

Women find a place in Church governance

6 March 2020

International Women's Day 08 March 2020

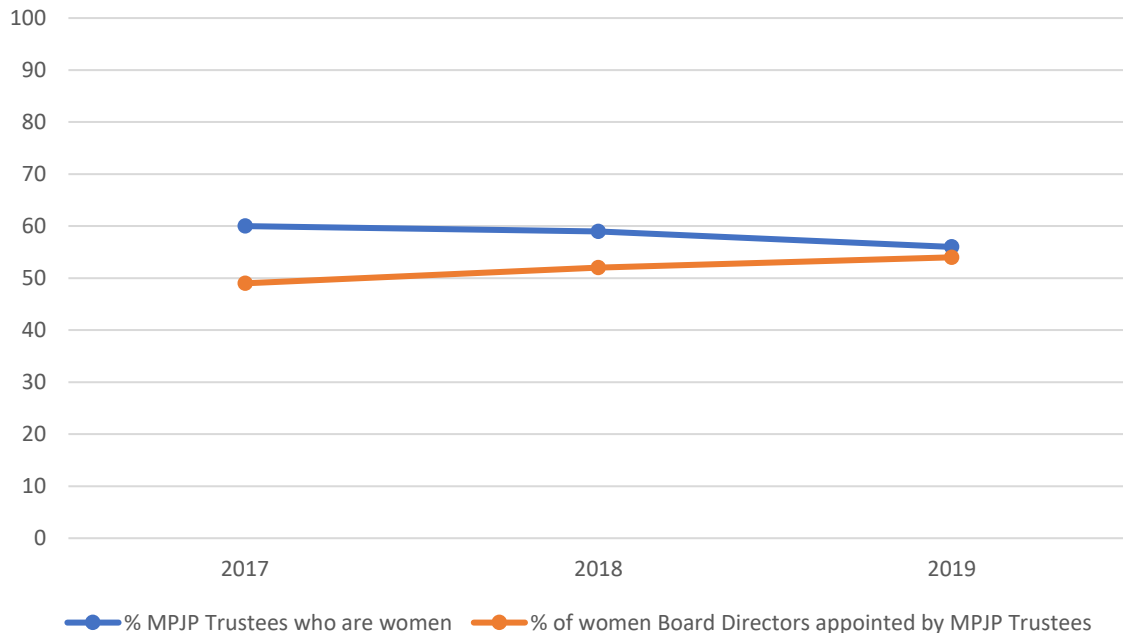
There is a part of the Catholic Church where women consistently have a place as equals in Church governance.

This is stark contrast to the impression of some Catholics whose [submissions to the Plenary Council 2020](#) gave the impression that women are always and everywhere excluded from Church governance.

The annual report on women in Ministerial Public Juridic Persons (PJP) governance has, for the third year, shown women are close to equally represented as both as Trustees and as Directors of their Boards.

	2017	2018	2019
% MPJP Trustees who are women	60	59	56
% of women Board Directors appointed by MPJP Trustees	49	52	54

Percentage of women as MPJP Trustees and the Boards, 2017-2019



Eva Skira, Chair of the Council of the Association of Ministerial PJPs said:

“ASX listed companies have had a target of 30% women on their boards¹ for some time but we have reached about 50% due in large part to the tradition many of us inherited from women Religious who have always governed their own Religious Institutes.”

¹ <https://aicd.companydirectors.com.au/media/media-releases/asx-200-hits-30-per-cent-women-on-boards>

Under canon law, Church property and ministries are usually entrusted to either: a Bishop; the leader of a Religious Institute/Order or to the trustees of a Ministerial PJP. Ministerial PJP are fairly new in Australia with their average age being thirteen years.

Ministerial PJPs in Australia were established to steward the ministries previously in the care of Bishops/Parishes or Religious Institutes. There are eleven Ministerial PJPs responsible for education, health, aged care, welfare and other ministries across Australia. Some of the larger Ministerial PJPs are: Mary Aikenhead Ministries, St John of God Australia; and Edmund Rice Education Australia.

For more information contact:

- Lawrie Hallinan, Executive Officer of the Association of Ministerial PJPs 0419 447 217; or
- visit: www.ampjp.org.au

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Association of Ministerial PJP Member Representatives at August 2019 AGM:

Back row: Peter Pritchard (Sophia Education Ministries); Moira Najdecki (Good Samaritan Education); Professor Peter Steane (Catholic Healthcare); Kieran McCarthy (Mercy Partners); Jennifer Stratton (MercyCare)

Front row: Rosemary Copeland (Kildare Ministries); Dr Tessa Ho (Mary Aikenhead Ministries); Eva Skira AM (St John of God Australia); Julianna Drobik OP (Dominican Education Australia); David Penny (Calvary Ministries)

Missing: Phil Billington (Edmund Rice Education Australia)