



August 27 2025

Media Statement

Three Ground-breaking Reports launched at AMPJP Forum

There were three launches of ground-breaking reports at the Association of Ministerial Public Juridic Persons Forum in Cairns last week:

Assoc Professor Jamie Calder SJ launched his paper: *"Called by Love - Called to the Service of Stewardship, Theological Foundations of Lay Ecclesial Leadership in Ministerial Public Juridic Persons."*

In simpler terms, this is an explanation of why lay Catholics should be in leadership in the Church, and what that leadership might look like. It also explains aspects such as the positive involvement of non-Christian people in our Mission through their roles as staff and volunteers in our ministries.

It proposes that our Councils of Canonical Stewards/Trustees should be small, intentional Christian communities, thus putting a particular focus on meetings and changing how Trustees actively relate to each other outside of meeting times.

Dr Ruth Powell of NCLS Research shared the findings of the first comprehensive survey of any nation's Catholic Trustees. From this, AMPJP can discover to what extent our formation is actually working! The Report shows that generally the Trustees feel very confident and competent in areas of Mission, governance and an understanding of charism, that they are very well educated, that 40% have a theology or RE qualification, and that many have a post-graduate degree.

Some Trustees feel they need more education and formation in areas such as canonical and civil law as it applies to MPJPs, property and IT. There is also a need for a more diverse group of Trustees in the future in terms of age and ethnic background.

AMPJP will use the results to plan our formation for the next two years, before we survey again!

In a third launch, Adj Professor Susan Pascoe outlined the first international study of the world's largest lay led ministries, the *Inclusive Governance in a Synodal Church Report*. This has illustrated the growing impact of Ministerial PJs in the English-speaking world.

Ministerial PJP Trustees, mostly lay people, are now overseeing ministries serving millions of people in Australia, the U.S., Canada, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia, Ireland and the U.K., and Australia has the biggest percentage of Catholic ministries in lay leadership through Ministerial PJs of any country in the world. ACU Associate Professors Maeve Heaney and Jamie Calder, Research Officer Lawrie Hallinan and

experts from around the world contributed to this study.

The upcoming website of papers from the study will double the available writings on Ministerial Public Juridic Persons.

AMPJP Chair Moira Najdecki explained that "after a period of consolidation, AMPJP and MPJPs are looking to play a key role in the Church in Australia and beyond. We are looking to improve our own work, particularly in formation, and support the wider Church in this and other key areas through decision making based on quality theological and practical research."

AMPJP would also like to thank our Forum sponsors, the Catholic Development Fund, Sydney Catholic Development Fund, Archdiocesan Development Fund (Brisbane), Makinson D'Apice Lawyers and Catholic Super.

More information on Ministerial Public Juridic Persons and AMPJP can be found at ampjp.org.au

Launch photo captions

- Martin Teulan (Executive Director AMPJP) , Gabrielle McMullen (MPJP expert), Assoc Professor Jamie Calder SJ (co-Principal Researcher), Adj. Professor Susan Pascoe (Project Lead), Lawrie Hallinan (Researcher) and Moira Najdecki (Chair AMPJP) at the Inclusive Governance in a Synodal Church Report Launch
- Assoc Prof Jamie Calder SJ outlines his theology of Lay Ecclesial Leadership
- Canonical Stewards Survey Report 2025

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