



Position Description

Executive Director

Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture

Classification Senior Leader, Level 4

Special conditions [Delegations and Authorisations Policy \(see Section 3\)](#)

Annual operating budget \$900,000

Number of direct reports 5

Number of indirect reports Additional staff, adjunct researchers and volunteers

Date last reviewed July 2024



Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture

The Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture was established through a partnership between the Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn, and Charles Sturt University. The Centre's CEO, the Executive Director, is employed by Charles Sturt University and works to the Centre's board.

Purpose

The Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture (ACC&C) is an ecumenical foundation in the heart of the nation's capital, Canberra. Established in 1998, its mission is to foster and promote dialogue between the Christian faith, Australian culture, and broader society, with a special emphasis on social justice, inclusion, spirituality, art and culture. The Centre stands as a beacon of ecumenical engagement, offering a welcoming space for reflection, conversation, and community building across diverse Christian traditions and beyond. Through its vibrant array of cultural programs, thought leadership, research initiatives, and public events, the ACC&C strives to embody and articulate a vision of wisdom for the common good, anchored in the Christian tradition and fostering dialogue with all.

Vision

The Vision for the Centre can be summarised as 'Wisdom for the common good'.

The Vision is realised through Four Pillars:

- Wisdom through civil society
- Peace through new religious engagements.
- Resilience in institutional life and ethical leadership
- Creativity through the arts, sciences and culture

Theological Framework

The theological framework for the ACC&C is that it will operate

- Within the broad faith parameters of the NCCA:
 - "The **National** Council of Churches in Australia gathers together in pilgrimage those Churches and Christian communities which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures and commit themselves to deepen their relationship with each other in order to express more visibly the unity willed by Christ for his Church, and to work together towards the fulfilment of their mission of common witness, proclamation and service, to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- With priority on the four pillars of the ACC&C:
 - Wisdom through Civil Society;
 - Peace through new religious engagements;
 - Resilience in institutional life and ethical leadership;
 - Creativity through the Arts, Sciences and Culture
- With a deliberate approach that emphasises the common good, rather than promoting individual piety or the particular interests of Christian churches or traditions
- With an intended openness to expressions of faith that foster faithful innovation in areas such as
 - theology
 - social justice and
 - developing different forms of the Body of Christ
- With a priority on discipleship, that walks in the steps of Jesus and gives attention to those who have been marginalised, including by the church as an institution.



Organisational chart



Reporting relationship

This position reports to:	The ACC&C Board, through the Chair
This position is managed by:	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
This position supervises:	Associate Director, Business and Development Associate Director, Research Director, Youth Engagement Director, Centre for Ecumenical Studies Administration and Communications Officer

Key working relationships

- ACC&C Board
- Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
- Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn
- National Church Leaders and external agencies
- Office of the Governor-General



Position overview

The Executive Director of the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture (ACC&C) plays a key role in fostering dialogue between Christianity, Australian culture, and society. Reporting to the ACC&C Board Chair, they lead strategic direction, manage the Centre and its finances, oversee programs, and promote the Centre's mission of social justice, inclusion, and spirituality. With a focus on wisdom for the common good, the Executive Director drives ecumenical engagement, cultural initiatives, and research efforts, embodying a vision of dialogue and collaboration across diverse perspectives.

Principal responsibilities

Values

- Consistently embody the University's values in behaviour and decision-making, while encouraging inclusivity and collaboration to foster a safe and respectful work environment.

Leadership

- Lead by example to inspire, empower, and foster a culture of collaboration, innovation, and continuous improvement. Ensure clear direction, effective communication, and accountability, driving organisational success and individual growth, and a safe working environment.

Organisational Leadership and Governance

- Lead and manage organisational resources to ensure the good administration of the Centre, managing people, facilities, finances and other resources to maximise growth and impact.
- Develop and implement the organisational strategy and underpinning business plan and budget.
- Secure philanthropic support and explore partnership opportunities that can sustain and expand the Centre's activities.

Leadership and Public Engagement

- Promote dialogue and debate on issues at the intersection of Christianity, Australian society, culture, and Indigenous peoples.
- Leverage relationships in pursuit of the vision of the Centre.

Thought Leadership and Policy Impact

- Position the Centre as a credible and impactful presence – shaping and influencing national conversations across social and economic issues.
- Foster partnerships and exchanges, both nationally and internationally, enhancing the Centre's reputation as a thought leader.

Program and Cultural Development

- Strengthen the Centre's role in promoting peace, resilience, ethical leadership, and creativity through engagement with its Four Pillars.

Dialogue and Reconciliation

- Enhance the Centre's role in inter-faith dialogue, supporting partnerships and engaging with diverse religious traditions.
- Promote the Centre as a key venue for reconciliation activities, especially concerning First Nations Australians, and facilitate events that reflect national significance.



Role-specific capabilities

This section comprises capabilities from the Charles Sturt [Capability Framework](#) identified as essential or critical for success in this role.

Capability	Capability Definition	Level of influence
Innovates		
Acts Strategically	Analyses opportunities to determine effective solutions and solve problems in order to achieve short and long-term objectives.	Influence groups/systems
Creates Innovative Solutions	Uses methodologies that open up creative thinking and transform ideas into actionable plans and strategies. Reflects on outcomes and drives ongoing improvement.	Influence the future
Connects		
Communicates with Influence	Listens to understand the position of others and leverages effective communication and negotiation skills in order to influence and navigate toward mutually beneficial outcomes.	Influence the future
Achieves		
Manages Change	Assumes responsibility for change. Supports change initiatives, builds knowledge to understand purpose and impact. Supports others to engage with change to deliver outcomes.	Influence groups/systems
Drives Impact	Collaboratively engages with peers and stakeholders in the community and industry. Places our people and students at the centre of design decisions.	Influence groups/systems

This section comprises of Enabler and Managers Effectively capabilities from the Charles Sturt [Capability Framework](#) identified as essential or critical for success in this role.

Capability	Capability description	Level of influence
Builds Effective Teams	Builds teams with complementary abilities and skill sets, encourages effective communication and collaboration and cultivates a supportive environment to reach objectives.	Influence groups/systems



Selection criteria

Applicants are expected to address the selection criteria when applying for this position.

Essential

- A. Active member in good standing of a church. A deep, personal and active commitment to the Christian faith and a commitment to ecumenical and interfaith engagement.
- B. Demonstrated ability to manage organisational resources to ensure the good administration of the Centre, managing people, facilities, finances and other resources to maximise growth and impact; to develop and implement the organisational strategy and underpinning business plan and budget; and to secure philanthropic support and partnership opportunities that sustain and expand the Centre's activities.
- C. Demonstrated leadership excellence in complex organisational settings, with an ability to inspire, manage, and develop diverse groups of people. Strengths in change management, collaboration and engagement. Strategic orientation and a hands-on approach.
- D. Proven ability to engage appropriately with governance bodies.
- E. Proven ability to engage with and influence public discourse on Christianity's role in society, backed by experience in public speaking, media engagement, and written communication.
- F. Experience in ecumenical and interfaith dialogue, with a respectful understanding of diverse religious traditions.
- G. Experience in fostering dialogue and reconciliation with Indigenous communities, promoting mutual understanding and respect.
- H. Demonstrated ability to forge strategic partnerships, work collaboratively across sectors, and attract funding to support organisational objectives.
- I. Experience in designing, launching and managing innovative programs and activities.

Desirable

- J. Relevant tertiary qualification