



AMPJP Annual Report

2023-2024



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 Annual Report 2023-2024

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 PJP 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 Council Chairperson

The Association of Australian Ministerial Public Juridic Persons (AMPJP) has developed from a gathering of interested but diverse ministries a decade ago to a vibrant association of fourteen MPJPs in 2023-24. This has been through the efforts and dedicated engagement of the representatives of these MPJPs and their passion to live out the AMPJP Vision and Mission.

Loreto Ministries joined the Association at the end of 2023 and Whanau Mercy Ministries commenced with us in 2024. With Whanau Mercy Ministries we have extended our membership 'across the ditch' and look forward to many years working with our New Zealand colleagues

AMPJP is committed to the ministry of governance and we have been fortunate in the generosity and hard work of the Chairs who have led the two key AMPJP Committees committed to fostering good governance: The Formation Committee, under Jennifer Stratton and the Education Committee (CORMSAA) under Phil Billington and then Frank Malloy. Lawrie Hallinan, AMPJP Executive Director, resigned in August 2023 but two of his legacies remain with us: firstly, his authoring of three articles describing the history and status of lay governance in Australia and secondly the production of two short videos illustrating this history and promoting the work of AMPJP.

Over the decade we have engaged with and been supported by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) and Catholic Religious Australia (CRA) as we traversed this synodal journey together. In 2023, a significant part of the meeting agendas of the Association was in working with Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd (ACSL) to determine our role and contribution to this company, of which we are a member and are ably represented by Neville Owen.

Members of the Council all carry heavy responsibilities as leaders in their own organisations but they willingly involve themselves in the work of the Association and respond generously to multiple issues. In August 2023 we farewelled David Penny, Deputy Chair, who had worked tirelessly with us over many years and welcomed Martin Teulan who commenced as AMPJP's third Executive Director.

As the peak body for Catholic lay ministries and as a community of Christ's faithful responding to Pope Francis's vision for an inclusive, participatory and evangelising Church, AMPJP is grateful for the variety of skills, gifts and wisdom that the Council brings. We look forward to living out our mission as we traverse the joys and challenges that future years will bring.

Yours in fellowship

Moira Najdecki
Chair of the AMPJP Council



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Member Representatives during 2023-2024

Moira Najdecki (Good Samaritan Education)
– AMPJP Council Chair

Michael Lee (Calvary Ministries)
– AMPJP Council Deputy Chair [from 8/8/2023]

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)

Beth Gilligan (Edmund Rice Education Australia)

Liz Vinning (Sophia Education Ministries)

Kieran McCarthy (Mercy Partners)

Margaret Bounader (Mercy Ministry Companions)

Neville Owen AO KCSG (St John of God Australia)

Denise Fox RSM (Whanau Mercy Ministries) [from 13/2/2024]

David Penny (Calvary Ministries) – AMPJP Council
Deputy Chair [until 2/8/2023]

Executive Directors:

Lawrence Hallinan till Aug 14 2023

Martin Teulan from Aug 14 2023

Image to right. Back row: Michael Lee (Calvary Ministries); Kieran McCarthy (Mercy Partners); Neville Owen (St John of God Australia)

Second back row: Richard Haddock AO (Mary Aikenhead Ministries); Beth Gilligan (Edmund Rice Education Australia); Margaret Bounader (Mercy Ministry Companions)

Second Front Row: Liz Vinning (Sophia Education Ministries); Julianna Drobik OP (Dominican Education Australia); Peter Steane (Catholic Healthcare)

Front Row: Moira Najdecki (Good Samaritan Education); Jennifer Stratton (MercyCare); Rosemary Copeland (Kildare Ministries)





Frank Malloy (Chair), Marea Nicholson, Catherine O'Kane, Brigette Sipa RSJ,
Audrey Brown, Mary Retel, Andy Kuppe, Martin Teulan

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

RI-MPJP schools account for 18% of Catholic school enrolments nationally. Since its formation in 2020, CORMSAA has established itself as the representative body for RI and MPJP school authorities.

Dr Frank Malloy continued as Chair of CORMSAA in 2023-24.

