



NewStart Church Plant Covenant

For church plants under the auspices of the Baptist Association NSW & ACT.

Preamble

The purpose of this document is to recognise a partnership between the Baptist Association of NSW & ACT (Association) and its Newstart church plant.

Leadership & Governance

The Newstart Church Plant is under the auspice of the Baptist Association (having no constitution or no sending church).

The Team Leader (Church Planter) shall be a person endorsed by the New Start Advisory Group of the Association of Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT and is accountable to the Leadership Team. The Team Leader shall invite persons of Godly character and life to join the Leadership Team, and they shall continue to serve in this capacity at the desire of the Team Leader.

The Leadership Team will intentionally develop a baptistic model of church governance.

In partnership with the BA the Newstart Advisory Group will:

- Pray for the work of the NewStart Church Plant.
- Provide coaching and opportunities for peer support
- Provide specialised and subsidised training, networking opportunities and events
- Provide access to consultants in the Gen1K Church Multiplication team
- Provide administrative assistance including but not limited to, a church start-up pack
- Conduct an annual health check
- Provide opportunity for seed funding and other forms support, in line with Newstart Support Guidelines.

The NewStart Church Plant will:

- Pray for Newstart church plants and the broader work of Baptists (churches and agencies) across NSW & ACT
- Participate in relevant events or training provided by the Gen1K Church Multiplication Team and/or Association (e.g. FORM Church Planting and Evangelism Conference)
- Proactively explore ways to reproduce leaders, groups and churches
- Support the Association's statement of beliefs, vision, values and position statements
- Make the most of the coaching provided by participating in sessions, progressing goals and providing feedback on the coaching relationship and health of the church

- Adhere to provisions outlined in the Final Report
- Commit each year to provide a brief report on the church plant and complete an annual health check
- Comply with safe ministry practices and accountability, depending on their unique governance requirements.

Specific requirements for church plants under the governance of the BA include:

- Ensure all staff/volunteers in the Church Plant are aware of the Association's Safe Ministry Policy & Procedure documents
- Ensure all staff/volunteers comply with all associated requirements (e.g. screening, Code of Conduct, Creating Safe Spaces training, responding to child protection concerns and complaints, and record keeping).

This Covenant will be reviewed yearly, operating from the 1st March in the year in which it was entered, for a period of one year. The Covenant requires agreement from a representative of the NewStart Church Plant and must be approved by the NewStart Advisory Group and the Baptist Association Church Multiplication Team Leader.

