

2025-26

Annual Report



Queensland
Churches Together

Acknowledgement of Country

Queensland Churches Together is deeply committed to walking alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, recognising their role as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters on which our member churches work and worship.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present, recognising their diverse languages, customs, and connections.

We give thanks for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christian Elders, who lead communities with grace and truth.

And we uphold the vision of a reconciled Australia, in which God's grace abounds to us all, and "justice [rolls] down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." (Amos 5:24)

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Message from the Chair



As an Executive we have met regularly throughout the year and have continued to provide careful oversight and direction to the work of Queensland Churches Together.

This has been a year marked by both continuity and renewal, as well as by moments of sadness. It is with deep sorrow that we record the passing of Rev'd Canon Richard Tutin on 1 January. Serving as General Secretary from 2011 to 2020, he was widely respected and deeply valued across the Churches. His contribution to the ecumenical life of Queensland was both significant and enduring. We give thanks for his faithful service and commend him to the mercy of God.

We also acknowledge with gratitude the dedicated service of Rev David Baker, whose commitment has enriched the life and witness of QCT. In this context of transition, we warmly welcome Kate Power as General Secretary. Dr Power has demonstrated a strong work ethic, clarity of vision, and a deep commitment to the cause of Christian unity. Her attentiveness to emerging opportunities and her enthusiasm for collaboration have already borne fruit in the life of QCT.

A significant development this year has been the relocation of QCT after more than three decades at St Francis College. QCT is now situated within the premises of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia in Brisbane North. This relocation is not only practical but also symbolic. It is the only instance globally in which an ecumenical body is housed within an Orthodox diocesan setting. It stands as a visible sign of trust, mutual respect, and the deepening relationships among the Churches.

QCT continues to encourage and enable its members to pray together, to foster Christian unity, to exercise a prophetic witness, and to engage in dialogue with other faith communities. Our work remains guided by the agreed strategic directions of collaboration, capacity building, community, and most importantly prayer.

During the course of the year, a number of significant initiatives have been undertaken. These include seminars addressing domestic and family violence, which have strengthened both awareness and practical engagement among member Churches. Prayer services for peace and unity have also been held, providing opportunities for common witness in a time that calls for hope and reconciliation. Our ongoing commitment to First Nations peoples remains central, as we continue to listen, to walk together, and to seek justice and reconciliation.

In this context, QCT participated in the National Day of Mourning, standing in solidarity with the Jewish community, honouring the victims of Bondi Beach, and reaffirming our shared commitment to oppose antisemitism and all forms of hatred and violence.

This year also witnessed growth in our fellowship, as the Wesleyan Methodist Church and Gladstone Region Christian Leaders Network were respectively received into Membership and Affiliate Membership, further strengthening our common life and shared mission.

As a body, we welcomed the newly installed Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Church of Brisbane, Shane Mackinlay, assuring him of our prayers and our willingness to work together in the service of the Gospel. At the same time, we express our sincere appreciation to Mark Coleridge for his longstanding support of and contribution to the ecumenical life of QCT.

The year 2025 also marked the 1700th anniversary of the First Council of Nicaea, a milestone of profound significance for the whole Church. QCT commemorated this anniversary through a dedicated prayer service and a series of addresses delivered by representatives of different Christian traditions. This observance served as a reminder of the enduring foundation of our shared faith and of the continuing call to unity in Christ.

Efforts have also been made to broaden the visibility and engagement of QCT through a new initiative showcasing its work, including the development of a promotional video. This reflects a commitment not only to strengthening internal relationships but also to extending the reach of our common witness.

The Commissions and Activity Groups have continued their work with diligence and commitment, and their contribution is gratefully acknowledged. I also extend sincere thanks to the Executive, including our Treasurer Steve Griffin, for their wisdom, discernment, and faithful stewardship. I wish also to express my sincere appreciation to our Deputy Chair, Joe Goodall, whose steady counsel, generosity of spirit, and unwavering support have been of great value to the work of the Executive and to me personally.

We express our appreciation to the administration officer, Ms Jackie Fewtrell, for her dedicated support of the organisation's work.

QCT is, by its very nature, an expression of the Churches themselves and not a stand-alone entity. The active participation, prayerful support, and shared vision of the member Churches remain essential to its life and future. As we continue to respond to new opportunities, we look to the leaders of the Churches to assist in shaping the direction of our common journey.

In commending this report, I pray that Queensland Churches Together may continue to deepen the ecumenical vision and to strengthen the life and witness of the Churches in this State.

May God bless our shared endeavours and may the Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

His Grace Bishop Bartholomew

Bishop of the Brisbane Diocese – Greek Orthodox Church

Message from the General Secretary



When my daughter was born, an older friend told me that – in parenting – “The days are long, but the years are short.” As we near the end of my first 12 months with Queensland Churches Together (QCT), that phrase comes readily to mind.

It’s hard to believe that nearly a whole year has passed since I stepped into this role. Yet, to borrow from Rudyard Kipling’s famous poem, the past 12 months have certainly seen QCT “fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds’ worth of distance run.”

I am often asked what QCT does and why we exist. I usually answer by referring to Jesus’ prayer, set down in John 17:21, “... *that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.*”

QCT exists for the “so that” clause in Jesus’ prayer: “*so that the world may believe...*”

The more Queensland’s churches can show that they truly are “together,” the stronger our collective witness will be. QCT helps churches do that by building and strengthening our connections, facilitating joint projects, and speaking with one voice on things that matter.

Membership in QCT doesn’t mean agreeing with every aspect of other member churches’ theology or practice. Rather, it’s about coming together in joy and humility – recognising that what we share in Christ is more important than our differences and being willing to pray, work, serve, and learn with each other.

Nor is membership chiefly about return on investment, although QCT does its best to make every penny count. Rather, it’s about coming together in generosity and friendship – accepting the unity that God gives us in Christ, then looking for what we can offer and how we can build each other up – giving ourselves in love and grace to one another.

In this spirit, QCT gave thanks for the life of The Reverend Canon Richard Tutin in January. Richard was a much-loved and respected leader, serving as QCT General Secretary between 2011 and 2020. We also celebrate QCT Board member Pat Mullins, whom Pope Leo XIV recently awarded a papal knighthood for his services to the Church. We’re grateful for the generous life of service lived by each one and for their commitment to Christian ecumenism.

This year has been one of several new beginnings at QCT. It is your contribution and support that make this possible. Thank you for your welcome, trust, commitment, and belief in QCT’s mission.

Dr Kate Power
General Secretary

New Beginnings in 2025-26

A new home for QCT



After 30+ wonderful years at Old Bishopsbourne, QCT relocated to the [Greek Orthodox Diocese of Brisbane](#) (Taigum) in February 2026. The move was celebrated with a prayer service and dinner hosted by QCT Board Chair, His Grace Bishop Bartholomew, and attended by members of QCT's Board, Leadership Group, and Commissions. We're honoured to be sharing this beautiful new space with Bishop Bartholomew and Diocesan Secretary, Stavros Kosmatos.

We're also deeply grateful to The Reverend Dr Ruth Mathieson and her team at [St Francis College](#), not only for hosting QCT over many years but also for giving us a very touching send-off. We joined in prayer at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit and walking through Old Bishopsbourne, followed by morning tea and good conversation looking towards an ongoing friendship between QCT and St Francis College.



A renewed focus on regional Queensland

Although based in Brisbane, QCT aims to support Christian unity around Queensland. This year, the General Secretary has visited and listened carefully to church leaders and ecumenical groups in Cairns, Gladstone, Rockhampton, Toowoomba, and Townsville.





Key changes we've made immediately based on these visits are to

- highlight regional ecumenical developments in every QCT newsletter.
- livestream every Assembly meeting, to facilitate engagement by QCT member churches and affiliate members.

