We are working from the underlying principle that Marist education is what Marists do in education, and why and how they do it. It rests in having Marists. The future integrity and vitality of Marist education therefore depend on there being people who are genuinely Marist – spiritually, communally, and ministerially. This is sourced in adequate formation and ongoing support of them in Marist spirituality, in ways of association with fellow Marists, and their commitment to the principles of the Marist educational approach.

Marist Schools Australia through its Formation Team and the recently established Association of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, is committed to the goal of making Jesus Christ known and loved.

Designing opportunities and space to listen to God’s invitation within, awaken a sense of mystical attentiveness, and foster calls to prophetic action as Christ centred, relational, inclusive, and hope filled people of communion are the aims of Marist formation. With the support of the Spirit, our prayerful hope is these experiences may strengthen capacity and confidence among leaders, teachers, and all other workers in their sacred responsibility as evangelisers to the young people in their care.

A comprehensive range of formation experiences are offered to people engaged with youth in 55 Marist schools across the country and a variety of other important Marist ministries.
The following programmes are offered by Marist Schools Australia (MSA), falling under the responsibility of the Mission and Life Formation team (MLF). All programmes are offered to the 55 Marist schools across the country and occur throughout various times of the year.

**FOOTSTEPS 1: MAKING JESUS CHRIST KNOWN AND LOVED**

This 3-day residential program at The Hermitage, Mittagong, is intended for people who have had at least 2 years' experience of Marist education and wish to deepen their understanding of the spirituality which underpins it.

In a retreat-style atmosphere, participants are invited to explore the unfolding context of their lives and faith journeys. It is against this backdrop that a process of prayer, input and reflection supports participants’ study of the life of St Marcellin Champagnat and his writings, as well as contemporary Marist spirituality.

By considering the issues facing young people, participants will be encouraged to identify and nurture a contemporary Marist way of forming and evangelising young people. It is hoped an ongoing connection with Marist life and mission is developed, both personally and professionally.

During the program, our shared story as Marists, Brothers and Lay, will give flesh to how we live and minister Marist spirituality and charism in very practical ways, enriching our understanding of the relevance of Marist education in contemporary Catholic schools.

**FOOTSTEPS 2: MAKING JESUS CHRIST KNOWN AND LOVED**

Footsteps2 seeks to deepen and build upon the experiences of participants who have previously completed the initial Footsteps program. This 3-day residential course provides experienced Marist educators with the opportunity to enrich and revitalise their appreciation of Marist charism and spirituality and Marist education.

The program will allow participants a significant encounter with other Marists who share a passion for living out God’s mission in the Marist way. The newest Marist source documents will be key resources supporting the process of broadening participants’ expertise regarding Marist mission in Australia.
IN THE MARIST WAY: NEW STAFF INDUCTION

A 1/2 day program to introduce staff new to Marist schools to the spirituality of St Marcellin Champagnat and its application to education in the Marist tradition. The process for the day includes connecting with others new to the Marist way, listening to the story of St Marcellin’s life, reflecting on how we minister in a Marist way, and learning how we belong to and participate in the bigger Marist mission throughout Australia and beyond.

MARIST PILGRIMAGE

The Marist Pilgrimage 2016 is a 22 day pilgrimage and study tour inviting participants to a Holy Land experience before travelling to immerse themselves in the centre and source of the Marist project in Rome, Lyon and Notre Dame de l’Hermitage.

As the pilgrimage is a significant investment in the formation of current and future leaders, we believe that the 2016 Marist Pilgrimage will continue to provide a unique opportunity to nurture and form leaders in Marist life and mission into the future. It is important that participants have a reasonable knowledge of the Marist story, have some experience in Marist ministry and have at least completed the Footsteps program (previously known as Sharing Champagnat’s Vision and Sharing Our Call).

MARIST SOLIDARITY RETREAT

‘Arinyuna’ - A 3-day program where participants encounter the living spirituality of the desert and witness the Marist ministry of solidarity in Central Australia. The retreat offers a rich experience of indigenous culture and provides spaces for reflection upon our world and our individual faith journeys. Spending significant time with the local community of Santa Teresa, participants are able to gain an appreciation of how the Marist story is being lived and loved. Providing a rich background of desert environs, it is a retreat that connects with the lands, its people and the mission of Marist.

MARIST CONTEMPLATIVE RETREAT

This is a two and a half day contemplative retreat program for those drawn to the Marist charism, particularly to the way of St Marcellin Champagnat and his relationship with Mary.
During your time with us, you are encouraged to enter into silence. With other retreatants in silent and shared prayer, there will be the opportunity to meet with a spiritual director, attend the Eucharist and join.

This retreat offers the opportunity for silent prayer and daily directed input. Each day there will be the opportunity to meet with a spiritual director, attend the Eucharist and join with other retreatants in silent and shared prayer.

**MARIST LEADERS NEXT GEN1**

The challenge for maintaining the long tradition of effective leadership in Marist schools can only be met through the identification and nurturing of a pool of potential leaders for the future. This extended programme is designed for teachers with 3 - 8 years' experience who have demonstrated a potential to move into middle management and beyond.

It aims to:
• provide professional development in some of the building blocks required for future leadership in Marist schools; and
• encourage participants’ continued connection to and involvement in Marist life beyond their current school positions.

**NATIONAL PROGRAMME – ANNUAL PROVINCE THEME**

An in-school national Marist staff spirituality programme based on the annual Marist Association’s Province theme. Theses programmes develop an understanding of the significance and nature of the Marist story, charism and often uses practical expressions of Christian spirituality. Typically a 3-hour program that is resourced in a way that encourages school staff to participate in the facilitation and be active faith formators in their own communities.

