

Religions for Peace Australia Report for ACRP Meeting - Singapore April 2025

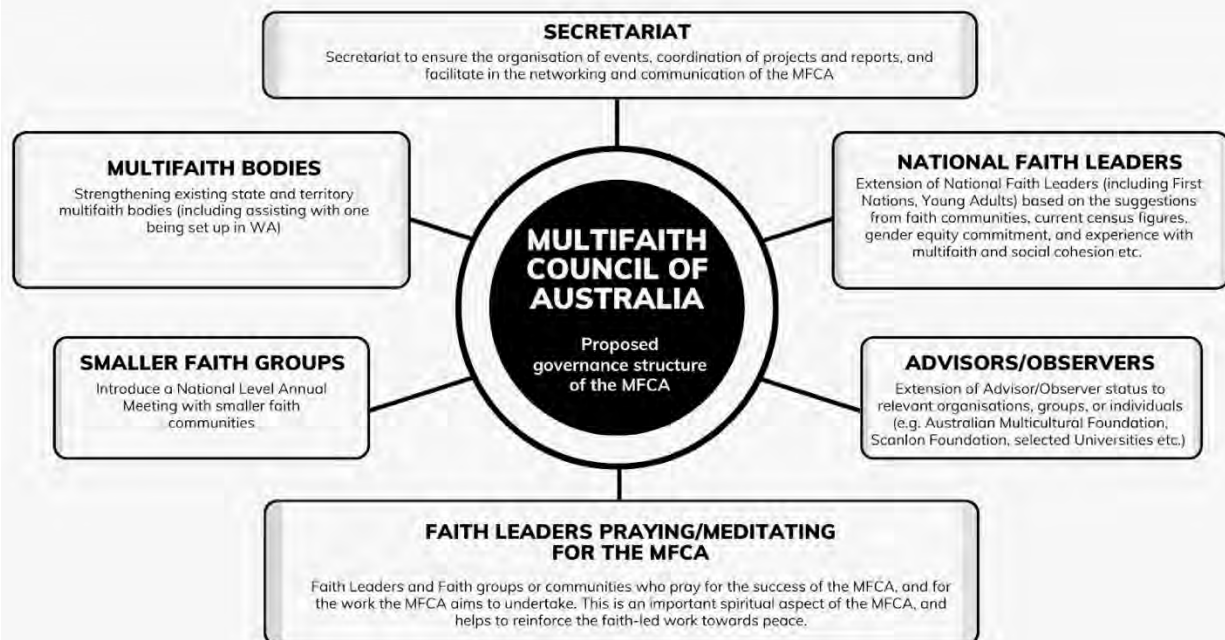
Religions for Peace Australia Membership and Representation:

Religions for Peace Australia (RfPAus) has established a robust and growing national network of faith communities, with members, affiliates in every State and Territory across Australia.

Multifaith Council of Australia:

RfPAustralia is in fruitful discussion with faith communities across Australia, that we hope will lead towards the establishment of a Multifaith Council of Australia (MFCA). A [discussion paper](#) was released by RfPAus at Parliament House in Canberra in February 2024, with a launch by Emeritus Professor Desmond Cahill OAM, Honorary President of [Religions for Peace \(RfP\) Australia](#) and ACRP Moderator. RfPAus believes creation of the MFCA is an urgent national priority for maintaining social cohesion in Australia, requiring broad support from national faith bodies/communities and Federal/State/Territory governments.

Here is a schematic plan of the potential constituent parts of an Australian MFCA:



It is envisaged that the Code of Conduct and the constitution for the proposed Multifaith Council of Australia will be similar to that of RfPA and other multifaith or interfaith councils (See: RfPA [Code of Conduct](#) and [constitution](#)). The Council will uphold gender and racial equity, include a spread of representation across Australia's states and territories, and comply with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and other relevant Conventions, Charters, and Declarations.

Social Cohesion and Interfaith Harmony:

RfPA holds significant concern about signs of social cohesion under threat across Australia – with evidence not only of active acts of Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism, but also individual reports of attacks on Hindu Temples and Sikh Gurdwaras. All RfPA State and Territory members and affiliates are maintaining close contact with faith communities and looking for opportunities to restore community dialogue and collective commitment to interfaith harmony. Social cohesion is significant regional issue for all members.

First Nation representation:

RfP Australia's mission includes supporting appropriate recognition of the spiritualities of Australia's First Peoples and all indigenous peoples across the world. RfPA continues its work to build strong links with our First Peoples. Respected theologian and Queensland Elder from Bidjara/Kari Kari nation, Professor Dr Anne Pattel-Gray gave our [2025 World Interfaith Harmony Day Lecture](#) in Canberra. She agreed to be our RfPA Indigenous champion to help us build strong respectful relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elders, over time.

RfPA Regional outreach in Pacific:

Ongoing dialogue underway to establish initial links in Fiji to encourage establishment of Religions for Peace Pacific to engage with ACRP on climate, interfaith harmony and social cohesion in Oceania region. Recent progress includes a positive meeting with High Commissioner for Fiji in Canberra ACT, which led to positive connections. A visit to Fiji is planned for mid 2025 to meet members of local Interfaith groups and forge links with RfPAsia.



(l to r): Jyoti & Kanti Jinna OAM, Philippa, Fijian High Commissioner His Excellency Ajay Bhai Amrit, Dean Sahukhan OAM

(Dean is Chair of Canberra Interfaith Forum, Kanti is longstanding member, both Fijian)

National Online Prayers across Australia following Natural Disasters:

Ongoing discussions are underway to streamline RfP Australia's capacity and preparedness to host timely online national prayers in times of crisis, after natural disasters or human-made tragedies. Online Interfaith Prayers have been held following Bushfires, while in March 2025 tropical Cyclone Alfred affected thousands of people across northern NSW and Queensland. RfP Australia is keen and remains open to opportunities to co-host interfaith prayers across the Tasman with New Zealand, and across our region with ACRP.

Canberra Commonwealth Day Celebrations with Governor-General Sam Mostyn 10 March 2025



May our prayers support all in need and strengthen our commitment and compassion for others.