Regular regional visits will continue in future. Please let the General Secretary know when might be convenient for you! We're also brewing new plans to enhance knowledge-sharing and mutual support between churches around the state. Watch this space!

And we're delighted that the Gladstone Region Christian Leaders' Network has decided to join QCT as an affiliate member – welcome!



A new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission

QCT celebrates the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christian leaders in our member churches. This year, we have deepened our commitment to Reconciliation and meaningful engagement by establishing the QCT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Reference Group (QCT-ATSICRG) as one of QCT's three active Commissions.



We're delighted that Kym Korbe (Uniting Church) has consented to be the first QCT-ATSICRG Chair and that she is joined by:

- Aunty Sandra King, OAM (Anglican).
- Aunty Ravina Waldren (Murri Ministry).
- Joni McCourt (Catholic).
- Shirli Congoo (The Salvation Army).

We look forward to launching QCT-ATSICRG soon and we invite further representation on this Commission from other QCT churches.



This year, QCT successfully applied for \$10,000 in funding from the Australian Research Theology Foundation ([ARTFInc](#)) to pilot an approach to bringing Indigenous and non-Indigenous Christian theologians into conversation with Christian Elders' faith narratives.

This project is currently underway and we're grateful for involvement from Christian Elders as well as theologians [Professor Anne Pattel-Gray](#) (University of Queensland), [Associate Professor Peter Kline](#) (St Francis College), [Dr Rachel Krohn](#) (Trinity College Queensland), and [Dr Sr Maeve Heaney](#) (Australian Catholic University/Holy Spirit Seminary).

QCT also:

- supported the Uniting Church in Queensland and [Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress](#) in hosting the ecumenical "Gathering in the Spirit for Justice" event (Brisbane).
- celebrated Christmas with [Murri Ministry](#) (Brisbane).
- began prioritising Indigenous procurement, such as in the delicious catering to be served at our upcoming Assembly.

New Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) resources



During 2025, the Joint Churches Domestic Violence Prevention Project (JCDVPP) delivered seven online seminars addressing topics such as financial abuse, spiritual abuse, and forgiveness. Presenters included JCDVPP members, as well as guest presenter The Reverend Deb Bird (Anglican). All seminars were recorded and can be accessed freely from the [QCT website](#).

This year, QCT successfully applied for ~\$30,000 in funding from the [Glenburnie Program](#) to update and substantially rework our domestic and family violence (DFV) booklet and to produce a new multilingual companion video. The new booklet draws on current research and the professional expertise of Christians working in DFV prevention, including information about coercive control and technology-facilitated abuse. It directly addresses myths about

DFV and how Christian churches can support victim-survivors, work safely with people who use violence, and avoid adding spiritual abuse to DFV.

Presenting key messages for victim-survivors, church leaders, and people who use violence, the new roughly 4-minute video can be played as one unit or in three separate parts. It is suitable for use in churches and women's/men's groups. Both the booklet and the video will be launched soon.

We're very grateful for the work of:

- *Project Management Group* – Carole Danby (Catholic), Jenny Clark (Anglican), Janette Phelan (Churches of Christ), and Jackie Fewtrell (QCT).
- *Project Officers* – Amanda Ballin and Genevieve Farquhar.
- *Video presenters* – Carole Danby, The Reverend Bruce Moore (Moderator, Uniting Church), and Dr Brian Sullivan (Perpetrator Intervention expert).
- *AUSLAN interpreter* – The Reverend Lauren Martin (Anglican).
- [ÄKTA Media](#) (behind the camera).

QCT also facilitated a connection between the Brisbane-based Heads of Church and the federally funded Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women ([CEVAW](#)), enabling church leaders from multiple denominations to contribute to important new research by [Professor Sarah Wendt](#) and Dr Josephine Clarke into Christian pastoral responses to DFV.



A new approach to communication

Communication is central to building Christian unity around our great state.

This year, QCT adopted a new Strategic Communication Plan, which includes:

- raising the profile of Christian ecumenism on social media ([Facebook](#) & [LinkedIn](#)).
- celebrating and strengthening mutual support between churches in the cities and regional/rural/remote Queensland through a regular, informative [newsletter](#).
- building engagement by producing a "hero video" explaining what QCT is about.

We're grateful to everyone who has followed us on social media, shared stories and photos, and participated in our new video, which will be launched at the May Assembly (and thereafter posted to QCT's website). We're also grateful to Archbishop Jeremy Greaves and The Reverend Peter Catt for allowing us to film at St John's Cathedral and to The Reverend David Savage for hosting us at Kenmore Uniting Church. Big thanks also to [ÄKTA Media](#) for realising our vision.



Our intrepid video cast includes Archbishop Jeremy Greaves, The Reverend Peter Catt, The Reverend Rebecca King (Anglican); Fr Anthony Mellor (Catholic); Bishop Daniel, Stephanie Khalil (Coptic Orthodox); Dr Joe Goodall (Congregational Fellowship); Bishop Bartholomew (Greek Orthodox); Margit Hubbers (Lutheran); Mark Everitt and members of his Queensland team (The Salvation Army); Taisoo Kim Watson (Quakers); Andrew Langford, Gemma Ward, The Reverend David Savage, Brian Hoole, Kym Korbe (Uniting), and Violet Langan (Pacific Islands Council).

Please follow us on social media, sign up for our newsletter (also available via the website), and consider showing our new video in your church during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (and at any other ecumenical events you might host). We're keen to get the word out about the breadth and depth of Christian unity in Queensland!

A new vision for QCT's Faith & Unity Commission

QCT's Board, Leadership Group, and staff participated in many ecumenical church gatherings this year including the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (St Stephens, Brisbane), the Brisbane Lord Mayor's Prayer Breakfast (gold sponsor), the Anglican-Catholic Reconciliation Service, the Joint Ecumenical Committees Dinner, and a Multicultural Youth Gospel Conference. We also connected with ecumenical parachurch organisations including [Renaissance](#), [Alpha's Every Generation Tour](#), Thrive-Brisbane, and [Micah Women's Network](#).



And we celebrated many special events with QCT members and other churches, including the Baptist World Congress, Brisbane's Multicultural Mass and Archbishop Shane Mackinlay's installation (Catholic), St Teklehaimanot 4th Annual Feast (Eritrean Orthodox), National Survivors' Day Anniversary and Gladstone Uniting Church 30th anniversary (Uniting).



Our second Assembly in 2025 focused on celebrating the 1700th anniversary of Nicaea. We're grateful to QCT Board Chair Bishop Bartholomew for hosting the event and to our three presenters, each of whom addressed the question "What do you see as the significant outcomes of the Council of Nicaea?"

- The Reverend Canon Dr Don Edwards (Anglican)
- The Very Reverend Dr Anthony Mellor (Catholic)
- Fr Romanos Stergiou (Greek Orthodox).



In February 2026, QCT also hosted a significant collaborative conversation with Heads of Church, seminary leaders, and parachurch organisations, to explore where "[receptive ecumenism](#)" is up to in Queensland and what might be the next steps to building Christian unity across Queensland. This work will continue throughout 2026. Stay tuned for more information!



New opportunities to present Christian perspectives to government

Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) became legal in Queensland on 1 January 2023. VAD has significant implications for churches and particularly for faith-based healthcare providers. The *VAD Act 2021* (s.156) requires a review of the scheme on or after three years from its inception (1 January 2026).

In collaboration with Nic Ryan (CEO, Lutheran Services), QCT facilitated the establishment of a Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) Working Group under the Heads of Church. This ecumenical group (Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Lutheran, Uniting, QCT) is canvassing the range of views across Queensland churches and developing a potential collective response for Queensland churches and/or assisting individual churches participating in the review. This work will continue throughout 2026.



Also in 2025-2026, QCT has engaged with government around chaplaincy in public hospitals. After facilitating an ecumenical Hospital Chaplaincy Working Group, QCT was invited to represent Christian churches in Brisbane's Metro North Health (MNH) review of Pastoral Care.

