



Welcome to Our Mid-Year Newsletter!

Dear Friends of L'Arche

This Newsletter brings good
news stories from L'Arche
around the world as well as
across Australia.

L'ARCHE INTERNATIONAL MEETING: TAIZE IN FRANCE

Governance Focus:

In April 2026, the L'Arche Australia National Board Chair (Phil Billington) and L'Arche Australia National Leader (Claire Lawler) attended the International Federation Meetings in Taizé, France.

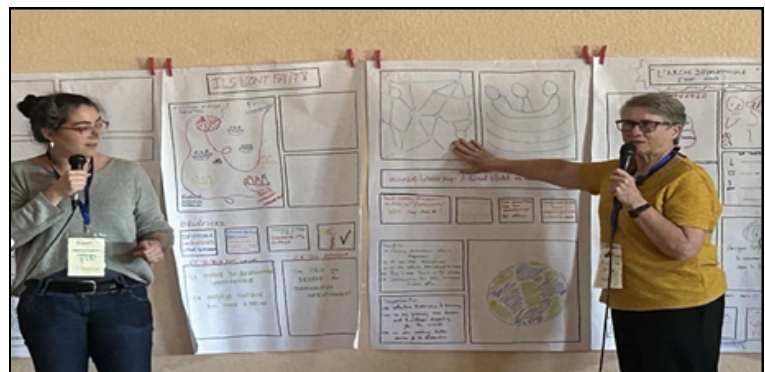
The meetings focused on governance, exploring key questions and opening new perspectives for the International Constitution. A significant part of the discussions centred on the work of the Governance Working Group, which includes representatives from across the world, including our own Julia Walters (previous L'Arche Australia Board Chair). Extensive work has already been undertaken, and by the end of May we will receive a summary of the discussions and outcomes from these meetings. The focus is on ensuring the sustainability of the Mission of L'Arche worldwide and in each country. It was a very valuable meeting which has built confidence in all leaders of L'Arche across the world and continued to build strong relationships and cooperation. It is anticipated that the matters for deliberation and agreement by L'Arche Australia and other national entities will be concluded by the end of the year.



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L'Arche Australia



One essential change already taking place is strengthening the voice of people with intellectual disability through the Global Voices initiative, whose members met with us in Taizé.

Photo of the Global voices in Taizé.



**With and
Without**
DISABILITIES
TOGETHER WE
CREATE

Global Voices: Place of People with Intellectual Disability

The Great Voices Group (GVG) is the institutional vehicle for authentic inclusion, representing a significant paradigm shift in governance culture.

- **Structure:** 8 member pairs, each consisting of one person with intellectual disability (PWID) and one supporting assistant, representing a cross-section of confirmed, middle, and single communities.
- **Reporting Lines:** The GVG acts as a consultative body to the International Leadership Team (ILT). Importantly, the ILT is structurally required to provide a formal response to the GVG's recommendations.
- **Future Perspective:** The model envisions a transition from a purely consultative role toward shared decision-making, ensuring stronger participation and leadership of people with intellectual disability within L'Arche's global governance.

This development is both significant and necessary, reflecting L'Arche's commitment to inclusion, belonging, and ensuring that the voices of people with intellectual disability remain central to our mission and future direction.

In Australia we have the well-established National Listening and Speaking Group as well as groups within our Communities. We give thanks for our National Listening and Speaking Group who are the voice of all core members across our communities.

Warm regards,
Claire Lawler
National Leader.



Some snapshots from the Washing of the Feet Ceremonies held across Australia in Holy Week.



Dear Valued Donors

18 May 2026

I trust that this letter finds you well and adapting to the cooler weather. I am writing on behalf of L'Arche Australia to express our gratitude for your ongoing support with significant donations and to invite you to make a donation prior to the end of the 2025-2026 Financial Year. We are anticipating that this timing might assist your end of Financial Year planning.

The Bank Details for Donations

Account Name: L'Arche Australia Limited

BSB: 034 060 Account Number: 288996

Reference: Donor Name and Email

A Tax Receipt will be emailed to you upon receipt of the donation hence all your details, especially your email is important. There is also a form attached overleaf if you would prefer alternative format for donating or to invite others to participate.

Your continuing generous donations enable us to continue our mission of mutuality in revealing the gifts of people with intellectual disabilities through transforming relationships and creating inclusive communities. We aim to foster belonging, dignity, and mutual relationships between people with and without intellectual disabilities. L'Arche Australia also strives to build a more humane society by engaging with diverse cultures and promoting the value of people with intellectual disabilities. This is so very much needed in our world today. A short Newsletter is attached which briefly outlines the recent Meeting of the International Federation of L'Arche and some photos of the Washing of the Feet ceremonies from around our Australian communities during Holy Week.

Be assured of our continuing gratitude - your generosity enables us to support the various L'Arche communities around Australia.

In gratitude



Philomena (Phil) Billington - National Board Chair
philomenabillington@gmail.com

Could you be a regular donor to L'Arche Australia?

Regular Donors help us in supporting current communities and growing new communities.

*We celebrate the unique value of every person and recognize we need each other:
With and without disabilities, we create community together*

***I would like to support L'Arche in Australia
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Donate this amount once

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so we can thank you and send your receipt

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www.larche.org.au

**To speak to us about a donation. Call
the office: 0490 759 528**

**Leaving a gift in your Will is a simple yet powerful way to support L'Arche Communities.
Please consider leaving L'Arche a gift in your Will- contact leader@larche.org.au**

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L'Arche Australia keeps donor's
information private and secure

Address: L'Arche Australia PO Box 4065, Homebush South NSW 2140

Post in the reply-paid envelope