



# **National strategic plan 2003-2004**

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**Australian Catholic Movement for  
Intellectual and Cultural Affairs**

## **Coordination committee 2003-2004**

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## 1. Introduction

ACMICA was launched by way of a conference in April, 2002 at the University of Technology, Sydney. A provisional committee was established by this conference with the mandate of re-affiliating the movement with Pax Romana and establishing the necessary institutional networks and structures for a viable national movement.

In June, members of the committee met with the Pax Romana-International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs (ICMICA) secretariats to discuss re-affiliation. Affiliation was achieved in July that year by resolution of the 89th Pax Romana-ICMICA International Council in Lima, Peru.

The committee has since participated in many international ICMICA conferences and continues to retain healthy communication channels with the international and Asian secretariats.

This plan represents the next stage to achieving our mandate of creating a viable and accountable national membership-based movement. In our endeavours, this strategic plan is intended to set goals and define priorities for the movement for the next committee year.

## 2. Identity

ACMICA is a movement of Catholic intellectuals and professionals inspired by the life of Christ and called to fulfil their vocation and mission through their professions as well as in their intellectual commitments to Church, society and polity.

ACMICA is engaged in the process of critical analysis, careful reflection and just action. It is a movement for solidarity and dialogue and is concerned with issues of human rights, social equity and environmental justice.

It is affiliated with ICMICA, one of the two autonomous organisations of Pax Romana, which is a lay apostolate movement recognised by the Holy See and has consultative status with ECOSOC and UNESCO.

ACMICA works to achieve its objectives through its global network and in partnership with progressive social movements everywhere.

## 3. Objectives

ACMICA will endeavour to engage in pro-active dialogue between the Christian faith and culture in order to promote evangelisation and the inculturation of the Gospel for the realisation of the Kingdom of God by –

- (a) helping Christian professional and intellectual groups, communities and individuals to fulfil their vocation and mission locally and nationally,
- (b) developing a network where Christian professionals and intellectuals can share their faith experiences,
- (c) carrying out critical analysis and discernment of dominant thoughts, ideologies and cultures from a Christian perspective,

- (d) engaging itself in evangelisation by bearing witness and practising Gospel values to promote a culture of life and peace in society,
- (e) committing itself to the building of justice and peace, and the protection and promotion of human and people's rights in solidarity with the poor and marginalised,
- (f) promoting lay participation in the renewal and inculturation of the Church according to the Spirit of both the Gospel and the Second Vatican Council,
- (g) facilitating ecumenical, inter-faith and inter-civilisational dialogue for the promotion of mutual understanding, religious freedom and tolerance, and for the service of humankind, and
- (h) developing networks with social movements locally, nationally and internationally.

## 4. Priority areas and strategies

### 4.1 Nationalisation

It is recognised that the nationalisation process is the most important current organisational issue for our movement as we endeavour to promote lay participation in the Church and to assist Christian professionals and intellectuals to fulfil their vocation and mission through the ACMICA method of witnessing and practising the Gospel. A workable, accountable national structure backed by a strong constitution that reflects our national and local realities are the first steps towards achieving this goal.

We have developed the following strategies:

- > Develop a workable national structure
- > Develop a national constitution
- > Work towards a national conference
- > Facilitate the establishment of local groups in Brisbane and Melbourne, which will include where possible face-to-face meetings
- > Increase communication with other interested groups in other states

We have developed the following action:

- > Proposal for a structure of autonomous local groups managed by a coordination committee to be put to the general meeting in June
- > Bill Neville, former President of ICMICA, in consultation with the committee has produced a draft national constitution to be considered at the general meeting
- > Invited contacts from Melbourne and Brisbane to our general meeting and will work with them towards establishing local groups in their areas
- > Continue to inform and develop national interests in the activities of the movement through our monthly newsletter

## 4.2 Social action

Education and advocacy is an area of priority for our movement. In light of the war on Iraq and its aftermath we recognise the need for continual engagement in the area of peace and disarmament and to work towards education in the practice of non-violence and the promotion of a culture of peace.

We have developed the following strategies:

- > Work towards running two or more educational events per year
- > Continuing our connection with the peace movement

We have developed the following action:

- > Organise Gil Bailie (Cornerstone Forum) visit, 18-20 July
  - Organised in partnership with PALMS and others. A public lecture, seminar and forum seminar exploring an anthropological reading of history, the Bible and the roots of violence

## 4.3 Student outreach

Fostering good relationship with student movements is mutually beneficial. We recognise that students often make the transition into alumni without the necessary support and Christian community that is provided for on campus. We further recognise that students are our future members and that they can bring to our gatherings energy and idealism of youth.

We have developed the following strategies:

- > Invite students, where appropriate, to our functions
- > Work towards programmes aimed at facilitating transition from student to graduate life

## 4.4 International contact

Maintaining international contact, awareness and solidarity is a core feature of our identity and vision.

We have developed the following strategies:

- > Continue our contact with the international and Asian movements and contribute financially and actively to its mandate

We have developed the following action:

- > Attend Asia/Pacific Catholic Social Forum (CSF) (Kuala Lumpur, Oct. 21 to 27, 2003)
  - The Kuala Lumpur CSF in October will serve as a regional platform for socially-engaged Catholics in Asia and the Pacific on ways to work more effectively with the Church and the civil society. The CSF is organised by ICMICA Asia.
- > Attend European Conference (Luxembourg, Sept. 3 to 6, 2003)

The European Conference themed, “Which Europe? Ethical and Constitutional Challenge to the European Project”. The Conference is organised by ICMICA Europe in cooperation with the local federation.

- > Attend the International Council Meeting (Metz, France, Aug. 31 to Sept. 2, 2003)  
The 90th Session of the ICMICA Annual International Council meeting. Bill Neville will attend this meeting.
- > Continue to inform our international and Asian contacts of the activities of the movement through our monthly newsletter.