

## PRESBYTERY OF CALVARY

**Context:**

<b>Ministry/Congregational Life</b>				<b>Finances</b>			
Area covered (Sq/kms):	Qld	No. of Pastors (Stream A)	8	Mission & Service Fund Contribution:	\$10,000	Income from other Sources (non MSF):	\$10,000
Population:	?	No. of Pastors (Stream B)	0	Presbytery Operational Funding:	\$162,709	Funds held in reserve (all investments):	\$0
No. of Congregations recognised as such by Presbytery:	8	No. of Lay Ministry Teams:	4	Strategic Project Funding Allocated:	\$127,405	Strategic Project Funding Accessed as at 04/04/13:	\$0
Faith communities:	0	<b>Placements</b> No. of congregational placements FTE:	F/T: 1 P/T:2	% of congregations in the Presbytery that have at least 80% income from offerings			0%
Ecumenical Communities:	0	No. of non-congregational placements FTE:	F/T: 3 P/T:	% of congregations in the Presbytery with Sunday children's and youth ministry with over 15 average attendance			63%
No. of 'cluster' arrangements	0	No. of joint placements FTE: (i.e.: ministry agents, support staff, total number of people)	F/T: P/T:	Other statistical information relevant to this Presbytery:			
Total weekly worship attendance across Presbytery:	400	Presbytery staffing FTE: • Ministry agents • Support staff • Total no. of people	1 1 3				

Responses to our Vision since last Synod	Working towards our Vision in the future
<i>A prayerful listening church</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In all Indigenous communities in which Calvary Presbytery has a presence, the Church places an emphasis on being prayerful and listening through reflecting the Aboriginal quality of ‘Dadirri – an inner deep listening and quiet still awareness that reflects Psalms 46:10 “Be still, and know that I am God”. The Aboriginal way has taught the virtues of being still and waiting. Aboriginal people do not try to hurry things up or change the course of nature. We let things follow their natural course - like the seasons. The same context applies to Calvary Presbytery which is active in forming and sustaining meaningful life-enriching pathways for Aboriginal and Islander people through firstly listening to the needs of its members and then responding prayerfully with spiritually based measures. The links between the spirituality of the Biblical/Church tradition and our culture are explored and integrated in ways that have meaning for modern Aboriginal and Torres Strait Christians.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Calvary Presbytery currently has active congregations and faith groups in the following communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mapoon</li> <li>- Aurukun</li> <li>- Napranum</li> <li>- Mornington Island</li> <li>- Gordonvale</li> <li>- Babinda</li> <li>- Townsville</li> <li>- Zillmere</li> </ul> </li> <li>As a prayerful and listening Church, part of Calvary’s vision is to respond to the calling of Indigenous people for an expansion of further ministry centres in other regions in need of spiritually based responses to community needs. Babinda is one such example in the last 2 years.</li> </ul>
<i>God centred and life related in worship</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central to worship in community is praise for the saving power of Christ from those who have turned their lives around and the hope for salvation for others from the issues that commonly attack the spiritual wellbeing of Indigenous communities including alcohol, substance abuse and unemployment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All of our congregations participate in regular worship on Sundays and often during the week. In addition there are regular prayer and Bible study activities, youth groups, and in Aurukun/ Mapoon/Napranum, exchange visits to congregations in Brisbane and interstate.</li> </ul>
<i>Forming active and accountable disciples of Jesus</i>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kids clubs, Sunday Schools and youth groups are active in most of our congregations.</li> <li>• Adult fellowships and Bible Study groups occur in all of our congregational settings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need to encourage youth and children's ministry in the one or two congregations where this is not occurring regularly.</li> <li>• Presbytery - wide youth gatherings to be organised</li> <li>• Continue participation in the NCYC events and National UAICC youth gatherings</li> </ul>
<p><i>Confident in sharing faith</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calvary Presbytery encourages others to share their faith and their personal journey of transformation through testimonies which are reproduced with blessing for other Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to witness and to explore their own faith journey. One example has been the development of faith sharing through Bible study in the Mapoon community, led by Michelle Cook and James Hughes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More opportunities could be developed through evangelical rallies and combined fellowships throughout the Presbytery</li> </ul>
<p><i>Theologically informed, creative and visionary in its leadership</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Congress's Yalga-binbi Institute for Community Development is based in Townsville and is active in Christian Ministry training and education. The many students who hail from various Indigenous communities gain a strong theological formation that is relevant and contextualized to the needs and culture of their local communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further recruitment and encouragement of students for Certificate III, Certificate IV and Diploma of Christian Ministry and Theology needs to be undertaken by the Presbytery and its ministry agents.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Working for Christian Unity</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calvary Presbytery views unity among Indigenous Christians as central to achieving spiritual fullness in communities. For example, in the last year at Aurukun there was a community-wide peace and reconciliation event organised by the local church aimed at bringing people together in the name of Christ and finding ways to put a stop to family conflict and build unity across religious and social/cultural divisions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There needs to be greater encouragement by the Presbytery for members to stay true to their church fellowship and not to move across to fragmented smaller groups.</li> <li>• Interchurch gatherings such as the combined services held by the Babinda fellowship and the local Presbyterian church need to be encouraged in other communities in order to build wider Christian unity.</li> </ul>