**GROWING THE SPIRITUAL FAMILY – MARISTS FOR THE WORLD**

A programme of formation for members of the Marist Association. This six-part study and dialogue programme aims to deepen our understanding of Marist life and mission as Christian disciples, to increase the vitality of being Marist in and for the world.
In addition to the programmes offered by the MLF team are bi-annual conferences. These again are predominantly aimed at school staff and leadership teams.

**National Faith Formators’ Conference**  
The National Conference for leaders of Marist Faith Formation in 2016 takes the theme of Growing a Contemplative culture in a Marist School.

**Being Marist Conference**  
The Being Marist Conference provides opportunities for those involved in the important work of administration and care in Marist ministries. The theme adopted for this conference is “Being Marist – The Face of Mercy”. Beginning with a review of the hopes for the Holy Year of Mercy, the conference will explore how we are the face of mercy in our role of support and care. In particular, the conference will review and workshop what sustains and supports us personally in our particular ministry.

**PROGRAMMES BY REQUEST**

Regional MSA Directors and members of the MLF team are available to conduct other in-school or regional staff development sessions. These are often customised for particular situations or annual themes presented by the Catholic Church.

- Mystics and Prophets (2 day course)  
- Theology of Mercy (1.5 hr)  
- Marist Spirituality (1.5 hr)  
- Marist Pedagogy (1.5 hr)  
- In the Way of Mary (1 hr)  
- Retreat Staff Formation (3 hr)

**UNIVERSITY, DIOCESAN, MARIST SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA & PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION**

A number of Marist programmes have university accreditation and are also recognised by dioceses and state-based professional bodies for meeting annual professional learning requirements.

The following programmes have been accredited by Australian Catholic University at the Masters Level (AQF level 9):

1. Footsteps 1 - Making Jesus Known and Loved  
2. Footsteps 2 - Making Jesus Known and Loved  
3. Marist Pilgrimage & Study Tour
## Programme Attendance Figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STAFF PROGRAMMES</th>
<th>TARGET GROUP</th>
<th>NO. OF PARTICIPANTS*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Footsteps 1</td>
<td>School Staff</td>
<td>410</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Marist Ministries Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Footsteps 2</td>
<td>School Staff</td>
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<td>Marist Ministries Staff</td>
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<td>In the Marist Way: New Staff Induction</td>
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<td>Marist Leaders: Next Gen</td>
<td>Future Marist School Leaders</td>
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<td>Conference - National Faith Formators’</td>
<td>School APREs/RECs/MCs***</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference - Being Marist</td>
<td>School Support Staff</td>
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* Number of participants enrolled in the programmes for 2014/2015
** This programme is currently being delivered amongst local communities for those who are members of the Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat
*** Assistant Principal Religious Education (APRE), Religious Education Coordinator (REC) and Ministry Coordinator (MC)

## Programme Evaluations

“As a result of this program I have been able to develop a closer relationship with Jesus and the many ways I can share this love with those I know and meet in my life.” (Footsteps, March 2016)

“So much about the curricular aspects of education discourage me. When I come to events like Footsteps, I leave feeling that I have much to contribute to a movement, belief and way that has a tremendous history and community.” (Footsteps, May 2016)
Why do we need a Marist Association? Why have a Marist Association?
This is a genuine response to a call for co-responsibility for the life & mission of the wider Australian Marist Community. It will provide a formal Church structure for leadership and governance of Marist ministries into the future. In many ways it formalises what already exists to better provide for Marist life and ministry.

Marcellin Champagnat’s particular gift was to found the Marist Brothers to teach and evangelise young people, particularly those on the margins of society. The Marist Association aims to provide the necessary structure to keep Marcellin’s dream alive! It is a body of people, canonically recognised in the Catholic Church, who share responsibility for the leadership, governance and animation of Marist ministries. The four main Marist ministries are schools (Marist Schools Australia), youth ministry (Marist Youth Ministry), youth care (Marist Youth Care) and solidarity (Marist Solidarity).

What is its main purpose?
The two main purposes are growing the Marist spiritual family and ensuring the future vitality & viability of Marist ministries. It will nurture the vocation of all Marists by building a sense of community and belonging between all those who choose to share in Marist life and mission. The people who join the Association will ensure that the Marist charism remains a living tradition by continually returning to the question: “What is God asking of Marists in Australia today?” The Association seeks to provide and bear witness to an experience of Church community that is Marian, Eucharistic, faith focused, mission driven and inclusive.

Who is the Association responsible to?
The members will be largely responsible to each other. The Association Council, elected from the membership, act as the Trustees of the Association. The formal title for the Association in Church language is a Public Association of Christ’s Faithful (of Pontifical right), and as such, is responsible to the Holy See for the running of Marist ministries.

Who can join? Who can belong to the Marist Association?
The Association is open to anyone with a Marist heart! It formally brings together the Marist Brothers in Australia with other people who are passionate about, and committed to Marist spirituality, life and mission. Members, most likely, are people who currently work in, or have worked in, a Marist school or other Marist ministry for a time. For some, their interest may be a result of personal friendship with a Marist Brother or Marist community, or through their experience of Marist life in other ways. Marist Brothers will also choose to join the Association.

For some people, the Association may be something they are looking to commit to and be a part of for the rest of their lives. For others, it may be a year by year prospect, or only makes sense to them whilst they are working in a Marist ministry.