In this ongoing work, QCT's General Secretary:

- represented Christian churches on the recruitment panel for MNH's new Spiritual Care Project Officer.
- represents Christian churches on MNH's Spiritual Care Advisory Group.
- facilitates communication between Christian churches and the Project Officer.
- provides briefings and support to the Project Officer in relation to chaplaincy.

QCT General Secretary was an invited guest speaker at the Queensland Parliamentary Christian Breakfast in October 2025, presenting to Members of Parliament about QCT's work.

On behalf of Queensland Disaster Chaplaincy Network ([QDCN](#)), QCT's General Secretary also successfully applied for ~\$34,000 in funding from the [Gambling Community Benefit Fund](#) (GCBF), to:

- purchase customised clothing for disaster chaplains.
- develop online annual refresher training.
- establish a community of practice for disaster chaplains.

QDCN is currently preparing to use GCBF monies as outlined above.

A new need for strong and positive interfaith relations

QCT remains a member of the Queensland Faith Communities Council (QFCC). Our new General Secretary elected to the QFCC Executive in mid-2025 and now Chairs QFCC's *Communications and Government Relations* Subcommittee.



In response to ongoing and rising antisemitism mid-2025, QCT coordinated a letter signed by Heads of Church around Queensland, to express our continued solidarity with the Jewish community.

Following the Bondi terrorist attack, we issued a further statement, co-signed by QCT's Board Chair and General Secretary:

- mourning the death of innocent people.
- offering condolences to their families and friends.
- thanking those who responded in good faith.
- re-affirming the human right to celebrate religious holidays without interference.

QCT Board and staff also took part in both the Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies' Solidarity Event and Kristallnacht Commemoration, and the National Day of Mourning.



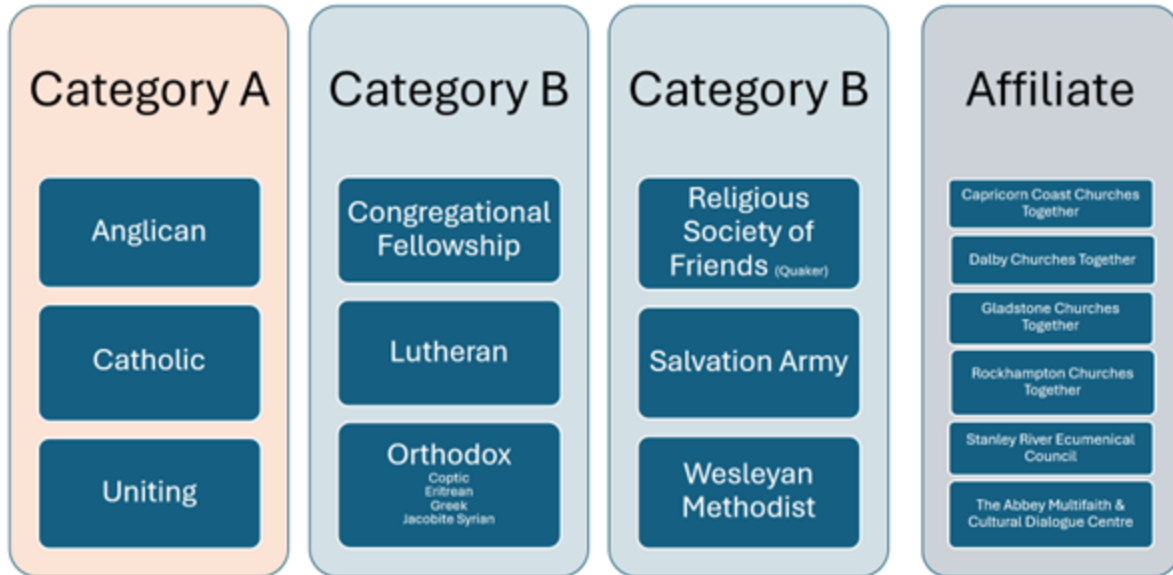
QCT continued developing relationships with other faith communities – both directly and through QFCC – contributing in various ways to events such as:

- Hiroshima & Nagasaki Interfaith Prayer Vigil (co-hosted by QFCC and Catholic Justice and Peace Commission).
- Toowoomba Abrahamic Faiths Gathering.
- Together for Humanity Youth Summit at the Queensland Parliament.
- Australian Pakistani National Association Interfaith Conference.
- Islamic Society of Gold Coast, "Breaking of the Fast" dinner.
- Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Logan Iftar: "Fasting in My Religion."
- Annual Faith Service for the Legal Profession and the Judiciary.



A new governance model

QCT’s current member churches and affiliate members are listed here below.



Category A and B member churches make annual financial contributions which typically represent the main source of funding for QCT’s work.

- The QCT Board pays close attention to budgeting and investments, with a view to minimising costs and maximising income flow from reserves.
- Between mid-2025 and April 2026, QCT’s new General Secretary volunteered to receive 0.8FTE remuneration.
- This year, we also attracted important new project funding.

QCT adopted a new Constitution in April 2024, which established the governance structure outlined here below.



Under this model, most of QCT’s work is completed by staff and Commission members.

- **Assembly meetings** are an opportunity for prayer, dialogue, ecumenical activities, and providing input to QCT’s strategic planning process.
- **The Board** is responsible for strategic decisions.
- **The Leadership Group** plays a “hands-on” role, including participating in QCT events. Current QCT Leadership Group members listed here below:

Current QCT Board members are listed below.

Anglican • Rev Helen Paget
Catholic • Patrick Mullins
QLD Congregational Fellowship • Dr Joe Goodall
Coptic Orthodox • Fr Michael Lawandi
Greek Orthodox • Bishop Bartholomew (Chair)
Lutheran • Margit Hubbers
Uniting • Dr Fiona Patterson

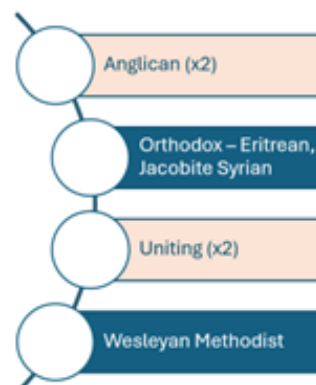
QCT’s current Treasurer is Mr Steve Griffin. The Treasurer is appointed annually.

QCT’s longstanding Administration Officer is Ms Jackie Fewtrell.

Current QCT Leadership Group members are listed here below.

Catholic – Margaret Naylor (Brisbane)
Catholic – Monica Brennan (Toowoomba)
Congregational Fellowship - Eleanor Durrance
Coptic Orthodox – Mark Ghobrial
Greek Orthodox – Fr Evangelos
Lutheran – Margit Hubbers
Religious Society of Friends – [TBC]
The Salvation Army – Derek Whitehouse

Vacancies:



In working with this model since mid-2025, the QCT Board has identified potential for improvement in some areas. In the coming months, therefore, QCT will be undertaking a systematic governance review, including:

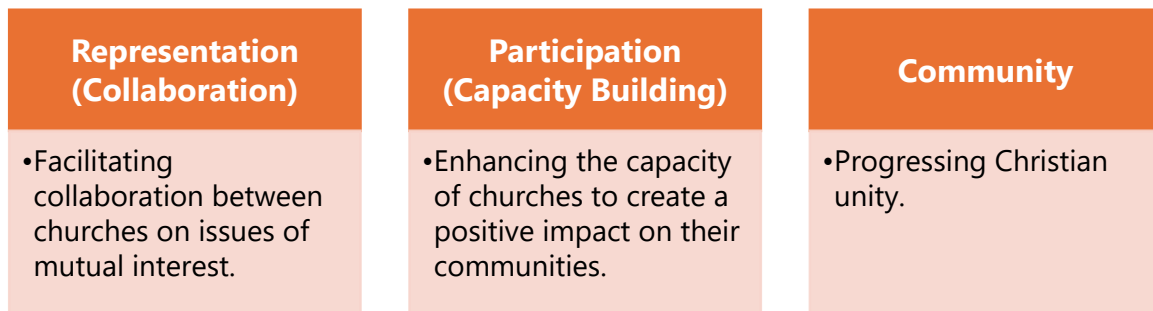
- updating QCT's Strategic Plan – beginning with a strategic planning workshop at our first 2026 Assembly.
- reviewing QCT's policies, procedures, and other significant governance matters.

