

NCCA Ecumenical Report

NCCA continues to offer church representatives opportunities to meet via zoom and to circulate relevant information and inspirational material. The next meeting of national church leaders will be face-to-face in Sydney, in June, 2023.

Ann Zubrick continues to be a member of the Board of NCCA. She was one of the signatories to an open interfaith letter in February 2023 to parliamentarians in support of the Voice to Parliament and calling for unity across political divides on this issue.

NCCA plans to hold a Forum in Adelaide in June 2024 to mark its 30th Anniversary.

NCCA has also released a resources booklet 'Yes – Our Voice to Parliament' and a pamphlet 'Explainer: A Constitutionally Guaranteed First Nations Voice' that seeks to answer common questions. Further information can be found at <https://www.ncca.org.au/first-nations-resources/resources/item/2991-a-voice-to-parliament>

NCCA President John Gilmore gave strong support to the Yes case for a Voice and added "It is imperative that if there is a Voice enshrined in the Australian Constitution through a Referendum later in 2023, there must also be an equally strong commitment to listen and this needs to be expressed now. May our speech not be noisy and our listening, deep"

Care of Creation is an important priority of NCCA, expressing solidarity with The Pacific Council of Churches and bringing people together to consider "effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution" as urged by the United Nations Environmental Assembly. A new Australian Churches Taskforce is being set up, and there will be regular Roundtables to discuss environmental and climate issues.

Act for Peace, the overseas development arm of NCCA has been collecting substantial funds and is channelling them for humanitarian assistance in the Ukraine through Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA). HIA has been working with organisations in the Ukraine to support families with emergency food, cash assistance and other types of assistance. It has also been helping with the needs of Ukrainian refugees in Hungary.

David Purnell and Bruce Henry are members of the NCCA Assembly and Bruce Henry attends Church Leaders' meetings.

We appreciate Ronis Chapman's long service as part of the Safe Churches Network. Ronis has now laid this work down. She questions the need for a Quaker presence on the Network given that Churches and other organisations now have well-developed Child Protection policies and practices, which includes training.

Janet Duke is a member of the Faith and Unity Commission of NCCA and is looking forward to discussing matters of faith face-to-face, after two years of not being able to meet.

We value the work of many other Quakers with churches and other faiths in such organisations as Religions for Peace and Australian Religious Responses for Climate Change

Bruce Henry, Presiding Clerk