Relations with government

- The Vice-Chancellor attended regular meetings of University Australia, as well as the inaugural Universities Australia Higher Education Conference in Canberra in March, at which the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, the Hon Julia Gillard, presented the Commonwealth’s in-principle response to the Bradley Review.

- New South Wales Governor Professor Marie Bashir launched a child protection initiative at the Strathfield Campus, as part of Child Protection Week. Lecturers in the Faculty of Education had produced child protection resources for parents, teachers and carers, based on the Protective Behaviours program.

- ACU humanities academics took part in the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (HASS) on the Hill event in December, where they discussed their work with Federal Members of Parliament, introduced by the Hon Peter Garrett AM in his role as Minister of the Arts. The academics were Dr Catherine Bell, lecturer in Visual Arts, and History lecturers Dr Noah Riseman, Professor Shurlee Swain and Professor Malcolm Prentis.

Relations with stakeholders

With founding institutions

A number of our founding institutions, particularly those that formerly trained teachers and nurses for Catholic schools and hospitals, are very interested in the University’s activities. Their representatives are frequently invited to various functions such as book launches, concerts, art exhibitions and other special occasions, including the launch of the Centre for Indigenous Education and Research.

With the wider Catholic Church

- ACU has numerous partnerships in learning and in research with Catholic agencies, education organisations, schools, hospitals, welfare and social justice groups, many of which are detailed in this report.

- In addition, there are continued campus opportunities for students who are Catholic to confirm their faith and take part in masses, retreats and other church occasions. Students who are not Catholic may find the various University forums on religion and general interfaith relations very enlightening.

- The University hosts many Catholic Church occasions, including lectures, dinners for the National Catholic Education Commission and Catholic schools principals (in 2009 to coincide with World Refugee Day) and the launch of the Catholic Bishops’ annual Social Justice Statement.

- ACU is a member of the International Federation of Catholic Universities (with 200 institutions worldwide) and was represented at its 23rd General Assembly in Rome in 2009.

- In 2009, the University was particularly involved in the celebrations for the centenary of the death of Blessed Mary MacKillop, which included:
• a new symphony mass in Melbourne with the ACU Choir, Royal Melbourne Philharmonic Orchestra and Glenelg Festival Singers
• the blessing of the North Sydney Isabel Menton Centre and a lecture and panel discussion on the relevance of the work of Mary MacKillop
• a gala Brisbane Town Hall celebration of Mary MacKillop’s work and continuing legacy in Australian life and education.

Public relations
University Relations is the department of the University in charge of publications, media, communications, marketing, student recruitment, graduate relations (graduations and the Graduate Association), fundraising and development.

This expanding department has a director, who is involved in strategic planning and development within the University, and staff on each of the six campuses, who have regular telephone and video conference meetings to ensure a coordinated approach.

Publications include:
• numerous course guides for undergraduate, postgraduate and international students
• guides for orientation week, early achievers’ and pathways programs
• a fortnightly online newsletter Update
• frequent topical media releases
• other periodic publications and brochures
• annual reports.

Visit www.acu.edu.au for copies of the above publications.

Community relations
Cultural contacts
In line with the University's Mission, its art galleries exhibited works of women prisoners in Queensland, people from the detoxification and rehabilitation service at Ozcare’s Lucinda House in Sydney, African political textiles and images of the Cross by contemporary artists.

The Strathfield Campus continues to encourage art in Catholic schools, this year hosting the 10th Clancy Prize and collaborative work of St Lucy’s Special School and Santa Sabina College.

The Melbourne ACU Gallery held exhibitions of works by Sudanese women and children, Clemente Australia students and Creative Ministries Network Aboriginal Art Access Studio, an Indigenous residential drug and alcohol recovery house, and hosted the Healing Gathering Possum Cloak exhibition, a collective work of art created by Indigenous women.

ACU choirs (Brisbane and Melbourne) performed with community and cathedral choirs, in Royal School of Church Music services and on tour in South Australia. Brisbane Choir hosted community performers through its Variety of Voices and Sunday Soirée concert series.

Many musical and dramatic productions involved the wider community, such as the Brisbane Campus’s Skating on Sandgate Road, a presentation of life stories with the Nundah Golden Years Seniors Centre.

Visits to schools

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Participation in major career expos

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Community engagement
This report includes many references to the University’s Mission directing its learning, research and community engagement, in particular in Chapters 3, 6, 8 and 10. Details of strong community involvement driven by the Mission are also important in recording the University’s year.