Dale Morrow resigned from CORMSAA in September 2023 and her place as Qld representative was taken by Catherine O'Kane of Mercy Partners.

Paul Ould resigned from CORMSAA in early 2024 and Andy Kuppe from EREA replaced him as Vic/Tas representative.

Over the past year, CORMSAA has achieved the following:

- Ensured the voice of RIs and MPJPs in dialogue and decisions of the NCEC through CORMSAA nominee Emeritus Professor Marea Nicholson AM and through an expanded CORMSAA membership of the key NCEC committees;
- Were invited to and attended the NCEC Catholic Education Forum;
- Met via videoconference five times and held a one day 'in person' meeting;
- Conducted three webinars for our members:
 - Overview of Catholic parents, Improving Performance in RI/MPJP Schools and our response to the Voice referendum.
 - School Service Fees – Getting it Right!
 - Empowering Boards of smaller School Authorities - Induction and Formation
- Established a work group on RI MPJP schools and regulatory authorities;
- 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 membership of ACU La Salle Academy Advisory Board



Jennifer Stratton (Chair), Gary Humphrys, Chris Jacobs-Vandegeer, Peter Steane, Kerry Brettell, Caroline Thompson, Jamie Calder SJ, Martin Teulan

AMPJP Formation Committee

The AMPJP's Committee for the formation of MPJP Canonical Stewards met via videoconference four times plus a full day 'in person' meeting. Their work addresses the AMPJP Formation Framework as expressed in their three-year program of formation activities.

Jennifer Stratton continued as Chair of the AMPJP Formation Committee in 2023-24.

The Committee provided the formation-based content for the annual AMPJP Forum held in Melbourne on 21 Aug 2023 with 60 participants.

"Wisdom Circle" gatherings were also held in Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Brisbane and online for the two-hour sharing of current and former MPJP Canonical Steward's wisdom. Participation increased from 27 to 50 this year. Excellent input from Jamie Calder SJ inspired extremely high evaluation scores.

The Committee addressed the needs of new Canonical Stewards through the provision of helpful resources and an interactive online induction session.

Committee member Dr Christiaan Jacobs-Vandegeer led a webinar for Canonical Stewards on Our Vision of the Human Person in March.

The Committee commissioned Associate Professor Jamie Calder SJ and Dr Christiaan Jacobs-Vandegeer to write a paper on Ecclesiology, Synodality and MPJPS. The Wisdom Circles provided excellent input to this paper from Canonical Stewards.



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 leadership of AMPJP, ACBC and CRA held a formal meeting in November 2023. Further meetings were held individually with the CRA and ACBC leadership and there were informal meetings of the executive officers of the peak bodies.

The CRA National Executive Director and AMPJP Executive Director participated in the General Forum of ACBC Councils and other Church agencies. Martin Teulan also was a member of the ACBC Charity Law and Tax Working Group and contributed to a key National Catholic Education Commission paper on the Mission of schools. The CRA President and National Executive Director attended the AMPJP AGM and Dinner.

Members of all three peak bodies participated in each other's formation and professional learning opportunities. Discussions have been held to share resources and potentially work together in this area.

Plenary Council

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

The three Plenary Council strategies for which implementation responsibility was assigned to AMPJP, ACBC and CRA are:

- (7.f) “study, acknowledge and address systemic factors which have facilitated abuse within the Church”
- (7.2) “develop and establish a roundtable structure ... to foster, assess, and report periodically on the development of synodal leadership” and
- (9.3) roundtable structure to review implementation of the Plenary Council.

The implementation of these strategies has been delayed by Rome not yet confirming the outcomes of the Plenary, likely due to the primacy of outcomes from the Synod on Synodality. AMPJP hopes that preparatory work on these strategies might be undertaken as soon as possible, so that if approved the strategies can be implemented promptly.

Educating the Church about AMPJP and MPJPs

The AMPJP is aware of the ongoing need to educate the Church about AMPJP and MPJPs. Resources are being added to the AMPJP website on a regular basis. These have a worldwide audience.

