



AMPJP Annual Report

2024-2025



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 2024-2025

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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by: Alphonsus Fok



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AMPJP Council Chairperson

Our AMPJP Forum in August 2024 was a great success and proved to be both a sandpit and a launching pad for the key priorities in our Strategic Plan 2024 -2027. More than 70 Canonical Stewards, special guests and international MPJPs were immersed in the four priorities we set ourselves, Sustainability, Formation, Leadership and Relationships.

Jamie Calder SJ led us through the outcomes of the 2024 Wisdom Circles and a draft of the seminal Theological paper he had been working on as part of the AMPJP Formation Committee.

Susan Pascoe, using the support she gained in her role in the Synod on Synodality, launched the Inclusive Governance in the Synodal Church Project. This project was to investigate and report on MPJPs in the Anglophone world and encompassed all four AMPJP priorities. Its report will show that Australasia is a leading force in the MPJP world and has relationships and synodality at its core. AMPJP is delighted to continue to work with Susan in the project's second year.

Our first New Zealand member, Whanau Mercy Ministries and our guests from Singapore and Malaysia, Catholic Healthcare Asia, spoke of their journey towards joining the MPJP fold.

A cameo advertising the planned course to depth Canonical Stewards in both their canonical and civil roles, the Governance Ministry Leadership Program, featured its ACU presenters Jamie Calder and Maeve Heaney.

While the Forum set the scene for the year ahead, AMPJP, with the generous assistance of its Councillors, partners, and staff, expanded on that in subsequent months:

- CORMSAA issued an internal conversation paper entitled Strengthening the Voice of Catholic Education in Australia – thank you to Frank Malloy, Phil Billington, Marea Nicholson and the CORMSAA team for their work on this paper.
- Dr Ruth Powell reported on the spirituality findings of the Australian Community Survey and National Church Life Survey.
- The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference invited AMPJP to present at their Plenary in November.
- The Formation Committee conducted the Wisdom Circles and progressed work on the Theology of Canonical Stewardship paper.
- The energetic and far-sighted Martin Teulan imagined into being the CathEvents website to promote formation for the whole Church.
- Martin also oversaw the conduct of the Canonical Stewards Survey to assess stewards/trustees against the AMPJP Formation Framework.
- The Queensland bishops invited AMPJP to nominate a Member Representative to the newly formed Catholic Education Queensland Ltd.

It has been a busy and productive 12 months. My thanks go to the many staff, volunteers and friends who work to progress the Mission and Vision of AMPJP.

Moira Najdecki,

Chair AMPJP Council



Moira Najdecki
Chair of the AMPJP Council

Representatives during 2024-2025

Moira Najdecki (Good Samaritan Education) – AMPJP Council Chair

Michael Lee (Calvary Ministries) - AMPJP Council Deputy Chair until 10/9/24

Liz Vinning (Sophia Education Ministries) – AMPJP Council Deputy Chair from 10/9/24

Peter Steane (Catholic Healthcare) – AMPJP Treasurer (until leaving Council 23/09/24)

Patrick Cooper (Catholic Healthcare – AMPJP Treasurer (on joining Council 23/09/24)

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)

Kieran McCarthy (Mercy Partners)

Margaret Bounader (Mercy Ministry Companions)

Neville Owen AO KCSG (St John of God Australia)

Denise Fox RSM (Whanau Mercy Ministries) (until 13/2/2025)

Gerald Scanlan (Whanau Mercy Ministries) (from 13/2/2025)

Executive Director: Martin Teulan



Back row: Patrick Cooper (Catholic Healthcare); Richard Haddock; (Mary Aikenhead Ministries); Peter Steane (Catholic Healthcare); Jennifer Stratton (MercyCare); Neville Owen (St John of God Australia); Martin Teulan (Executive Director).

Middle row: Michael Lee (Calvary Ministries); Beth Gilligan (Edmund Rice Education Australia); Moira Najdecki (Good Samaritan Education); Julianna Drobik OP (Dominican Education Australia)

Front Row: Rosemary Copeland (Kildare Ministries); Liz Vinning (Sophia Education Ministries); Margaret Bounader (Mercy Ministry Companions); Kieran McCarthy (Mercy Partners)



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

AMPJP Formation Committee

AMPJP's Formation Committee implemented the first year of its subset of the AMPJP Strategic Plan. The key objectives were to increase the participation of Trustees with AMPJP formation and to ensure a strong satisfaction with the formation offered.

Participation grew with 77 participants in the August Forum, up from 60 the previous year. The Wisdom Circles had 51 participants, up from 27 in 2023.

Evaluation scores were high. Special thanks to Associate Professor Jamie Calder SJ for providing inspiring input to the Wisdom Circles and Forum over the past two years. This year's theme was "MPJP Councils as Small Christian Communities." There was indeed a growing feeling of community at each gathering.

Associate Professor Calder also developed a key paper:

Called by Love, Called to the Service of Stewardship: Theological Foundations of Lay Ecclesial Leadership in Ministerial Public Juridic Persons

This will be the basis of the theological development of Trustees in future years.

The Committee also commissioned the Canonical Stewards Research Report 2025 to gain an understanding of the Trustees' demographics, spirituality, and formation needs.

AMPJP also endorsed ACU's Governance Ministry Leadership Program, to pilot in-depth formation for Trustees and Board members.

The participation of AMPJP in the Inclusive Governance in a Synodal Church project also delivered one of the Committee's objectives, more resources for Trustees, with around 20 papers to be made available.