Our aims in conducting this review are to establish a transparent, equitable, and sustainable governance and operational model; to ensure that QCT runs as effectively and efficiently as possible; to honour our member churches' annual financial contributions, and – always, above all else – to uphold our reason for being.

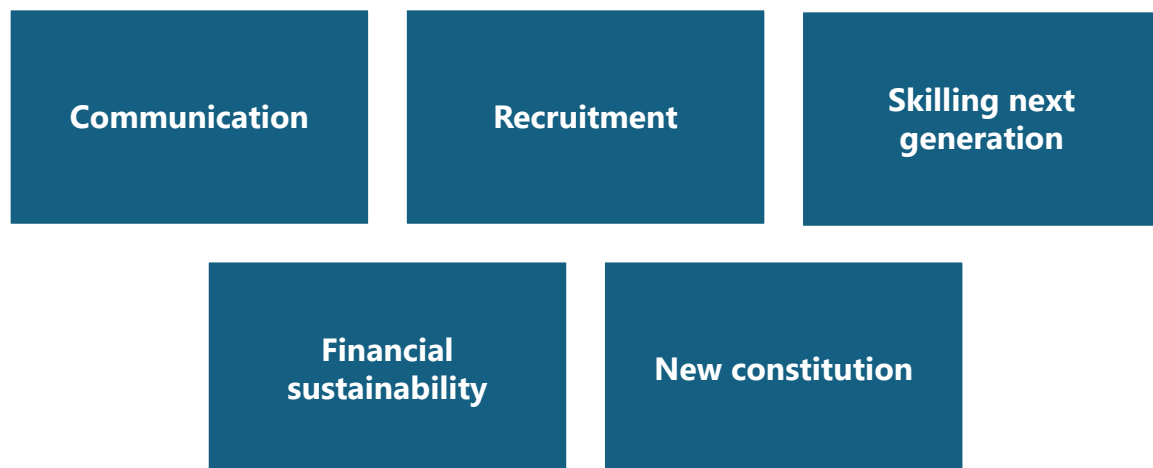
“SO THAT THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE...”

In the following pages, QCT's work in this past year is summarised relation to QCT's current Strategic Plan. This Strategic Plan has three overarching *Pillars*, each of which is realised in several strategies. The plan also includes four key *Enablers*, which undergird our work.

Pillars:

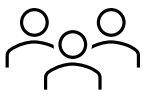
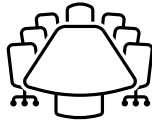

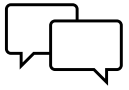
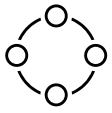



Enablers:




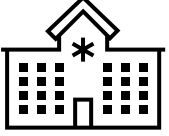

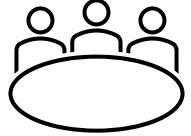


Strategic Plan Summary






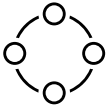
Collaboration: Facilitating collaboration between churches on issues of mutual interest.


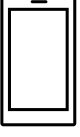


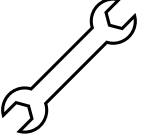
 <p>Engage strategically with Heads of Church (Brisbane) and regional heads to raise and listen for issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported bi-monthly Heads of Church meetings. <i>(ongoing) (BNE)</i> Met individually with Heads of Church. <i>(ongoing) (QLD)</i> Facilitated <i>(BNE)</i> Heads of Church engagement with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Dear Unity</i> author, Philip Ryall <i>OneHeart</i> CEO, Ian Shelton. <i>CEVAW</i> research on pastoral responses to Domestic & Family Violence. Lutheran Services CEO, <i>Nick Ryan</i>, re. Voluntary Assisted Dying. Participated in Baptist World Congress, Anglican Synod, Uniting Presbytery-Synod Interface, Anglican-Roman Catholic Clergy Day. <i>(QLD)</i> 	 <p>Further develop capacity to engage government on issues of mutual interest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addressed Parliamentary Christian Breakfast. <i>(QLD)</i> Met with Education Minister’s Chief of Staff re. ongoing support for Christian Religious Instruction in public schools. <i>(QLD)</i> Developed relationship with <i>QLD Community Alliance</i>. <i>(QLD)</i> Facilitated establishment of Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) Working Group, under Heads of Church & Lutheran Services leadership. <i>(ongoing) (QLD)</i> Represented Christian Churches on Metro North Spiritual Care Advisory Group. <i>(ongoing) (BNE)</i> 	 <p>Facilitate Reconciliation with First Peoples pathways by enabling the sharing of best practice ideas and insights between Churches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established new QCT Commission: QCT Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Cultural Reference Group (QCT-ATSCIRG). <i>(ongoing) (QLD)</i> Secured & project managed <i>ARTFInc</i> grant (\$10,000): ecumenical project documenting/co-theologising First Nations Christian Elders’ faith stories. <i>(ongoing) (QLD)</i> Reviewed QCT procurement practices, to prioritise Indigenous supply chains. <i>(ongoing) (BNE)</i> Supported the Uniting Church in Queensland and <i>Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress</i> in hosting the ecumenical justice event. <i>(BNE)</i> Engaged with <i>Professor Anne Pattel-Gray</i> and <i>Dr Ryan Williams</i> re. possible church role in supporting Indigenous people in the justice system. <i>(ongoing) (QLD)</i>
 <p>Engage with other faiths through QLD Faith Communities Council (QFCC): build understanding and respect, collaborate on common interest issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Represented QCT on QLD Faith Communities Council (QFCC) Executive (Chair, Government & Media Relations Committee). <i>(ongoing) (QLD)</i> Work with QFCC Executive and Chief Justice’s Office to organise Annual Interfaith Law Service. <i>(BNE)</i> Built interfaith connections through engagement with <i>Together for Humanity</i>, <i>Islamic College of Brisbane</i>, and numerous multifaith events/panels/Iftar dinners. <i>(ongoing) (BNE)</i> 	 <p>Support activities outside QCT that advance ecumenical understanding and Christian witness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitated peer coaching for Australian Ecumenical Officers’ Network (<i>AEON</i>). <i>(AUS)</i> Retained membership in Alliance for Christian Religious Education (<i>ACRE</i>). <i>(ongoing) (QLD)</i> Supported <i>NAYBA</i>’s 2026 National Impact Audit. <i>(AUS)</i> Developed relationships with <i>CommonGrace</i>, <i>Australian Centre for Christianity & Culture</i>, <i>Centre for Public Christianity</i>, <i>City to City</i> & <i>Thrive Brisbane</i>. <i>(ongoing) (AUS)</i> General Secretary is Honorary Research Fellow with <i>University of Divinity</i>. <i>(ongoing) (AUS)</i> 	 <p>Develop local Covenants process. & Co-create a coalition of Christian and other faith leaders to advance issues of common interest in the lead up to the State election.</p> <p>Not yet attempted.</p>

Capacity Building: Enhancing the capacity of churches to create a positive impact on their communities.

