



September 2020

## Christian greetings

Leading up to, and following the resolution of the 2018 Convention of General Synod, conversations and engagement with broad sections of our Lutheran community in Australia has resulted in the endorsement of the church's first Reconciliation Action Plan – our Reflect RAP.

Included in this package you will find a message from Rev John Henderson, Bishop of the Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand, together with a copy of the LCA's Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), a RAP poster and some suggestions for how to share this with others in your ministry space.

As presented in the General Synod proposal, the RAP is a tool for the church to provide transparency and accountability for its actions to:

- assist ongoing relationship building through listening to Aboriginal people in the LCA
- support non-Aboriginal people in the LCA to gain insight into what is important to Aboriginal people
- provide a culturally appropriate mechanism by which our church, together with (inclusive of) Aboriginal people and communities within the LCA, can address questions of recognition and representation, and
- develop appropriate ways to encourage and enable Aboriginal people to serve and lead in all aspects of church life in the LCA.

For further information about the development and journey of the LCA's RAP please refer to the RAP website [www.rap.lca.org.au](http://www.rap.lca.org.au)

## Reflect RAP document

The enclosed RAP booklet details the commitment our church has made to continue its journey of reconciliation.

- Take this opportunity to read through it with the aim to share and discuss with leadership/governance and members within your ministry spaces. Perhaps begin with the vision statement: How does this align with your particular ministry?
- It is important to note that the actions and deliverables in this document (pages 11 – 16), outlined under the headings of Relationships, Respect, Opportunities, and Governance, are incumbent upon the LCA Churchwide office. They are not intended to be demonstrated by each individual, congregation, parish or agency across the church unless they choose to do so.
- There may however be some actions in this RAP document that you might consider exploring as a ministry group. This is an opportunity for individuals, congregations, parishes and other agencies of the LCA to address the following three questions:
  1. What can I/my ministry group do differently to build stronger relationships with First Nations peoples?
  2. What can I/my ministry group do differently to have and show greater respect for First Nations peoples?
  3. What can I/my ministry group do differently to create further opportunities for First Nations peoples to help build a stronger church?

### **Reflect RAP poster – ‘Many Eyes’**

The poster artwork of a cross, surrounded by many eyes, is the inspiration of a nine-year-old Aboriginal boy, Henry. ‘Many Eyes’ reflects the LCA’s vision for reconciliation. The insightful messages of the image can help to remind us of the gospel call for us as God’s children. Are there further messages you can see? Perhaps this might be a great discussion point for your group.

Please display the poster and encourage your congregation or community to accept the invitation to join in this journey of reconciliation. It is everyone’s business.

### **RAP website [www.rap.lca.org.au](http://www.rap.lca.org.au)**

An opportunity to follow and track the journey and progress of the LCA RAP is possible through accessing our website.

Take a moment or two to check out the stories, resources and frequently asked questions. Maybe you have some of your own – please let us know.

We know there are stories of reconciliation happening in ministry spaces all across Australia. We would love to shine a light on these, please share them with us. Note our contact details below.

### **RAP webinars**

Do you have questions about the LCA RAP or RAPs in general? Would you like to find out ways you might be able to contribute to this journey?

Planned for late 2020 and 2021 are a series of webinars are planned, where we will respond to questions raised by our church community and explore areas of interest. We encourage you to present topics and ideas you would like to see covered. Send them to [rap@lca.org.au](mailto:rap@lca.org.au)

### **Additional copies of RAP document and poster**

Access to an electronic copy of the RAP document is available and downloadable from the [RAP website](http://www.rap.lca.org.au). Australian copyright laws cover the use and reproduction of the artwork.

A small stock of both documents is available. A limited number can be provided upon request (email [rap@lca.org.au](mailto:rap@lca.org.au)), however to cover postage, a small charge may be incurred.

### **Questions?**

RAP is new. You and your communities are sure to have questions. We would love to hear from you. Contact us at [rap@lca.org.au](mailto:rap@lca.org.au) or via the Contact page on the RAP website.

We look forward to sharing this exciting journey with you.



RAP Project Team  
197 Archer Street | North Adelaide SA 5006  
[rap@lca.org.au](mailto:rap@lca.org.au)  
[www.rap.lca.org.au](http://www.rap.lca.org.au)  
(08) 8267 7300