

## AGENDA 5.1

# Board for Local Mission

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### LIST OF MEMBERS

#### **Board for Lutheran Aged Care Australia (January 2015–May 2016)**

Richard Bartholomaeus, Colleen Fitzpatrick, Brigit Goetz, Matt Johns, Jacquie Kelly, Paul Semmler, Gordon Wegener

#### ***Interim Board for Local Mission (January 2015–March 2017)***

David Altus, Robert Edwards, Sophie Gerrie, Nathan Hedt, John Henderson (ex officio), Brett Kennett, Carolyn Niewand, Steen Olsen, John O’Keefe, Ian Pertz, Mark Whitfield, Georgina Preston, Danielle Robinson, Mark Schultz, Luke Spilsbury Monika Tropicano (Chair)

#### **(March 2017– present)**

Matthew Bishop, John Henderson (ex officio), Des Kalisch, Robyn Oatey, Danielle Robinson, Monika Tropicano (Chair), Sonia Weidenbach, Tania Nelson (Consultant)

### BACKGROUND

The Board for Local Mission was established, in March 2017, as part of the trial restructure of the governance of national church functions. LCA Local Mission includes the following departments:

- Child Youth and Family Ministry
- Cross-Cultural Ministry
- Lutheran Media
- Ministry with the Ageing
- New and Renewing Churches

The Board provides governance oversight of these departments in conjunction with its advisory committees:

- Committee for Child Youth and Family Ministry
- Committee for Cross-Cultural Ministry
- Committee for Lutheran Media
- Committee for Ministry with the Ageing
- Committee for New and Renewing Churches

Within this synodical period the following governance transitions occurred:

1. Board for Child Youth and Family Ministry became a committee of the Board for Local Mission in 2017
2. Interim Board for Local Mission became two committees of the Board for Local Mission, namely Committee for Cross-Cultural Ministry and Committee for New and Renewing Churches in 2017
3. Board for Media Ministry became a committee of the Board for Local Mission in 2017
4. Board for Lutheran Aged Care Australia became a committee of the Board for Local Mission in 2016.

### ACHIEVEMENT AGAINST PLAN

The following achievements reflect the work of Cross-Cultural Ministry, Ministry with the Ageing, and New and Renewing Churches. The work of Grow Ministries and Lutheran Media is captured in the reports of the former Board for Child Youth and Family Ministry and the former Board for Media Ministry respectively.

***Interim Board for Local Mission, former Board for Lutheran Aged Care Australia and Board for Local Mission***

Objective – Develop a passionate faith in individuals, families and communities shaped by a growing understanding of God’s Word, nurtured and sustained in prayer and worship.

(LCA strategic priority 1.1)

- Activities/Outcomes - partner with congregations, encourage successful practitioners to work with apprentices, encourage the growth of mentoring, support the annual Lead Pastors retreat, create web-based and social media access to best-practice resources
- Achievements – eleven sending congregations supported; a Church Planting Mentor/Mission Facilitator employed who supports and mentors missional communities; support for Lead Pastors retreat; expansion of webpages; provision of resources based on best practice; formation of a One Loving God steering committee

Objective – Develop a missional culture where individuals, families and communities are inspired, passionate and active in sharing the gospel in word and action.

(LCA strategic priority 2.1)

- Activities/Outcomes – study culture change in communities, develop a Lutheran understanding of mission, convene a gathering to develop a missional framework, promote the LCA strategic direction
- Achievements – research conducted on church planting in other Christian traditions; publication of the interim board’s ‘Strategic Direction 2014-2015 and beyond’ which provides a basis for mission and promotes the LCA strategic direction, provision of training regarding relational evangelism

Objective – Encourage strong missional-oriented leadership by supporting pastors, lay workers and other leaders to be effective ministers of Christ in a changing world.

(LCA strategic priority 2.2)

- Activities/Outcomes – formation and training in church planting, identify leaders for church planting programs, monitor training of specific ministry pastors of ethnic communities, identify future pastors and leaders of African and Asian communities, provide resources, collaborate with other agencies
- Achievements – local church planting leaders are identified, supported and mentored; formation and training undertaken with leaders of Sending Churches; conferences and events scheduled to encourage and equip missional-oriented leadership; print and media resources developed

Objective – Support and equip communities to use new, innovative and collaborative mission-oriented approaches in changed and changing mission fields.

(LCA strategic priority 2.3)

- Activities/Outcomes – collaborate with and encourage Lutheran Education in mission, encourage the hosting of mission initiatives, share innovative and collaborative approaches to mission
- Achievements – Three joint LEA and Local Mission conferences held in the three Lutheran education regions

Objective – Develop proactive strategies to seek and open new mission fields to which God is leading us. (LCA strategic priority 2.4)

- Activities/Outcomes – form healthy sending churches, support African and Asian ministry programs, increase mission-focused staffing, facilitate the planting of churches that plant churches, collaborate with Child Youth and Family Ministry
- Achievements – eleven sending churches formed and supported; ministry grants provided to African and Asian communities; increased hours to Church Planter and Mission Facilitator; Executive Officer – Local Mission employed; church plant leaders mentored

Objective – Support the development and growth of new mission fields which God has already opened to us. (LCA strategic priority 2.5)

- Activities/Outcomes – provide mission personnel to assist local mission fields, coordinate prayer support

- Achievements – Church Planter and Mission Facilitator is a resource person for grassroots ministry