 <p>Support Joint Churches Domestic Violence Prevention</p> <p>Project (JCDVPP) resources; grow membership base of JCDVPP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivered 7 online DFV seminars (2025). (QLD) Secured & project managed Glenburnie Program funding (~\$30,000), creating new DFV booklet & companion video. (ongoing) (AUS) 	 <p>Pastoral capacities – run pastoral skills courses, develop intro course to</p> <p>Hospital Chaplaincy; develop intro course to Aged Care chaplaincy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivered Pastoral Skills course to St Vincent de Paul in Ipswich (Rev David Baker). (QLD) Sought exclusive license to deliver Lab 1 & Pastoral Skills courses in Australia. (ongoing) (AUS) 	 <p>Qld Disaster Chaplaincy Network (QDCN) – develop</p> <p>membership base; train in regional areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secured Gambling Community Benefit Fund (approx. \$34,000) for customised clothing, annual refresher training, & communities of practice. (ongoing) (QLD) Provided administrative assistance to QDCN. (ongoing) (QLD)
 <p>Support Public Hospital Chaplaincy renewal work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convened ecumenical Working Party on hospital chaplaincy. (ongoing) (BNE) Represented Christian churches on Metro North Health Region's Spiritual Care Advisory Group. (ongoing) (BNE) Facilitated communication between Metro North and ecumenical Working Party. (ongoing) (BNE) 	 <p>Promote stewardship of creation through Qld Churches</p> <p>Environmental Network (QECN).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitated “Season of Creation” art & photography exhibition at St John's Cathedral. (BNE) Hosted ecumenical service at Mt Coot-tha Botanical Gardens. (BNE) Established a new relationship with A Rocha. (ongoing) (QLD) 	 <p>Look for</p> <p>opportunities to increase the capacity of churches that are not being addressed otherwise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connected Heads of Church variously with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanctuary Mental Health Ministries. (QLD) RightNow Media. (QLD) Home Foundation re. using church land for social housing. (QLD) Consulted with church leaders around QLD re. the appetite and potential for online ecumenical peer coaching, facilitated by QCT. (ongoing) (QLD)

Community: Progressing Christian unity by fostering deeper relationships, respect, praying together

 <p>Receptive Ecumenism: Showcase the diversity and unity of Christian Faith through our communication and events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consulted with BNE Heads of Church, colleges, parachurch organisations about reinvigorating QCT’s Faith & Unity Commission. <i>(ongoing) (QLD)</i> • Presented to 2025 Joint Committees Dinner on “Renewal at QCT: Listening, Learning and Loving in the Way of Christ.” • Featured prayers and stories from member churches in QCT newsletter. <i>(ongoing) (QLD)</i> 	 <p>Prepare for Nicaea 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted (& livestreamed) an Ecumenical Seminar celebrating 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea. <i>(QLD)</i> 	 <p>Run Ecumenical Prayer services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsored Brisbane Lord Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast (2025, 2026). • Contributed to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. <i>(BNE)</i> ○ NCCA online Prayer for Unity. • In collaboration with Greek Orthodox Diocese of Brisbane, hosted an ecumenical prayer service for peace, with homily by Bishop Daniel. <i>(Coptic Orthodox) (BNE)</i>
 <p>Promote Ecumenism in ministry formation and development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented on ecumenism at 2025 Catholic Archdiocese Deacon’s Formation Day (Rev David Baker). <i>(BNE)</i> 	 <p>Promote ecumenical experiences for young people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiated consultations with church and school leaders around arts-based youth initiative. <i>(ongoing) (BNE)</i> 	 <p>Facilitate local and regional collaborations to enable the revitalisation of local and rural Christian faith networks and communities – promote “Gather”, “Movement Day”, and “NAYBA” opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please see “Support activities outside QCT that advance ecumenical understanding and Christian witness” above.

Enablers:		
 <p>Ensure our long-term financial sustainability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocated (downsized) QCT office from St Francis College to Greek Orthodox Archdiocese. <i>(ongoing)</i> • Accrued savings from General Secretary voluntarily accepting 0.8FTE remuneration (May 2025 – April 2026). • Consulted with member churches re. Quaker proposal to divest from fossil fuels; deferred decision to end 2026. 	 <p>Deliver quality, timely, and useful communication with stakeholders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopted new Strategic Communication plan. <i>(ongoing)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Produced regular bi-monthly, expanded newsletters. ○ Posted QCT and member church news to Facebook (802 followers; 91 posts; top post: https://tinyl.co/4X3N) ○ Activated QCT LinkedIn (344 followers; 312 posts; top post: https://tinyl.co/4X3H) ○ Produced new “Hero Video,” to be launched at first 2026 Assembly. (QLD) • Developed a new approach to QCT Assembly meetings (livestreaming & rotating locations), to facilitate increased engagement by regional churches. <i>(ongoing)</i> (QLD) 	 <p>Develop and implement new Constitution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified shortcomings in new Constitution, requiring systematic governance review. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commenced governance review in consultation with Heads of Church and focused support from Bishop Mark Vainikka (Lutheran) and Pat Mullins (Catholic). <i>(ongoing)</i> • Identified need to review QCT Policy and Procedures, developing new: (1) Policies & Procedures Framework; (2) Induction Manual; (3) Organisational history. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commenced review of QCT Policies & Procedures Framework. <i>(ongoing)</i>
 <p>Implement member recruitment and retention processes to optimise membership growth and impact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual visits with member churches. <i>(ongoing)</i> (QLD) • Individual visits with potential member churches. <i>(ongoing)</i> (QLD) • Individual visits with existing and new Affiliate Members. <i>(ongoing)</i> (QLD) 	 <p>Develop avenues for empowering others / skilling next generation of leaders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaged in preliminary consultations with national ecumenical officers, re. establishing a nationwide mechanism for upskilling next generation leaders. <i>(ongoing)</i> (AUS) 	

QCT Commissions



Joint Churches Domestic Violence Prevention Project (JCDVPP) Mission:

In the light of the gospel, raise awareness and equip churches to respond to the impact of domestic and family violence within church communities.

Dear QCT colleagues,

The 2025 appointment of Dr Kate Power as General Secretary has boosted the activities of this Commission and has sent us in a direction we would not have contemplated otherwise, with our members being time poor, some with health issues, others with work commitments, and others having family commitments. This wonderful group of people continue to meet monthly, for the most part via ZOOM organised by Jackie Fewtrell, a valuable member of our small group, with occasional face-to-face meetings at St Francis College, Milton.

Our group consists of Dr Janette Phelan (Melbourne Psychologist, Past Chair), Denise Grieshaber (Lutheran, Past Chair), Felicity Lewis (Anglican, Past Chair), Levon Kardashian (Uniting Church, Gladstone), Kim Moyes (Uniting Church Child Safety), Sharman Irvine (Churches of Christ), Harry Bevitt (Quakers), Jennifer Clark (Deputy Chair), and Carole Danby (Catholic) (Chair). The group continues to identify opportunities to raise the issue of domestic and family violence (DFV) within our church communities and to develop resources to assist churches to respond to this growing and alarming social issue.

Kate brought her knowledge and expertise to a funding application and was successful in securing a Grant from the Glenburnie Foundation. This money has been directed to updating our handbook, *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Questions Women ask about DFV and Christian Beliefs*. The project has been demanding on all Commission members, the Project Management team, the Project writers, and not least Kate and Jackie. We committed to concentrating on this in the first half of the year, so no online seminars were scheduled between January and June, with early July being slated as the Official Launch of the updated book. There will be a name change as we responded to feedback from those we consulted.

A companion Video Project has also occupied much of our time with editing, finding talent to present the material, and the actual filming which took place last Tuesday, 14 April at AKTA studio in Fortitude Valley. Thanks to Kate for her energy and dedication to finalising this project. Thanks also to QCT for some funding to bring this resource to fruition. It will be a wonderful aid to churches to start the conversation about DFV.

Carole was invited to speak about the work of JCDVPP at a joint meeting of the Social Justice Committee Chairs from Carina to Logan at Upper Mt Gravatt Catholic parish.

Carina Catholic parish will host another Candle Vigil for the Brisbane East Deanery and beyond on 14 May. Carole is presiding and our guest speaker is Ms Claire McAuliffe.

