

Studies of Religion

Section I (continued)

Attempt Question 11

Answer the question in the space provided.

Question 11 (5 marks)

'The churches should act together in all matters except those in which deep differences of conviction compel them to act separately.'

Conference on Faith and Order, 1952

Using the above statement and your own knowledge, describe the impact of Christian ecumenical movements in Australia.

Two well known ecumenical bodies ^{in Australia} are the National Council of Churches of Aust. (NCCA) and the NSW Ecumenical Council. The NCCA ~~is~~ works to bring together a number of Aust. Christian churches in dialogue and practical cooperation. The NCCA works in collaboration with the ecumenical councils around Australia. Some of the initiatives of this council ~~is~~ includes the service for reconciliation. This project is connected with working with indigenous youth. The aim is to speak and act on the needs of the youths in crisis. It works with existing structures to support church agencies who are currently working with these youth. This work also involves a research component to assess the needs of the young people in relation to their spirituality and view of Christianity as it is expressed in various denominations. The NSW Ecumenical Council also ~~is~~ ^{includes} initiatives such as 'Christmas Bowl' which was first held in 1949. It is a significant fund-raiser for the council with its initial reason to help immigrants/refugees. They focus on education and practical support through volunteer work, financial support, prayer and advocacy. Therefore the impact of Christian ecumenical movements in Aust. has been very successful.