



Section 19

2014 Convention of Synod

Lutheran Laypeople's League



The LLL has again been richly blessed during the last financial year, and we thank God that He continues to encourage our depositors and supporters to assist the work of the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) through the LLL.

Some of the highlights of the last year include:

- Providing benefits & services to the LCA totalling over \$11.6m
- Legacies and donations of over \$1m
- Refurbishment of the LLL office building
- Provision of office space at no cost to the LCA.

Legacies and Donations

LLL Permanent Funds have again received significant monies during the last financial year, with legacies totalling \$843,345 and donations totalling \$217,336 being received.

We thank God for leading these people to support the LLL and the work of the Church in this way. These gifts provide a dual benefit to the Church as they can be used to provide loans to LCA projects, and the income generated by these loans can then be used to pay grants to nominated projects of the LCA. In addition, LLL Permanent Funds provide the capital base for the LLL, which gives extra protection to LLL depositors' funds.

Loans

Total loans outstanding as at 30 June 2013 were \$356,325,849 which is an increase of \$19m over the last 12 months. Lutheran Schools continue to be the largest borrower of LLL funds with over 85% of all LLL loans being made to Lutheran Schools. As a result, significant interest savings are achieved each year by these schools, enabling them to provide a Christian-based education to nearly 40,000 students around Australia each school day. Estimated interest saved by all LCA organisations borrowing funds from the LLL during the last financial year is over \$6.8m.

Deposits

Total depositor funds as at 30 June 2013 were \$687,584,895 which is an increase of \$67m over the last 12 months. These deposits enable the LLL to continue to provide low interest loans to LCA projects, and also to provide additional grants to the LCA from income generated by these deposits.

All deposits not used to provide loans to LCA projects are invested with Australian Approved Deposit-taking Institutions (ADIs) and income from these investments enables the LLL to provide significant benefits and services to the LCA. These investments also provide additional protection for LLL depositors as the LLL does not speculate in shares or property investments.

Regular Electronic Giving (REG)

Current REG statistics are as follows:

- LCA organisations using REG: 290
- Participants contributing via REG: 2,259
- Monthly giving via REG: \$477,679 (i.e. \$5,732,148 per annum).

The new Lutheran ePay facility is nearing completion and will provide additional flexibility for REG participants and other people wishing to give to the Church. At this stage, the facility should be operational in 2014.

Social Responsibility

The LLL believes that we need to be good stewards of everything that God gives us, and this includes protecting our environment. We have included a number of energy-saving initiatives in our building refurbishment including high-efficiency air conditioning systems, energy-

efficient lighting including movement sensors, and water saving devices. We have also consolidated our office resulting in a reduction in our office footprint.

In addition, we engage in recycling of office materials, use recycled materials in reply paid envelopes, and are constantly increasing the electronic storage of documents, which reduces our consumption of paper.

LCA Administration

The provision of administrative services to the LCA is another major benefit provided by the LLL. These services are as follows:

- LCA Insurance Fund
- LCA subscriptions (*The Lutheran* magazine & *Lutheran Theological Journal*)
- LCA Treasury (LCA, SA District accounting, payroll and services; Australian Lutheran College and Lutheran Education Australia payroll)
- LCA Funds (Pensions, Provident & Car Grants).

We will also commence the administration of subscriptions for the *Lutheran Women* magazine in 2014, and have also added the LCA Victorian District payroll to the LCA Treasury function from 1 July 2013.

A new LCA Insurance Fund website has also been developed which was released in July 2013.

Tract Mission

Highlights of the last year include:

- New display area, shelving and signage
- Development of a new website to be released in 2014
- Development of the new tract *What is a Lutheran?* launched at General Synod
- 113 new tracts developed this year including leaflets, cards, bookmarks & postcards.

A total of 480,591 tracts were distributed during the last year, and donations totalling \$43,078 were received.

Current areas of focus include tracts to be used by chaplains in schools and aged care, large print tracts, prayer tracts, cartoon tracts for different Bible stories to be used in Sunday Schools and schools, and resources for families and family devotions.

Board

We have an extremely dedicated Board who continue to offer their services in a voluntary capacity. Our Board members have a diverse range of skills and experience, and continue to develop their knowledge by undertaking training to assist in their governance role.

Thank you to all Board members for your commitment to the LLL and your passion to carry out your governance role in a professional manner, at all times to benefit the work of the Church.

We thank our depositors and supporters for providing the funds to enable the LLL to provide significant benefits and services to assist the ministry and mission of the Lutheran Church of Australia. Without your support, this assistance would not be possible.

Thanks be to God for continuing to bless our endeavours to support the ministry and mission of the Church. May He continue to guide and bless us as we do His work. To Him be the glory!

Yours in Christ

THE LUTHERAN LAYPEOPLES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA INC

Andrew Waldhuter

Promotions Manager