

NRCC Presbytery - Synod Report

NRCC Presbytery conducts ministry across 5 ministry regions.

- Anangu Ministry region (APY Lands and Alice Springs)
- East Arnhem Ministry region (Ramingining, Yurrwi, Galiwin'ku, Gapuwiyak and Yirrkala congregations and ministry to many homelands incl Laynha Homelands area)
- West Arnhem Ministry region (Maningrida, Warruwi, Minjilang and Jabiru congregations and homelands)
- West Kimberley region (Mowanjum congregation and ministry to the West Kimberley Regional Prison)
- Darwin Ministry region (Aboriginal Hostels, Darwin and Palmerston Hospitals, home visits, town campers and worship services in partnership with some PPNA congregations e.g. at Nightcliff).

The last 2 years have been hard for us. We had a major review of NRCC done by UAICC in 2017, with two separate teams looking at ministry in our 5 regions. They found lots of things not working well. So the question and challenge that comes to NRCC Presbytery is -

'How do we grow the church?'

It's a new time, and we have a new General Secretary.

My job as Intentional Interim Resource Worker is to help NRCC Presbytery resource ministry across these 5 ministry regions. A major part of my interim role is to also assist NRCC to look strategically at its future ministry direction.

A major area of work is to recruit new ministry agents to work for NRCC Presbytery. Right now we are looking for :

- 2 full-time staff for Anangu ministry area.
- 1 full-time staff person for East Arnhem Area

Joint Nominating Committees (JNC's) are currently being appointed to assist in the recruitment process for each of these positions.

Reviews of current staff and staffing needs in the Area Ministry Regions have commenced. We have just completed a Vitality of Call for Sailosi Sekitoga in his role as Support Worker for the Darwin Ministry region. We are also reviewing the Women's Ministry Worker in connection with her support role in organising for UnitingWomen2020.

Next year we will be reviewing the role of the Educator for the Arnhem Region. We will also be looking for someone to replace me in my role as Resource Worker, working across the 5 ministry regions of NRCC Presbytery. Equipping congregation leaders through the conduct of regional training workshops will be a major focus during 2020 and to furthering partnership opportunities with PPNA.

Ministry Across the Regions

West Kimberley - Times of great celebration and great sadness have been recently shared with the Mowanjum NRCC Congregation. The Commissioning of Kirsty Burgu as Pastor on Sunday 9th June was a special highlight and time of Covenant relationship shared between our two presbyteries, with members from PPNA's Broome congregation also present. A month later, the sudden passing of Kirsty's husband has left the Mowanjum congregation and community devastated.

As we continue to mourn with Kirsty and her family this tragic loss, we give thanks to God for new ministry opportunities opening up for Kirsty, when she will be soon recognized as Chaplain to the female section of the West Kimberley Rural Prison.

Anangu Ministry – Rachel Neary finished her valued role as Interim Support Worker to the APY Lands and NRCC's town ministry in Alice Springs at the end of April. Her brief time sharing with Anangu in various ministry tasks brought warmth, hope and times of laughter and joy. We give thanks to God, and also to Rachel's family for the gift of her time and her generous heart.

David Crawford was appointed in April to conduct a series of brief visits to the APY Lands to conduct training in the Sacraments and in the conduct of funerals. He brings to this role a significant depth of knowledge and linguistic experience. David's presence in the APY Lands has been important at a time when no other NRCC ministry has been possible. We look forward to finding suitable ministry agents for the Support Worker and Educator roles.

West Arnhem - It has been a difficult time for the region and especially for Minjilang Congregation as they struggle to cope with the loss of 3 significant church leaders in the last few months. Bunyi's (Rev Teubiti Tapera's) presence will be sadly missed at Minjilang, but also at Waruwu where he commenced his ministry more than 28 years ago.

At Maningrida and homelands, the ministry needs are many in serving a large population, and we give thanks to God for the local Pastors that have been raised up and for the work done by West Arnhem Support Worker, Rev Lindsay Parkhill.

East Arnhem – The Commissioning of Mätjarra Garrawurra on 29th June as Pastor at Ramingining Congregation was a special time of celebration to mark her long time of service to the local church and ministry commitment through her previous work as Bible translator over previous decades.

We also acknowledge the long time of faithful service and commitment of the East Arnhem Support Worker Rev Maratja Dhamarrandji, who suffered a stroke in January and has been unable to continue in active ministry since that time. We pray for God's on-going protection and healing hand on both Maratja and his wife Gapany as they each struggle with significant health issues, and as they and their family adjust to the changed circumstances of living in Darwin.

Along with the congregations in the region, NRCC Presbytery looks forward with hope and expectation to finding a suitable ministry agent to be the new Support Worker for the region.

Darwin Region – We look forward to the challenge in working with Sailosi in implementing decisions of the recent Vitality of Call review, and also to engaging with exciting new ministry opportunities.

Howard Amery – Intentional Interim Resource Worker, NRCC.