

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MINISTRY NETWORK (C-NET/Y-NET)

PURPOSE

The Children's and Youth Ministry Network (known to its members as 'C-Net/Y-Net') exists to provide a means of mutual support and encouragement for the key leaders of these ministry areas in as many dioceses as possible. It enables members to share information and resources reflecting and enabling the best practices in Australian Youth and Children's Ministry.

CHANGES IN GOVERNANCE AND/OR MEMBERSHIP SINCE LAST REPORT

The network welcomes those new members able to attend in the last year and looks forward to more being able to attend in the future.

ACTIVITIES DURING THE PERIOD

The Network, like many other organisations, continued with online meetings during 2020-21, using Zoom to hold meetings and create opportunities for interpersonal contact between members. Much of the time was spent around adapting and resourcing youth and children's ministry in light of the environment created by the COVID 19 pandemic.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The Network will continue to hold regular online Zoom meetings and look to create a face-to-face gathering, should it be possible.

The network is discussing the benefit of a survey into the current status of mission and ministry to under 18's across the national church.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES TO REPORT

The challenges of leading youth ministry and children's ministry in a diocesan context tend to feature similar themes from year to year. It is noteworthy that many dioceses continue to seek 'growth' as a specific, high-priority, strategic goal without allocating corresponding resources to youth and children's ministry. We respectfully submit that targeting growth in these departments is highly likely to lead to growth to the entire community.

It is worthy of note that COVID has continued to have a significant and lasting impact on children and young people.

We as a network encourage investment in the care and support of leaders within the church in the children and youth areas.

FINANCIAL REPORTS 2019

Not applicable for this year, in light of the decision to not hold a conference.

INVITATION

Any prospective C-Net/Y-Net members, diocesan leaders or other interested parties who may read this report are warmly invited to contact the Network convenor, Brian Holden (Melbourne), via email at bholden@melbourneanglican.org.au for further details of how to join us.