

CLERGY HEALTHCARE NETWORK NATIONAL CONFERENCE, 2016

“Remote & Isolated – Connections & Renewal” was the theme for this year’s Clergy Healthcare Network National Conference held in Cairns from Wednesday, April 27 to Friday, April 29.

Not only was the location and venue a treat, so too was the ability to meet with fellow Clergy Health and Wellbeing Coordinators from Catholic dioceses all around Australia and New Zealand. There were representatives from Adelaide, Bathurst, Cairns, Canberra, Hobart, Lismore, Maitland/Newcastle, Melbourne, Rockhampton, Sandhurst, Toowoomba, Townsville, Wollongong, New Zealand and of course, Ballarat. Also in attendance was National Executive Secretary to the Bishops Commission for Church Ministry, Fr Greg Bourke and Cairns Diocesan Director of Clergy Life and Ministry, Fr Kerry Crowley. Participants’ symbols conveying individual and unique views of our role within our own dioceses were presented during the opening prayer (pictured right).



Some of the issues explored were *Indigenous Connections*, *Future Clergy Health and Wellbeing Initiatives*, *Self-Care Strategies* and a general review of policy. The conference was held over three days - three days of intense and invaluable networking. Three days that I am so very grateful to have been a part of. I have returned to my role feeling revitalised and more closely connected to my fellow clergy carers and better equipped to fulfil my role in ministering to our clergy to the best of my God-given ability.



Clergy Healthcare Network National Conference participants