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. There are also many academic papers on MPJPs.

To enhance the visibility of MPJPs, and also as a contribution to the wider Church, AMPJP trialled the further development of the events section of the AMPJP site. It now aims to contain all Catholic leadership and formation events in Australia and New Zealand which are available beyond one ministry or diocese. Through this means, the AMPJP website registered an 84% increase in traffic in 2023-24 and a much greater presence on social media.

Safeguarding

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

Neville Owen AO, as the AMPJP Member Representative, has consulted with AMPJP Council and with MPJPs regarding the work of ACSL: He is also a member of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors.

For the past three years, the AMPJP has collected MPJP contributions towards the cost of running ACSL. This was discontinued in 2023. However, most MPJPs continue to have a relationship directly with ACSL.

AMPJP is working with ACSL on how best to audit the highly regulated and audited sectors of the Church such as MPJPs. There has also been strong promotion of the ACSL webinars and training.

Continuing works

Communication and cooperation:

- AMPJP distributed its free monthly e-newsletter to 231 individuals and/or organisations. An upgraded FYI email of catholic events shared more than 250 events with 100 leaders of our members. Emails with key information were distributed to around 200 RI MPJP school authorities and principals.
- the AMPJP Executive Director participated in the Catholic Health Australia and Catholic Social Services Australia national conferences.
- AMPJP personnel completed the NATSICC cultural competency course.

Member support:

- Current and prospective members are kept informed and supported via AMPJP Council meetings, weekly FYI emails and consultation.
- MPJP Executive Officers met on three occasions in 2023-24 and developed key areas such as co-operation with ACSL and a sharing of good news about the Catholic Church and its ministries.
- AMPJP is in discussions with Religious Institutes in the process of establishing MPJPs.

Future activities

AMPJP's annual MPJP **Canonical Stewards Forum** will be held in Sydney in August 2024. The Forum sessions include: synodality, formation, planning, research, our preferential option for the poor and the social licence of Catholic ministries. Along with a record number of participants, we will have guests from the U.S. and Singapore to enrich our experience.

The **AMPJP Strategic Plan** for the next three years is being developed. This will be presented to the Council for finalisation in August. One aspect is a much greater emphasis on research to indicate what formation is truly effective for Catholic leaders today. Plans are also being finalised for our Formation Committee and for CORMSAA.

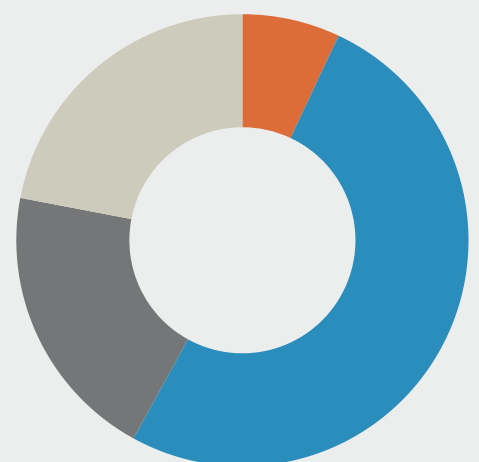
Financial Report

In 2023-2024, aside from around \$14,000 in bank interest and sponsorship of the Forum, the AMPJP's \$262,884 annual income came from its members and associates.

Contributions towards the cost of AMPJP staffing make up about 51% of all expenditure, followed by contributions to ACSL and meeting/conference costs. The AMPJP had a surplus of \$33,232 in 2023-2024.

AMPJP Expenses 2023-24

- **Admin/Comms** 7%
- **ASCL** 22%
- **Meetings** 20%
- **Staffing** 51%



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

These 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 and New Zealand have they established their own association.

The AMPJP Members are:

Calvary Ministries, 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, 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);

Loreto Ministries, est. 2023 (Schools in Qld, NSW, Vic and S.A.);

Kildare Ministries, est. 2014 (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 and NSW);

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);

Whanau Mercy Ministries, est. 2023 (Healthcare, affordable housing, community services and schools in New Zealand).

The **Marist Association** is not an MPJP and is an associate member.