<i>Engaged in authentic community relationships</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forming, maintaining and nurturing community relationships across Queensland undergird the mission of Calvary Presbytery. These relationships are based upon mutual understandings and a common shared sense of vision for Indigenous unity, prosperity and community but in a manner specific to the cultural heritage of Indigenous people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These relationships are maintained with strong interactions and regular contact between the Calvary Outreach Officer and other support staff with, and between, local Indigenous church leaders and other community members.</li> <li>Local congregations and their leaders also develop and maintain strong relationships with other Indigenous groups within their towns and cities.</li> </ul>
<i>Reaching out and speaking out for justice and peace for all creation</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Calvary Presbytery is committed to holistic ministry which is about linking faith with action as Christians reach out to the community at its point of need</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Presbytery will seek to find ways of responding at local, regional and national levels in its advocacy for Indigenous people and in pursuing justice and rights.</li> <li>Yalga-binbi Institute for Community development should be encouraged to take a greater role in these areas.</li> </ul>
<i>Organised for mission</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Calvary Presbytery is mission oriented with a regional outlook and strong local focus. Local groups organise for a range of mission activities that often involve inter-regional interactions. An example is the youth mission work in Napranum and Aurukun which takes young Indigenous students on school exchanges with the likes of Scotch Oakburn College in Tasmania while hosting Tasmanian students in Indigenous Gulf communities. The mission exchanges result in a heightened sense of spirituality and understanding for many, which in turn positively influences their peers toward increased reconciliation and advocacy for Indigenous rights and responsibilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Presbytery will continue to seek ways of engaging in holistic mission and ministry, where spiritual and social responses to people's needs and injustices are always sought.</li> </ul>

**Key achievements/initiatives:**

Have graduated many adult students in both Christian Ministry and Community Development with an 85% completion rate through the Yalga-binbi Institute for Community Development.

The lives of numerous Indigenous people have been transformed with their testimonies published to help inspire and guide other Indigenous people

The holistic nature of ministry cares for the whole person and their interaction with the rest of the world. Spiritually based holistic ministry has produced positive results that have transformed individuals where mainstream programs have failed.

Local faith groups and congregations are firmly anchored in communities as the 'light' of the community when people seek spiritual revival.

As a holistic ministry, community members are offered practical outcomes through the help of the local church e.g. transportation to medical appointments, help with Government Departments, assistance in seeking employment etc.

The ordination in the near future of Roberta Stanley as a Minister of the Word, with a settlement based on a cluster of Babinda, Gordonvale and Cairns communities. This is a great personal milestone for Roberta and a most significant milestone for the Presbytery as it looks forward to one of its members responding to the call of God to ministry and becoming ordained.

Continuing to provide cultural awareness training to Trinity College students

**Challenges/risks as we progress:**

Finding a secure financial base for ongoing ministry in communities

Developing a better strategy and financial resources for maintenance of buildings and property

Sourcing funds for the building of a new church at Mapoon and a manse at Aurukun

The wider church increasing its commitment to covenanting and finding new ways for ongoing mutual sharing and support.

**Recommendations/issues to be addressed:**

Support for future Indigenous Christian Leaders through training and mentoring

As part of the covenanting commitment, members of the wider church developing a deeper understanding of the spiritual context in which Calvary operates in Indigenous communities and the unique issues facing Indigenous ministry in community

Financial support to implement community based and community driven measures to address the spiritual and social needs of members to directly overcome the diverse array of negative socio-economic issues confronting Indigenous communities.

**Contact for Report questions:**

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