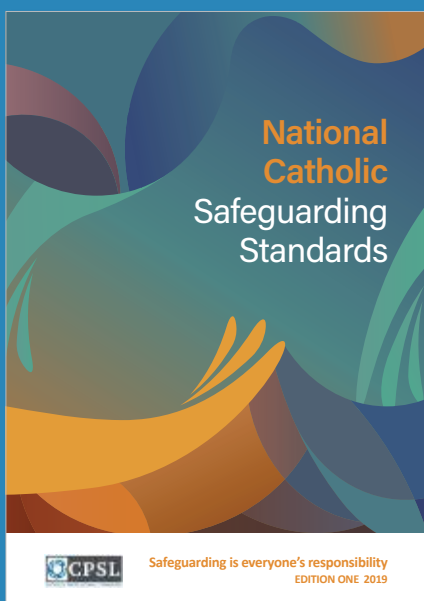


# Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd

The AMPJP is a foundation member of Australia Catholic Safeguarding Limited (ACSL) and collects MPJP contributions towards the cost of running ACSL. The AMPJP Council Chair, Eva Skira AM, is the AMPJP Member Representative on ACSL.

Over the past year, the AMPJP has consulted with its members to ensure that ACSL has professional standards for use as a review mechanism. MPJPs are working through a discernment process to approve the National Response Framework and National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (2nd Edition).

The AMPJP also nominated Dr Jane Comensoli as a member of the ACSL work group that developed a code of conduct for Church personnel (Our Common Mission: Code of Safety). Consultation regarding this draft document has only just begun.



## Continuing works

**Gender equity** is an important element of inclusive and effective MPJP governance. Our fifth annual survey of AMPJP members found continuing strong representation of women in MPJP governance:

- › 55% of Ministerial PJP Trustees are women; and
- › 54% of the members of the Boards of Ministerial PJPs are women.

A webinar was held in March 2022 to launch the AMPJP Gender Equity report and to discuss diversity in MPJP governance.

**Formation webinars** were provided using the cancelled program of the AMPJP Forum scheduled for 23 Aug 2021. The three webinars were well-attended: (1) Leadership in a Synodal Church (2) MPJPs and ACSL and (3) AMPJP Report to Members.

### Communication and cooperation

- › AMPJP representatives presented the “Governance in the Catholic Church” workshop at the Catholic Mission Conference on 02 Sept 2021. This workshop drew on MPJP experience to explore a principled approach to developing more synodal governance structures.
- › In response to a suggestion in the AMPJP 2016-2021 Review Report, the AMPJP Council developed a Public Comment framework
- › The AMPJP provided a submission on Church governance to the Synod of Bishops Synod 2021-2023 (on Synodality)
- › AMPJP updated its MPJP ministries infographic and MPJP timeline. Both these documents are freely available on the AMPJP website.
- › AMPJP distributed its free monthly e-newsletter to 277 individuals and/or organisations

### Member support

- › Current and prospective members are kept informed and supported via AMPJP Council meetings, weekly FYI emails and consultation.
- › AMPJP organised videoconference meetings of MPJP Executive Officers every 3 months for mutual support and sharing.

## Future activities

**Plenary Council** in July 2022 passed Decrees that directly mention the AMPJP along with ACBC and CRA as being responsible for: (1) developing a structure for synodal leadership (2) co-ordinating the review of the implementation of the Plenary Council and (3) a study of systemic factors which have facilitated abuse within the Church. There are also a number of Decrees that AMPJP and MPJPs may choose to progress. AMPJP sees the Plenary Council implementation phase as having positive opportunities for MPJPs and for the wider Church. AMPJP is committed to contributing towards making these possibilities a reality.

AMPJP's annual **MPJP Stewards forum** will be held in Brisbane in August 2022. The provision of travel subsidies means that this is likely to be the highest attendance of any previous Forum. Forum sessions include: mission, recruitment, synodality, prayer, MPJP priorities and mutual support.

**State-based conversations** for MPJP Stewards will be held in Perth, Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane over the next year. The AMPJP Formation Committee will organise these with input from former MPJP Stewards. It is hoped that these events will assist MPJP Stewards gain a deeper understanding of their role and build a supportive community across MPJPs.