The month of May is Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month in Queensland and our Commission has deferred the annual Candle Vigil in favour of holding the launch of the updated book and video, with our official guest being Vanessa Fowler, co-Chair of the Premier's Council.

As in previous years, we have been invited to participate in the annual Evensong Service at St John's Anglican Cathedral.

Upcoming Events:

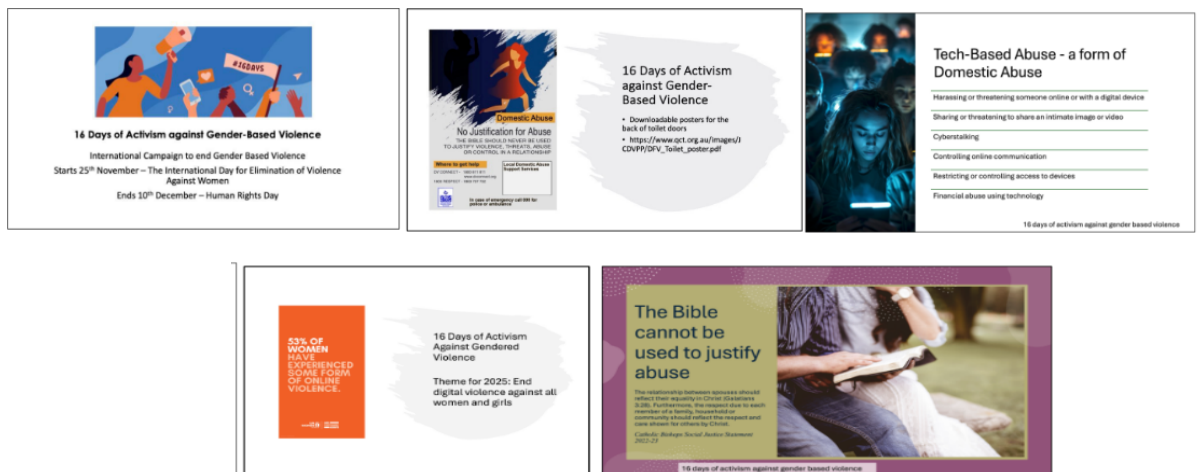
- Candle Vigil, Our Lady of Graces, Carina: 6pm, Thursday, 14 May.
- Evensong Service focussing on DFV: Sunday, 31 May.
- The Catholic Archdiocese will be holding a Prayer Vigil at St Stephen's Cathedral on Tuesday, 2 June. Presider will be Archbishop Shane Mackinlay. Carole is part of the organising team.
- *Not in My Church* online training – dates to be advised.
- Possible DFV training for Catholic diocese of Cairns.
- 16 Days of Activism – November/December.

Thank you to the energetic members of this Commission, who give so generously of their time and gifts for the work of our member churches in this important area which continues to plague our society and communities. Please continue to pray for an end to DFV.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Danby

Chair, JCDVPP





Queensland Churches Environmental Network

MEMBERSHIP & OFFICE BEARERS

The office bearers from 2025 were re-appointed for 2026 at the 12 November 2025 meeting of QCEN. The membership is stable with little change except Frank Sanders from A Rocha has joined. Most of the members, as listed, are regular participants in our monthly meetings February – November. We normally meet over Zoom.

The current members are:

Rev'd Peter Moore (Anglican) (Chair)	Emma Beach (RC)
Dr David Tutty (RC) (Vice-Chair)	Neil Bergmann (Lutheran)
Rev Craig Batty (UCA) (Social Media & Season of Creation)	Kumi Abeysuriya (UCA)
David King (Quaker)	Rowena Smith (The Salvation Army)
Emily Murray (UCA)	Matt Seaman (The Salvation Army)
	Franklin Sanders (A Rocha)

GOALS

QCEN continues to promote Creation Care and be a platform where members:

- exchange and share information about Creation Care activities in their denomination.
- review World Council of Churches (WCC) "Season of Creation" resources and plan local activities.
- share their interests in faith-based organisations, such as The Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC), A Rocha, National Council of Churches Australia (NCCA), and others.
- continue to provide prayerful support and encouragement for each other.
- seek to include new members and interaction with other denominations.
- interact with other faith and secular groups where we have common interests.

ACTIVITIES

Recycling: We continue to search for ways to recycle items not accepted in council bins and share this information.

QCT Investments: We assisted in the discussion about QCT investments.

Season of Creation (2025): We celebrated the "Season of Creation" (1 September – 4 October) with a service in Mt Coot-tha Botanic



Gardens, an art display in St John's Cathedral, and promotion of the QCT "Season of Creation" App for smart phones.

NCCA – Ecological Task Force: Two of our members, Peter Moore and Neil Bergmann, keep in touch with The Australian Churches Ecological Taskforce.

Prayer and Meditation Support around COP 30: We promoted these weekly online meditations leading up to COP 30 and daily during the conference.



Sharing of progress in our member churches: We continue to monitor and encourage progress in our member churches and beyond:

- Roman Catholic Laudato Si' – Caring for our common Home Action Plan.
- Anglican Sustainability Roadmap 2023-2030.
- Many of our QCEN members are affiliated with other environmental groups within their denominational communities or more broadly in the community. In the lead-up to the federal election, Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) and Queensland Conservation Council (QCC) yard-signs and party scorecards were distributed.

Season of Creation (2026): The "Season of Creation" theme for 2026 is "Peace with Creation." Plans are underway for the Season of Creation with a publicity brochure, service at Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens, and the regular display of art works in St John's Cathedral.

Season of Creation App: Minor changes to the App; we plan to promote it again this Season of Creation.

Peter Moore

Chair, QCEN

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QCT-ATSICRG

QCT Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Cultural Reference Group

Before all else, we acknowledge to our LORD and great Creator Spirit, through whom all hopes for flourishing creation, justice, reconciliation and lives of abundance are made possible.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present, who have made the paths for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander spiritual leadership to contribute to an intergenerational and holistic understanding of ancient knowledge, alongside the gospels of Jesus Christ. And we commit to continuing the reconciling, theological, and justice seeking works, as entrusted to us by our communities.

Psalm 118:1 NSRVue "O give thanks to the LORD for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!"

The past twelve months have been a time of formation. Through deep discernment, all members of the newly established Commission have agreed to be known in this space as the QCT-ATSICRG. We have also come to know each other better, through supporting each other in the works we do individually, as leaders within our churches, as well as collectively. And, we humbly claim the blessings of being able to stand together in unity, as part of Queensland Churches Together, in bringing about greater understanding of, and engagement with the social and spiritual matters of importance to First Peoples of this nation.

As one would expect, a large amount of our discussions and yarns centre around a unifying approach to seeking justice. Justice for our Elders, justice for our young peoples, justice for survivors of domestic and family violence. Justice begins by acknowledging the healing



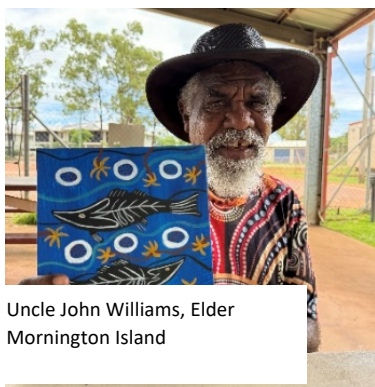
importance of hearing truths in the form of personal accounts. Our inaugural Gathering in the Spirit for Justice outdoor service was held in November 2025. It was large in impact and the young adult Christians who attended have formed stronger friendships of dreaming and doing. All have agreed this gathering will become part of our annual calendar. Special thanks to Aunty Sandra King OAM for offering a sobering Welcome to Country and to Rev. Peter Catt of the Anglican Church and Rev. Bruce Moore, Moderator of the Uniting Church in Qld, for supporting this gathering and sharing prophetically about ecumenism and justice.



