

AMPJP Annual Report

2022-2023



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 the rest of 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.

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.

Contents

AMPJP Priorities, Mission, Vision, Values	2
AMPJP Council Chair's Report	3
CORMSAA	4
AMPJP Formation Committee	5
Plenary Council	6
Safeguarding	6
Relationship with ACBC and CRA	6
Educating the Church about AMPJP and MPJPs	6
Continuing works	7
Future activities	7
Financial report	7
List of AMPJP Members	8

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 past year has seen tremendous progress on our two strategic priorities of collaboration and communion. As an association of Church Authorities, we are very conscious that we are formed in the image of the Trinity with a dynamism of unity in diversity and of service motivated by love for others.

The past year saw significant personnel changes. I thank Eva Skira for her leadership as Council Chair (2019-2022), Peter Pritchard for his contribution to Council and Sophia Education Ministries (2019-2022), Phil Billington for her contribution to Council (2019-2023) and her leadership as the inaugural Committee of Religious Institute and Ministerial PJP School Authorities Australia (CORMSAA) Chair and for Lawrie Hallinan who has recently concluded his second three-year term as Executive Director.

This Annual Report details the major achievements of the past year. Significant among these achievements is the work of the AMPJP Formation Committee and CORMSAA. I am struck by the fact that these generous and talented Committee members, like the AMPJP Council, are people who contribute to AMPJP on top of their already significant commitments.

Our strength is that highly skilled leaders within the MPJP community work together in the AMPJP. It is also a vulnerability in that this economy of generosity could become an economy of scarcity if enough people said that they were too busy, too tired or too focused on their own. I know that others share my experience of being energised and inspired by working with others to make a positive difference. The Lord truly works miracles of multiplication when many work together and contribute from what they have.

There are many opportunities in the years ahead for continued collaboration and communion both within the MPJP community and beyond.

Yours in fellowship.

Moira Najdecki
Chair of the AMPJP Council

Back row: Peter Pritchard (*Sophia Education Ministries*); Peter Steane (*Catholic Healthcare*); Phil Billington (*Edmund Rice Education Australia*); Kieran McCarthy (*Mercy Partners*); Margaret Bounader (*Mercy Ministry Companions*); David Penny (*Calvary Ministries*)
Front row: Rosemary Copeland (*Kildare Ministries*); Julianna Drobik OP (*Dominican Education Australia*); Richard Haddock AO (*Mary Aikenhead Ministries*); Eva Skira AM (*St John of God Australia*); Moira Najdecki (*Good Samaritan Education*); Jennifer Stratton (*MercyCare*)

AMPJP Councillors/ Member Representatives 2022-2023

Moira Najdecki
(Good Samaritan Education)
– AMPJP Council Chair

David Penny
(Calvary Ministries)
– AMPJP Council Deputy Chair

Professor Peter Steane
(Catholic Healthcare)
– AMPJP Treasurer

Jennifer Stratton
(MercyCare)

Rosemary Copeland
(Kildare Ministries)

Richard Haddock AO
(Mary Aikenhead Ministries)

Julianna Drobik OP
(Dominican Education Australia)

Philomena Billington
(Edmund Rice Education Australia)

Liz Vinning
(Sophia Education Ministries)
[from 19 Nov 2022]

Kieran McCarthy
(Mercy Partners)

Margaret Bounader
(Mercy Ministry Companions)

Neville Owen AO KCSG
(St John of God Australia)
[from 01 Sept 2022]

Eva Skira AM
(St John of God Australia)
– AMPJP Council Chair
[until 31 Aug 2022]

Peter Pritchard
(Sophia Education Ministries)
[until 18 Nov 2022]

Executive Director:
Lawrence Hallinan



Paul Ould, Marea Nicholson, Brigitte Siparsj, Phil Billington, Dale Morrow, Frank Malloy

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

RI-MPJP schools account for 17% of Catholic school enrolments nationally. Since its formation in 2020, CORMSAA has established itself as the representative body for RI and MPJP school authorities.

On 09 May 2023 Mary Retel was appointed as WA representative which enables a direct pathway for liaison and cooperation between CORMSAA and RI-MPJP school Authorities. Following Philomena Billington's term concluding on 07 June 2023, Audrey Brown became an Educationalist member of CORMSAA and Dr Frank Malloy was appointed Chair.

Over the past year, CORMSAA has achieved the following:

- › Delivered a workshop at the 2022 National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) Conference on CORMSAA's Position Paper on RI-MPJP's in the Governance Structures of Catholic Education and the opportunities into the future;
- › 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;
- › Implemented the CORMSAA Strategic Priorities 2022-2023 work plan;
- › Met via videoconference five times and held one half-day 'in person' meeting;
- › Conducted a survey on RI-MPJP funding concerns with a follow-up videoconference where RI-MPJP personnel discussed possible responses, enabling that feedback to be presented to NCEC;
- › Established a work group on the impact of the government's Direct Measure of Income (DMI) instrument;
- › Maintained and promoted data on the significant impact and contribution of RI and MPJP schools;
- › 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.



Chris Jacobs-Vandegier, Peter Steane, Kerry Brettell, Jennifer Stratton, Caroline Thompson, Lawrie Hallinan, Susan Pascoe, Peter Howard

AMPJP Formation Committee

Over the past year, the AMPJP's Committee for the formation of MPJP Canonical Stewards met via videoconference three times plus one half-day 'in person' meeting. Their work addresses the AMPJP Formation Framework as expressed in their three-year program of formation activities.