Objective – Support existing communities to be active in mission. (LCA strategic priority 2.6)

- Activities/Outcomes – work with the Districts to support congregational renewal

- Achievements – collaboration with the Districts is via the District Mission Directors

Objective – Improve capability and performance of our leaders. (LCA strategic priority 3.1.1)

- Activities/Outcomes – advocate on ageing issues on behalf of the LCA

- Achievements – continued representation on the National Aged Care Alliance; support for Lutheran Aged Care and Community Services Governance Dialogue

Objective – Increase enthusiasm for how love is coming to life through individuals, families and communities. (LCA strategic priority 3.2.1)

- Activities/Outcomes – develop multi-media strategy for communicating

- Achievements – web and social media resourcing has increased; a Ministry with the Ageing eNewsletter is produced quarterly

### **Board for Child Youth and Family Ministry**

(See separate report from the former Board for Child Youth and Family Ministry, Agenda 3.1)

### **Board for Media Ministry**

(See separate report from the former Board for Media Ministry, Agenda 9.1)

## **SUCSESSES**

- Eleven sending church leaders trained and supported
- Leaders of three church plants mentored
- Eight cross-cultural congregations financially supported
- Increase in mission-focused personnel in the New and Renewing Churches department to support mission locally
- Print and media resources developed (for example, Sent: Seeking the orphans of God; New Life New Love; Ministry with the Ageing eNewsletter; local mission webpages developed)
- Conferences and events held (for example, Thriving in Change conference with Dr Pat Keifert; Sent conferences and events)
- Move to competency-based board in March 2017
- Delegating the generative and grassroots activities of the board to the advisory committees so that the board can concentrate on good stewardship of available resources
- Employment of Executive Officer – Local Mission, and employment of Pastor for New and Renewing Churches
- Formation of the Local Mission Leadership Team
- Development of Ministry with the Ageing web presence

## **CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED**

- Missional cultural change takes time and there is no 'one size fits all' solution.
- Leaders (lay and pastors) play a key role in missional cultural change.

- The harvest is plentiful and the labourers are few, therefore we are praying for labourers and helping the church to see themselves in this role.
- The need to respect the culture of the people and their way of organising their congregational life and worship, yet also dialoguing to open opportunities.
- Important that the board not become a 'cash cow' when the key to success will always be local responsibility.
- Need to integrate the activities of all our mission focussed committees and staff.

## RISKS

<b>Description of risk</b>	<b>Likelihood of risk occurring and potential impact for the ministry and LCA</b>	<b>Summary of action to mitigate the risk</b>
<b>Operational - ageing pastorate as well as a scarcity of pastor leaders</b>	High likelihood and impact	The training provided has a strong focus on empowering lay leadership, however the Board for Local Mission cannot directly mitigate this risk.
<b>Operational – appropriate identification and training of church planters and evangelists is provided</b>	Low risk, though the provision of appropriate training is a capacity issue for both New and Renewing Churches and ALC	The New and Renewing Churches department is working with Australian Lutheran College to ensure a pathway for the training of church planters and evangelists
<b>Operational - the capacity of Ministry with the Ageing to adequately support Lutheran Aged Care facilities in their ministry</b>	Medium risk, due to limited personnel employed in this area	The LCA has conducted a Lutheran Aged Care and Community Services Governance Dialogue. Recommendations from the governance dialogue report may relieve Ministry with the Ageing of responsibilities regarding Aged Care advocacy and allow the department to further concentrate on congregational ministry with and to the aged.
<b>Fiduciary – difficulty in having effective fiscal oversight due to the quality of financial reporting</b>	High likelihood; medium impact	The National Office is implementing the use of new financial software to ensure more accurate reporting.

## ALIGNMENT TO LCA STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2013–2018

The Board for Local Mission has the same vision, purpose and values as the LCA. The objectives and activities therefore grow out of the strategic priorities adopted by the LCA in its Strategic Direction 2013–2018. See section on the alignment to the LCA Strategic Direction.

## COOPERATING LCA BOARDS AND AGENCIES

<b>Lutheran Education Australia</b>	<b>The New and Renewing Churches department assisted in three missional conferences held in the three Lutheran Education regions.</b>
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<b>International Mission</b>	The Assistant to the Bishop – International Mission is a consultant to the Committee for Cross-Cultural Ministry. The Executive Officer – Local Mission is a consultant to the Committee for International Mission.
<b>Lutheran Media</b>	Development of videos on dementia
<b>Grow Ministries</b>	New and Renewing Churches and Grow Ministries seek to cross-promote and complement the training that is provided by each department.
<b>Australian Lutheran College</b>	Cooperation in the development of two missional units for ALC's Certificate IV in Christian Ministry and Theology
<b>Communications</b>	Communications provide assistance in the promotion of Local Mission across the departments

Note that as a result of the trial restructure Local Mission now includes Cross-Cultural Ministry, Grow Ministries, Lutheran Media, Ministry with the Ageing and New and Renewing Churches. Therefore cooperation also occurs across the Local Mission departments.

## FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

<b>Alignment to LCA Strategic Priorities</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
1 Growing as God's People	\$387,843	\$389,959	\$475,267
2 Going as God's People	\$387,843	\$389,959	\$475,266
3 Enable us to Go & Grow			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$775,686</b>	<b>\$779,918</b>	<b>\$950,533</b>