



AUC Staff
AUC Executive Committee
Conference & Division Presidents, Secretaries and CFO's
Conference Aged Care CEO's
Conference Education Directors
CSR Church Governance Reference Group
CSR Aged Care Reference Group
CSR Schools Reference Group
CSR Consultative Forum
Conference Departmental Directors
National Education Council
School Principals

14 August 2020

Church Structure Review Update

Since our last communication the Church Structure Review team has held three meetings with various stakeholders. The Consultative Forum met last Friday, followed by an Administrators Council and Church Structures Reference Group on Tuesday.

Members of the Consultative Forum and Reference Groups have been carefully chosen to ensure that stakeholders across the church in Australia are represented. They consist of lay members, Church employees and representatives from the Aged Care and Education sectors.

After being invited to sit in on these meetings it became clear that it is imperative to have such a mix of stakeholders who are able to represent the wider church as these discussions are being held. It was great to hear differing opinions and suggestions from these stakeholders being put forward. That as a church, these groups are able to come together, from the Union President to the lay member, to see how we can do church better. The process that the Union is undertaking is enormous and we are treading new ground, so it is important to get perspectives from all angles, from the local church, the conference, the union and beyond. This is why we wait with anticipation for the town hall meetings, to have engagement from you, the wider church.

Seventh-day
Adventist Church
Australia

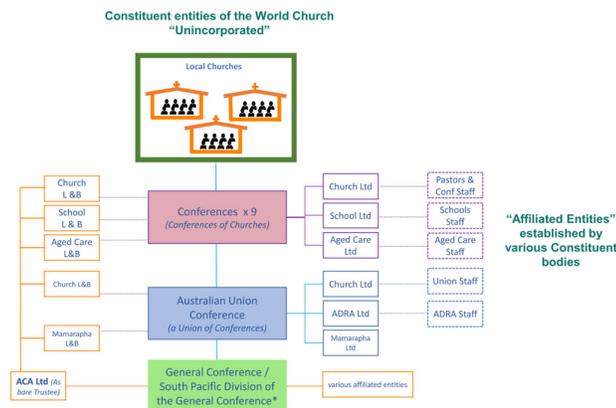
As the Church Structure Review continues to finesse the details on the models being put forward, one thing that all groups were looking at this past week was what does the current structure of the church look like and having a common global framework of how the church works. The existing structure of the church is not straightforward and can be confusing, not only to lay members but to church employees, which is why we need to understand where we are coming from and see how we can do church better before we make any decisions on where we could potentially be going in the future.

The figure below outlines the current structure of the church in Australia. It is separated into four different areas, we have our local churches, Conferences of Churches, Union of Conferences and the General Conference, which is represented in this part of the world by the South Pacific Division. The official structure of the church is 'unincorporated' and the various Executive Committees have established 'incorporated' entities. The unincorporated has essentially retained oversight of the land and buildings that the church owns in Australia as well as the oversight of local churches and membership. The land and buildings are owned by the Australasian Conference Association (ACA) Ltd on behalf of the various church levels. The incorporated consists of all the affiliated entities of the church, such as the Administrative Offices, Campgrounds, Book Centres, Schools, Aged Care, ADRA and Mamarapha College. These entities were created, operate under delegated authority, and are governed by the constituents in each area.

Once we fully appreciate how our current structure works, it is easy understand why the Union was asked to look at how we can do it better. The Church Structure Review process is investigating how we can streamline structures that have been in place for many years, with the incorporated entities being created almost 20 years ago. It is looking at how we can be more unified and connected throughout all the various areas of the church in Australia, which will in turn make the church stronger and better.

Ultimately, the purpose of the Church Structure Review process is not solely about structures, but rather how we can better fulfil the purpose of the church, which is our mission to spread the gospel. Through this process we seek to become a more dynamic, efficient, relevant, aligned and focused church that will in turn translate into better missional outcomes.

CURRENT CHURCH STRUCTURE



Warm Regards from the Church Structure Review Team

Tim, Cat, Jorge, Michael & Peter