The annual national Forum was held in Brisbane on 22 Aug 2022 with a record 65 participants.

Gatherings were also held in Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and Brisbane for the two-hour sharing of current and former MPJP Canonical Steward's wisdom.

Videoconference discussions were held on: Modern Slavery: MPJP Canonical Stewards Respond to the Plenary Council, and consultations on the Document for the Continental Stage of the Synod on Synodality.

Written resources developed over the year included:

- › Developed a "Key questions for MPJP Canonical Stewards" following the discussion at the 2022 Forum session titled "So, You Want To Be A Canonical Steward"
- › Developed a list of key resources for new MPJP Canonical Stewards;
- › Produced two short papers 'MPJPs in Australia' and 'Canonical Stewards in Ministerial PJs in Australia'; and
- › regularly updated the AMPJP Formation Framework resource guide with wide selection of online, paper and course options.

Over the past year, the AMPJP's Formation Committee saw the retirement of members: Eva Skira AM, Adjunct Prof. Susan Pascoe AM, Assoc. Prof. Peter Howard, and Linda Ferrington RSC. New Committee members were: Peter Steane and Kerry Brettell.



Plenary Council

The final assembly of the Plenary Council of the Catholic Church in Australia took place in Sydney on July 4-9, 2022.

AMPJP Council Chair, Eva Skira AM, was the AMPJP's nominee to the Plenary Council. Eva raised the profile of MPJPs via her contributions at the Assembly and reported back to MPJPs via videoconference after the Plenary Council.

The AMPJP has begun implementing its plan to address the Plenary Council strategies and to better adopt the perspective and practice of synodality.

Safeguarding

AMPJP along with ACBC and CRA are the foundation members of Australian Catholic Safeguarding Limited (ACSL).

The initial AMPJP Member Representative to ACSL was Eva Skira AM. Neville Owen AO was appointed upon Eva's retirement. Over the past year, the AMPJP Member Representative has consulted with AMPJP Council and with MPJPs regarding: the National Response Framework, National Response Protocol, National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (2nd Edition), constitutional changes and the proposed Code of Safety framework: Our Common Mission.

AMPJP engaged its members to nominate two people to fill vacancies on the ACSL Board.

For the past three years, the AMPJP has collected MPJP contributions towards the cost of running ACSL.

In 2023, the AMPJP conducted a review of its relationship with ACSL and concluded that membership is important to MPJPs as Church Authorities. ACSL has variable impact on MPJP ministries as most are in highly regulated and audited sectors. The separate issue of whether or how much funding MPJPs should pay to ACSL requires more work.

During the year the AMPJP Council also approved the AMPJP Safeguarding policy and the required amendments to associated policies.

Relationship with ACBC and CRA

AMPJP values its relationship with the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) and Catholic Religious Australia (CRA). We are each the representative body of a distinct community of Church Authorities.

In mid-2022, AMPJP finalised the ACBC-AMPJP Accord and CRA-AMPJP Covenant. Over the past year we have tried to implement these frameworks to enhance our mutual understanding, respect and cooperation. A major shared endeavour was addressing the three Plenary Council strategies (#2.7.f, 7.2, 9.1) for which implementation responsibility was assigned to AMPJP, ACBC and CRA.

The busy diaries of all concerned meant that we only managed one meeting of the leadership of AMPJP, ACBC and CRA, that being in Brisbane in August 2022.

During the past year, the AMPJP Council Chair gave a presentation to the CRA Assembly. In March 2022, the AMPJP Council met with the CRA Council in Sydney to hear each other's priorities/plans and to share a meal.

The ACBC extended an invitation to the CRA National Executive Director and AMPJP Executive Director to participate in their General Forum of ACBC Councils and other Church agencies. This November 2022 meeting helped participants appreciate each other's ministry and our common bond.

Educating the Church about AMPJP and MPJPs

The AMPJP is aware of the ongoing need to educate the Church about AMPJP and MPJPs. In late 2022, two animations of approximately two minutes duration were produced with a basic explanation of AMPJP and MPJPs.

The AMPJP website also contains resources such as: a fact sheet on MPJPs, their structures and their ministries, a timeline of the establishment of Australian MPJPs and an infographic of the impact of MPJP ministries in 2022.

Continuing works

Values in action

AMPJP released a statement endorsing the Uluru Statement From the Heart and another statement on the AMPJP's commitment to implement Care for our Common Home via an annual *Laudato si'* action plan.

Communication and cooperation

- › The AMPJP provided a submission to the Synod of Bishops Synod 2021-2023.
- › The AMPJP Executive Director participated in the NATSICC Assembly in Townsville 19-22 Sept 2022.
- › AMPJP personnel completed the NATSICC cultural competency course.
- › AMPJP distributed its free monthly e-newsletter to 228 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 4 months for mutual support and sharing.
- › AMPJP is supporting a Religious Institute that is in the process of establishing a MPJP.

Future activities

AMPJP's annual **MPJP Stewards forum** will be held in Melbourne in August 2023. The Forum sessions include: Christian anthropology, walking with and learning from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, 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.

Financial Report

In 2022-2023, aside from a small amount of bank interest and sponsorship of the Forum, the AMPJP's \$252,596 annual income came from members. Member contributions towards the cost of ACSL make up about 42% of all expenditure, followed by contributions to AMPJP staffing. The AMPJP had a surplus of \$9,387 in 2022-2023

AMPJP Expenditure 2022-2023

● Meetings	16%
● Admin	9%
● Staffing	33%
● ACSL	42%



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)