**Educating the Church about AMPJP and MPJPs.** By late 2022, AMPJP will have two exciting initiatives to educate the Church about AMPJP and MPJPs:

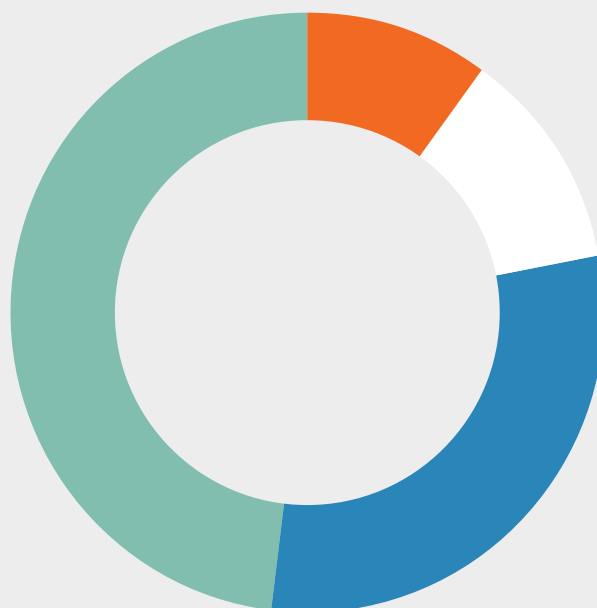
1. Two animations of approximately two minutes duration will provide a basic explanation of AMPJP and MPJPs.
2. Three papers of two-page length will provide a more comprehensive explanation of AMPJP and MPJPs.

## Financial Report

In 2021-2022, aside from a small amount of bank interest, all of the AMPJP's \$234,028 annual income came from members. Member contributions towards the cost of ACSL make up about 48% of all expenditure, followed by contributions to AMPJP staffing. Due to the cancellation of the AMPJP Forum, the AMPJP had a surplus of \$26,672 in 2021-2022.

### AMPJP Expenditure 2021-2022

- Meetings 10%
- Admin 12%
- Staffing 30%
- ACSL 48%



Since 1994, twelve Ministerial Public Juridic Persons (PJPs) have been established in Australia. These Church Authorities are responsible for the education, health, aged care and community service ministries formerly under the care of Religious Institutes/ parishes/dioceses. In fulfillment of the direction of Vatican II, the Stewards of these Ministerial PJPs are primarily lay people.

Ministerial PJPs established the Association of Ministerial PJPs Ltd in May 2016 as their umbrella organisation to foster the ministry of Ministerial PJP governance and to facilitate members' collaboration on common issues and communion with the wider Church.

While Ministerial PJPs exist in other parts of the world, only in Australia have they established their own association.

## The AMPJP Member organisations are:

**Calvary Ministries Ltd, est. 2009** (Hospitals, retirement and aged care and community care in ACT, NT, SA, Vic, NSW, Tas);

**Catholic Healthcare, est. 1994** (aged care, retirement living, community care and healthcare services in NSW, QLD);

**Dominican Education Australia Ltd, est. 2016** (Schools in SA, Vic and NSW);

**Edmund Rice Education Australia, est. 2013** (Schools, flexible/early learning centres in WA, NT, SA, Vic, NSW, Tas, QLD);

**Good Samaritan Education, est. 2011** (Schools in NSW, Vic and QLD);

**Kildare Ministries, est. 2013** (Schools and community works in QLD, SA, NSW, Vic)

**Mary Aikenhead Ministries, est. 2009** (Hospitals, health, research, aged care, schools and community care in NSW, QLD, Vic);

**MercyCare, est. 2001** (aged care, family, community, health and disability services in WA);

**Mercy Ministry Companions, est. 2021** (Schools, hospitals, health services, aged care, family and community services in QLD, NT, NSW, WA, SA, ACT and Vic);

**Mercy Partners, est. 2009** (Schools, hospitals, health services, research, aged care and community services in QLD);

**Sophia Education Ministries, est. 2017** (Schools in QLD, NSW and Vic)

**St John of God Australia Ltd, est. 2004** (Hospitals, social outreach, advocacy, disability services in WA, Vic, NSW)