Alongside justice is the need for culturally informed and respectful worship and spiritual practices, that provide witness at all stages of life, and respect the cultural protocols of many and varied Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. QCT-ATSICRG has continued to work on culturally informed death, dying and funeral resources for Christian churches, which we plan on releasing during financial year 2027 (FY27). Special

acknowledgement to Aunty Ravina Waldren, who is widely respected across Queensland for the extensive and practical knowledge of funeral support work she holds. Acknowledgments also to Aunty Sandra King OAM, Gaja Kerry Charlton and Uncle Milton Walit, for the cultural knowledge shared through journals and/or conversations. And to all First Nations Christian leaders and culturally informed funeral providers, who demonstrate the ways of caring respectfully for our deceased community members and their families.

The Sunday prior to January 26 is known throughout Aboriginal communities as Aboriginal Sunday. On this day, we urge all church communities to come together in lament, reflection and solidarity. Each year Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members of the Catholic, Anglican, Uniting, and Salvation Army churches, alongside reconciliation and covenantal allies within these churches, create stirring services of remembering and lament. We will continue to honour this tradition within the modern liturgical calendar and prayerfully hope that with the passing of time all peoples of these lands will feel the calls for renewal.



Uncle John Williams, Elder
Mornington Island

We are also bringing to fruition a co-theologising project. Professor Anne Pattel-Grey is working with nominated Theologians from QCT member churches, to bring about greater joint theological understanding of Elder shared cultural stories from each the four above named denominations. This work seeks to establish protocols for facilitating the coming together of Spiritual and Christian knowledge and story in respectful, honouring and culturally safe ways. And it is informed by the accepted tenant that GOD was present in these lands for generations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were and are informed by a living Creator/Holy Spirit that dwells amongst us.

25 April 2026, ANZAC Day, will be remembered in our historical accounts as a significant day of disappointment, hurt, and indignation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and for many non-Indigenous Australians. It was a day when our shadow side spoke a simple word of hatred and intolerance. But this act of organised racism, designed to silence, has been met

with a resounding echo of support for Elders, who respectfully observe this solemn day and share in cultural ways. The Catholic, Anglican, Uniting and Salvation Army churches all serve First Peoples communities through Reconciliation or Covenant Action Plans, and each of our Heads of Church speak of the need for us all to search our hearts for what might divide us, embrace the justice seeking and reconciling hand of God, and live out the unifying aspects of our shared humanity.

Psalm 133 NRSVue affirms “How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!”

As we look towards the next few months, we have many days which can be shared through worship and witness.

- 26 May: National Sorry Day
- 27 May – 3 June: National Reconciliation Week – Theme: All In for Reconciliation
- 5 July – 12 July: NAIDOC Week – Theme: 50 Years of Deadly
- 4 August: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children’s Day

We offer our encouragement to all church communities to create ways of coming together in acts of faithful reconciliation.

Sincerely,

Kym Korbe

Chairperson, QCT-ATSICRG

Alongside members, Aunty Sandra King OAM, Aunty Ravina Waldren, Joni McCourt, and Shirli Congoo.

QCT Affiliate Members



Rockhampton Churches Together

To the Churches of Queensland,

Much is happening, especially in people's hearts, as we grow to love one another more. Intangibles aside, here are some of the measurable things that have happened.

- RCT has continued to provide ministers to pray for the opening of the Rockhampton Regional Council business meetings on the first Tuesday of the month.
- The Covenant of Prayer in which the churches of Rockhampton agree to pray for each other continues. These are published in church newsletters.
- The provision of ministers for the ANZAC Day ceremonies in Rockhampton happened again in 2025 and 2026.
- At Easter, we had a combined Sunday morning service with ten churches and about 800 people in attendance. It was a true reflection of unity and combined worship.
- We have a service planned for Pentecost, 24 May, at 2:00 pm with 15 churches involved. We will celebrate the Church's birthday with a giant cake.
- Weekly Ministers' Fellowship and Prayers continue each Tuesday morning from 9:00am until 10:00am. This RCT-endorsed event is attracting between 15 and 20 ministers each week in fellowship development and prayer for the city. It is at this event that we are learning to love each other with heartfelt love.
- Encouragement and support for the Capricorn Coast Churches Together whenever/wherever possible.
- RCT continues to support Religious Instruction (RI) in the greater Rockhampton Region, including a paid RI program that compensates teachers for more than 5 lessons per week. This initiative helps ensure the consistency of RI lessons and makes the program as effective as it can be. It is estimated that 78% of primary school children in Rockhampton are currently opted-in by their parents to RI classes.
- Our goal remains to foster ecumenism by deepening the love of ministers for one another.

We know that genuine ecumenism has a gospel effect and churches grow as a result. Ecumenism is not simply churches doing things together or having combined services. That is a misconception and, while we think that way, we lack the spiritual ability to achieve our goal.



We must come to “prefer one another” (Romans 12:10) and consider each other more highly than ourselves. If we love the work of Christ done by the hands of others, then we will invest our hearts and prayers there. Then we take great joy when we see others succeed.

When ministers come to love and trust one another in deeper ways, this becomes a genuine expression of what it means to be Christian.

You have our hearts.

Pastor David Alley

Chair, Rockhampton Churches Together

davidalley@peace.org.au

Dalby Churches Together

We have continued to meet regularly during 2025 with about 70 or more people attending on a monthly basis.

However due to the ageing of the people who prepare the meals and the numbers who help, the decision was made to cut back to having a meal four times a year. This was disappointing for some of our folk. However, the spirit of fellowship continues the same.

People still support the homeless and the girls needing counselling because of pregnancy or domestic violence. Marriage counselling continues.

Religious Instruction continues in schools on a reasonably regular basis supported by most churches. However, we are desperately short of instructors.

Peace and blessings,

Ken von Pein

Stanley River Ecumenical Council

2026 marks 25 years since the Stanley River Ecumenical Covenant was signed. This is a marvellous achievement – 25 years of ecumenical cooperation and still going.

Sadly, in December, Della Lopez passed away. We miss her wisdom, her knowledge of scripture, her forward thinking, and her organisational skills. Fortunately, Della had us well trained up to continue on our ecumenical journey – even if it has taken 6 people to replace her.

Every year, the problem arises of falling numbers as ageing takes its toll. The decision was made to concentrate on what we could do and prune down our activities. Since a treasurer could not be found, the decision was made to no longer handle money. The bank account was closed and the balance donated to the local school chaplaincy. Meetings are now called when needed to organise an activity instead of quarterly.

At present, our joint activities include: Lenten studies; the World Day of Prayer Service; the annual Covenant Service; Advent studies and Christmas carol singing in the centre of town. It is always enjoyable to worship in each other's church buildings, share in morning tea, and keep our connections alive and vibrant.

One of the highlights coming from the Stanley River Ecumenical Covenant is the St Mary's Ecumenical St Vincent de Paul Conference. The members come from both the Anglican and Catholic congregations to work together to provide assistance to those in need using the resources of St Mary's Catholic Hall in Woodford, St Vincent de Paul, the Anglican Op Shop, and St Mary's Pantry at the Anglican church in Kilcoy.

Also, under the guidance of St Vinnies members, a lively bring and share morning tea is held in the Catholic hall in Woodford on the fourth Friday of the month for those who live alone.

Twenty-five years ago, Della and her committee had to work hard to convince people that an Ecumenical Covenant would work. Now, we know the power of unity in diversity and we wouldn't be without it.

Carole Dobson



Toowoomba Churches Together

Abrahamic Faiths gatherings (Christian, Jewish and Muslim) are held quarterly. The venue alternates between St. Anthony's Community Centre and the Garden City Mosque. Some topics have been: "Hope", "How do we show love?", "Religious Freedom," and "What is still considered sacred?"

These gatherings are very informative and are helping build a better understanding and friendships between members from the different faiths that attend. The average attendance at these meetings is 35 people.

