

MONTHLY MEMO

EMERGING FUTURES COLLABORATIVE MAY 2021

Back on track with the *Monthly Memo* and lots to report this month as we continue to welcome new service partners and progress the establishment of the new Emerging Futures Collaborative Limited.

Preparations to establish Emerging Futures Collaborative Limited, a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee are continuing.

We have received the completed Constitution from Josephine Heesh of Carroll & O’Dea. Once again, the members of the Constitutions Group of the EFC Governance Working Party: Gabrielle McMullen AM (Chair), Sue Fabian and Eileen Ann Daffy rsm have offered invaluable assistance to Josephine as she finalized the document.

The Constitution was sent to the leaders of the eight religious institutes who will be the members of the company. EFCL is blessed to have as members the following religious institutes: the Christian Brothers, the Little Company of Mary, the Marist Sisters, the Missionary Sisters of Service, the Presentation Sisters Victoria, the Sisters of Charity, the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions and the Sisters of St Joseph. Each of the institutes has signed a member application and has appointed a Member Representative. The initial role of the member representatives is to appoint board members and a board chair. Once the member representatives have met and appointed board members, Carroll & O’Dea will apply for an Australian Business Number (ABN) and register the company with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). EFCL will be a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee. We hope this will enable a new financial year opening of the Company and we have planned an evening event on August 5 to thank all who have helped EFC to reach this point and to welcome the new religious institute owners, member representatives and board members.

We are appreciative too of the work of the EFC Finance Working Party, especially Chris Townend and John Spillane, who with Greg Costello, our very part-time Finance Manager, refined and refined our business plan and our 2021-2022 budget. EFC is essentially a start-up, operating in a new space in both corporate and church worlds and as such, the creation of a business plan and a budget needed understanding, creativity and constant revising. Gratitude seems not enough to offer those who have been part of this journey. You’ll remember that contributions were sought from religious institutes specifically for the Emerging Futures initiative of CRA and Anne Walker is currently checking with leaders to ensure that religious institutes want their contribution to follow the Emerging Futures initiative into the new company structure.

EFC has been guided to this point by the Transition Committee and those members have given great support and worked hard in the thirteen months since our first meeting in April 2020. We thank Anne Lane pbvm (Chair); Catherine Brabender rndm; Monica Cavanagh rsj (Deputy Chair); Bobby Court; Gabrielle McMullen AM; Gabrielle Morgan pbvm; Clare Nolan rsc; Des Powell AM; John Spillane; John Thompson fms and Stancea Vichie mss.

Work continues with our three initial service partners: Presentation Sisters Tasmania, Missionary Sisters of Service and St John of God Brothers. Our three pilot service partners are different in structure being pontifical, diocesan and international; are found in different states and are of different sizes. Because the EFC process is customized to each service partner, each of the three institutes are at different places in their journey. One group is preparing to petition the ecclesial authority for the appointment of consultors and a canonical delegate, drawn from the group of volunteers identified in 2020. EFC will shortly be managing services provision for all three groups.

Since the beginning of the year five more religious institutes have engaged with EFC: two in Victoria: the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny and the Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (of Hilstrup) Australian Province; two in NSW: Sisters of Mercy, Parramatta and Presentation Sisters, Wagga Wagga and one in Queensland: the Missionary Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. These institutes are also different in size and they range between international and Australian-based pontifical institutes. So we now have eight service partners and expect to have three more before the end of 2021: placing EFCL well on the way to a sustainable financial future.

As Covid restrictions lift and borders become a little more reliable, we are beginning to travel to work with the members of congregations as well as the leadership teams. We have been to Victoria twice in the past two months, we have congregational meeting dates for NSW groups and we are also visiting with potential service partners. Our work is still heavily reliant on Zoom however!

EFC is a not a *program* that religious institutes are joining, but rather a support service customized to each different group and religious institutes engage with EFC because they have a need, whether it is for canonical governance or shared services, or both. Our work with religious institutes is tailored to the needs of the group: we can begin with addressing the Congregational Will and Distribution Plan, detailing how the members of the institute wish to live out their lives and the legacy they wish to leave behind. Or if there is a pressing need for a service to free up the members of the leadership team to consider other issues, we begin with service delivery.

Over thirty congregational personnel with responsibility for archives joined our webinar with Kylie Rees on Monday May 10. Kylie has been a Senior Archivist with The History Company since 2001 with 25 client sites/collections. Her area of specialization is Collection Management Plans and Retention Schedules. Those who attended were grateful for the opportunity to hear Kylie walk them through the main areas of archives management and for the material that Kylie provided after the webinar. We are working on engaging a project officer to identify short and medium term needs to ensure archives facilities/services are in place for our service partners.

As part of the company creation we have in development a new logo and a website and we look forward to sharing those developments with you in the near future.

We exist to be of service to religious institutes, so please contact either Judy Lawson on judith.lawson@cragc.org.au or me on sharon.price@cragc.org.au if we can assist in any way.

Sharon Price rsm
Transition Manager
May 26, 2021