A very significant year for formation for AMPJP!

Jennifer Stratton,
Chair





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)

CORMSAA represents RI and MPJP school authorities who educate 18% of Catholic school students.

CORMSAA represented the RI MPJP sector to the National Catholic Education Office through our nominee, Marea Nicholson, through whom CORMSAA:

- contributed to national educational leadership within the NCEC
- promoted the NCEC Survey for Year 12 students
- attended the NCEC Forum of Catholic School authorities
- distributed NCEC resources and information to every RI MPJP school authority
- increased the number of CORMSAA representatives on NCEC Committees, and received reports back to CORMSAA meetings.
- invited NCEC Director, Jacinta Collins to present an Election briefing webinar

CORMSAA has been involved in a Synodal renewal of Catholic Education structures in South Australia and Queensland, with AMPJP asked to become a Member in the new Catholic Education Queensland Ltd.

Flowing from this, CORMSAA has proposed the formation of a federated network of state-based chapters of CORMSAA in WA, SA and Qld, to complement the existing RI MPJP organisations in Vic/Tas and NSW/ACT. This will also allow a representation of RI MPJPs to state education authorities and a sharing of experiences across states.

CORMSAA developed an RI MPJP Schools Conversation Paper to map out the RI MPJP sector within Catholic schooling in Australia. There has also been an investigation of school funding authorities.

A year of significant achievement for CORMSAA!

Dr Frank Malloy,
Chair, CORMSAA

Executive Director's report on AMPJP Activities

Executive Directors' Meetings

Executive Officers' meetings have ramped up with excellent attendance and a great deal of information flowing between MPJPs as a result. One focal point has been the accumulation of resources on the "Good News about the Catholic Church" which has examined the extensive humanitarian work of the Church, how the Church is addressing the sexual abuse issue, recent positive initiatives of the Church and more!

Executive Directors have also met in person in each state to build local communities of practice.

Building AMPJP's sustainability

The development of a part-time contracted team of three to work with the Executive Director has greatly reduced the risks of maintaining a one-person organisation, and has contributed enormously to the effectiveness of AMPJP. The highly experienced and capable team is Martin Ofner – Finance Manager, Tony Biviano – CathEvents Editor and Lisa Bright – Events Manager.

Income to AMPJP has increased 78% in the last two years due to expansion of sponsorships, membership and some increased investment by MPJPs.

Partnerships

CathEvents Website

Educating the wider Church about AMPJP and MPJPs is one of the key aims of AMPJP, and we wanted to do this in a way that served the whole Church.

In partnership with the Melbourne Catholic Development Fund, we converted an internal email events service of AMPJP to one which serves the whole Church in Australia and New Zealand. Our email list has grown from 150 to more than 3,600 including many schools and parishes.



This should increase the uptake of formation in the Church in Australasia as leaders have access to hundreds of conferences, webinars, training courses, retreats, caminos and more!

CathEvents is also being used by event organisers to ensure that their event does not clash with another event, with more organisers now informing us of events years ahead of time.

Inclusive Governance in a Synodal Church

This first international partnership for AMPJP brought us together, under the leadership of Adjunct Professor Susan Pascoe, with the Australian Catholic University, Durham University - UK, the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada, Catholic Healthcare Asia – Singapore & Malaysia, the Association of Patrons and Trustees of Catholic Schools - Ireland, the Porticus Foundation and more.

This project mapped all the MPJPs in the English-speaking world, and then developed theological, canonical and practical papers to explain and explore this new form of Church governance. Experts and practitioners from around the world met together in a Symposium in Rome to discuss their findings and make connections.

Governance Ministry Leadership Program
AMPJP endorsed this Australian Catholic University program to support Trustees and Board members of MPJPs and other Church agencies.

This 6-day pilot aimed at enhancing leadership in a lay-led Church, was closely aligned with AMPJP’s goals of developing leadership capability and fostering strong relationships. AMPJP sponsored a participant as did a number of MPJPs.

Future Activities

The key initiative for 2025-26 will be to investigate the feasibility of a formation program for prospective and new board members & trustees of Catholic Ministries.

The Formation Committee will revamp its formation of Canonical Stewards/Trustees on the findings of the Canonical Stewards Survey Report 2025, a first ever assessment against the AMPJP Formation Framework.

The partnership with the Inclusive Governance in a Synodal Church Project will examine formation for lay people in decision-taking roles and map AMPJPs beyond Anglophone countries.



Governance Ministry Leadership Program 2025



Financial Report

In 2024-2025, income of \$257,494 was made up of \$8,656 in bank interest, \$20,500 in sponsorship, \$6,000 in services and \$222,338 came from its members and associate.

Sponsorship increased 563% since 2023.

AMPJP income increased 78% since 2023.

Contributions towards the cost of AMPJP staffing make up about 54% of all expenditure, followed by administration costs and formation meetings.

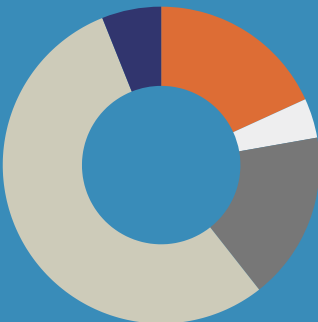
There was significant research spending for the first time.

AMPJP no longer collected funds on behalf of Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd.

The AMPJP had a surplus of \$21,672 in 2024-2025.

AMPJP Expenses 2024-25

- Admin
- Formation Resources
- Formation Meetings
- Staffing
- Formation Research



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.