This year, a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service was held at St Stephen's Uniting Church and Lifeworks Uniting Church. These were meaningful services with great fellowship afterwards.

Our Ecumenical Seminar was held on 11 – 13 July 2025 at St Ursula's College in Toowoomba. The speaker was Dr Antonia Pizzey, a lecturer at the Brisbane Campus of the Australian Catholic University. The seminar theme was, "Spiritual Ecumenism."



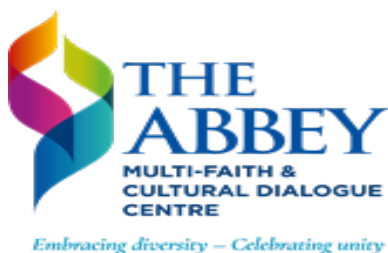
To celebrate the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed, in one session we looked at the content of the Nicene Creed and what it means to us today. This was a great time of learning and understanding, topped off with great sharing and fellowship. About 30 people attended the seminar.

We are currently planning the next Ecumenical Seminar which will be held on 10– 12 July at St Ursula's College. The presenters will be Margit Hubbers and Neil Bergmann. The theme is "How do we read the Bible?"

We have attended each other's worship services to more fully understand and experience each other's ecumenical journey.

John Agnew

Chair



The Abbey Multi-Faith & Cultural Dialogue Centre

We are pleased to present the key priorities for our *Abbey Museum of Art and Archaeology* and the *Abbey Multifaith & Cultural Dialogue Centre* for 2025/2026.

The primary event for our *Abbey Museum of Art and Archaeology* was the official opening of the new *Abbey Museum-Art Gallery and Cafe* in early 2025.

An additional highlight for the new Art Gallery was its inaugural exhibition entitled "*Inspired Images – the Arts of Faith*", featuring Renaissance and Baroque paintings and exhibits from the Gallery's collection of European Works of Art from the 14th -19th centuries.

Additionally, the *Abbey Museum-Art Gallery* offers students of Visual Arts and Religious Studies, multi-sensory and engaging activities supported by the Gallery's religious art collection; which includes medieval, renaissance and baroque paintings, sculptures, sacred texts, ceramics, stained glass, sculptures and sacred text.

This collection provides a rich source for exploring how humankind across many faith traditions perceive divinity, both external and internal, and how human beings have expressed their beliefs, devotions and interaction with their deities through artistic traditions.

Finally, it should be mentioned that the *Abbey Museum Art Gallery* is the culmination of over 30 years of planning and dreams to showcase the Museum's extensive collection.



One of the primary reoccurring activities for the *Abbey Multi-Faith & Cultural Dialogue Centre* is the "*Annual Abbey Symposium*".

The planning and implementation process for our forthcoming 4th *Annual Abbey Symposium* "*Shared Ethics & Moral Values, A pathway to Interfaith Peace & Harmony*" is well underway.

The learnings and new insights of our previous Symposia will be of great assistance and benefit to live up to the *Abbey Multi-Faith & Cultural Dialogue Centre's* motto "*Embracing Diversity and Celebrating Unity*".

Another key priority for 2025/2026 is the continuation of the internationally acclaimed *Faith Exploration Series* "*Who is my Go-d*".

The series was successfully run by Mr. Ari Heber, Mrs. Margaret Naylon, and Dr. Brian Adams but was unfortunately interrupted by the Covid-Pandemic.

Revitalised by the *Abbey Multi-Faith & Cultural Dialogue Centre* the Faith Exploration Series "Who is my Go-d, is now a permanent feature in our work for interfaith and intercultural peace and mutual understanding within the framework of "Unity in Diversity".

For our Faith Exploration gatherings, representatives from four different faith traditions are invited to present aspects of their individual faith and engage the guests in a Q & A session. The meeting is finally closed by a short summary presented by the facilitator.

By moving forward each year, working for a more peaceful and harmonious world, we are determined to build on our new knowledge and insights gained in 2025/2026, which we hope allows us to address new opportunities and challenges in the coming years with a clear and strategic vision.

Dr Peter Hoppe

Interfaith and Cultural Dialogue Facilitator

Gladstone Region Christian Leaders' Network

The Gladstone Region Christian Leaders' Network (GRCLN) has been active in the Gladstone area for many years as a space for connection, mutual support, and shared witness. In recent times, the Network has experienced renewed energy and focus, particularly through collaborative engagement in Religious Instruction (RI) across local schools.

This revitalisation has strengthened relationships between churches and provided a clearer sense of shared purpose in serving the wider community. The Network continues to function as both a relational and practical forum, fostering cooperation across denominational lines.

Our shared initiatives include:

Vigil Prayer (Good Friday – Holy Saturday)

Each year, churches participate in a continuous Vigil Prayer from 6:00 pm on Good Friday through to 6:00 am on Saturday. Each congregation takes responsibility for one hour, creating an unbroken chain of prayer. At each transition, the departing group prays for those arriving, modelling both continuity and mutual encouragement. A shared list of prayer points, focused on the needs of the Gladstone region, helps anchor the vigil in the life of the community.

Combined Pentecost Service.

The annual combined Pentecost service is a visible expression of unity across churches, centred on worship and shared proclamation. The service also functions as a fundraiser for RI, supporting its ongoing presence in local schools. In 2026, we look forward to welcoming Michael Frost as guest preacher, who will also lead a mission-focused session on the preceding Saturday, further equipping local leaders and congregations.

Support for Religious Instruction (RI).

GRCLN provides practical and financial support for RI across the region. This includes contributing toward curriculum resources for both teachers and students, as well as funding external providers, such as Quiz Worx, to deliver engaging presentations in local schools. The Network also employs a part-time RI Coordinator (one day per week) to strengthen organisation, communication, and sustainability.

Pulpit Exchange (Trial Program).

A Pulpit Exchange program is currently in a trial phase, encouraging ministers to share in one another's worshipping communities. This initiative aims to deepen relationships across denominations, broaden congregational experience, and foster a greater sense of shared identity in Christ.

We also participate in and support:

World Day of Prayer

Churches in the region join the global movement of prayer through participation in the World Day of Prayer, strengthening both local and international connections within the wider body of Christ.

Domestic and Family Violence Remembrance (May)

GRCLN has recently begun engaging more intentionally with the annual Domestic and Family Violence Remembrance Day, held on the first Wednesday of May and organised by the Coordinated Community Response to Domestic and Family Violence (CCRDFV). This day honours victims of DFV and raises awareness within the community. While churches were not previously involved, participation has grown since last year.

Through these activities, GRCLN seeks to bear witness to the unity of the Church in Christ, not as uniformity, but as a shared commitment to serve, to pray, and to act together in the life of the Gladstone region.

Looking ahead, the Network is entering a period of discernment regarding its identity and naming. A conversation is planned around the possibility of becoming Gladstone Churches Together (GCT), reflecting both our local context and our alignment with the broader vision of Queensland Churches Together.

We are grateful for the opportunity to join as an affiliate and look forward to a deeper connection, shared learning, and mutual encouragement in the work of unity and witness across Queensland.

χάρις & εἰρήνη - Շնորհք եւ Խաղաղութիւն – Grace and Peace

Rev. Levon Kardashian

Chair, Gladstone Region Christian Leaders Network

Minister of the Word, Uniting Church in Australia

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026

Lord Jesus Christ,
you are the Prince of Peace.
Strengthen the bond of peace
among us and in
our troubled world.
Change the hearts of all who
make war; touch the wounds of all
who are afflicted by war.
We pray especially for the people of
Armenia and Artsakh, and their
kindred throughout the world.
Let the light of your love shine
in all the dark places of our world
and hasten the day when all peoples
may dwell in peace with justice.
Amen.

Prayer from Day 3 'The bond of peace'
(From the World Council of Churches resource
— Reflection and Prayers for the Eight Days)

