



Pastoral Care Council of the ACT
Caring Together

2016 Executive Officer's Annual Report

The Council is now in the first year of a new service funding agreement and there are major changes ahead as the Council moves towards implementing a registration system for pastoral carers and providers in the ACT.

Pastoral Care Registration Plan

The original mandate of the Council was to facilitate the:

- (a) oversight of standards for pastoral care provision in the Territory;
- (b) accreditation and registration of pastoral carers in the Territory;
- (c) the provision of advocacy for pastoral carers and support for pastoral care opportunities in the Territory.

With the *Standards of Practice for Pastoral Care* now entrenched and enforced within our membership, we took the big step of moving towards an accreditation and registration system. This a vital progression in securing the Council's purpose and future as a peak body. A timeline and concept paper was presented for feedback at the June 2016 midyear general meeting; this was widely supported by members and any concerns will be discussed in detail at the Annual General Meeting.

This plan has since been endorsed by ACT Health and the Council is now tasked with:

- (1) Implementation of a robust and sustainable registration and accreditation system for ACT facilities engaged with the provision of pastoral care.
- (2) Provide continuing leadership and oversight in the field of pastoral care.

Council membership

There are currently 37 members (35 active) on the Council. Turnover has been lower than in previous years. SIDS & Kids ACT (now called Red Nose) has withdrawn from the Council.

New representatives:

- ACT Health Directorate
- Anglican Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn
- Anglicare Canberra & Goulburn
- RSL LifeCare
- Uniting NSW/ACT (UnitingCare)
- University of Canberra

Chaplaincy Service at the Alexander Maconochie Centre

The chaplaincy service is now in the second year of its current funding agreement with all parties satisfied with the standard of service. There has been an indication from the ACT

Corrective Services that the current service provision be increased by 20% to meet demand due to an increase in the prison population. The Council was invited to provide input in this matter and is awaiting a response from ACT Corrective Services.

Spiritual Support Services at the Canberra Hospital

With the Manager of Spiritual Support Services now being a substantive “in-house” position and the wind down of funding from the Fred McMaster Chaplaincy Support Trust, the Council no longer has a direct role in the hospital’s pastoral care system.

Emergency Response and Recovery

The ACT Community Recovery Committee is up and running again following a reshuffle at Community Service Directorate and Mrs Susan Miller continues to represent the Council on the Committee. The ACT Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy Network will have five new cross-accredited chaplains in November.

Council Administration and Miscellaneous Matters

- Changes to Executive Officer Employment
The Council has had a time release arrangement with St Mark’s National Theological Centre for the provision of an Executive Officer. This arrangement ceased on 1 July 2016 with the Council now directly employing the Executive Officer; office space and other logistical arrangements have continued and this change is not expected to have any practical effects on the Council’s operation.
- Council website
The Council’s website is in need of an update and the Board has directed that surplus administrative and operational funds earned from the Alexander Maconochie Centre chaplaincy service be appropriated for this purpose.
- Changes to Service Funding in 2018
ACT Health has advised that all service providers will be reviewed in 2017 with new Service Funding Agreements replacing all existing contracts from 1 July 2018.
 - Open tender in late 2017: As a peak body, the Council may be eligible for single selection – the Council is awaiting advice from the Director-General of ACT Health on the eligibility/selection criteria.
 - If the Council is not selected: We will be funded through June 2019 to enable a handover.

Kevin Teo
Executive Officer
Pastoral Care Council of the ACT