

Canberra Baptist Church Profile 2026

This church profile was prepared to represent a picture of the church, its ministry, life, ethos and values. Further information is available at <https://canbap.churchcenter.com/home> and <https://www.canbap.org/>.

Vision and values

The church mission statement is 'Building a vibrant and open community which is responsive to God's love in Christ and committed to serving God and people'.

The church has three goals. Led by the Spirit, we will:

- explore together what it means to follow Jesus today,
- build an inclusive, caring community, and
- share God's love and justice in words and actions.

The church values the diversity represented in its community and seeks to accommodate the needs of everyone and their interests in its life and worship. It welcomes and affirms followers of Jesus regardless of background, gender or sexuality and invites them to participate fully in the life of the Church.

The church is ecumenical in outlook, stressing unity rather than uniformity. It operates within the Baptist tradition (particularly relating to freedom of conscience, congregational government, and the autonomy of the local church) and values its affiliation with, and role in founding, the Open Baptists Association but welcomes other Christian perspectives. It has a strong social concern within its local community and at national and international levels.

The church community

The church community comprises more than 200 adults and children, of whom 128 are active formal members. The church has a strong core of members who have been active in the church for many years. The congregation lives across Canberra with a smaller number living in the immediate vicinity of the church buildings.

Worship

The church holds one morning services each Sunday at 10:00 am, which is also streamed via YouTube. On the second and fourth Sunday each month a parallel family church service for families with younger children is held in the church hall. On the first and third Sundays of the month Sunday Youth Group is held during the morning service.

The style of worship is thoughtful and structured with preaching that is challenging both spiritually and intellectually, as well as seeking to equip people for life and ministry in the world. Music is a feature of worship and a variety of musical material is used including hymns from Baptist Praise and Worship and contemporary songs. The church is fortunate in having a capable and committed choir and instrumentalists to lead worship.

Youth, young families and young adults

About 20 families with children of high school age or younger are active in the church. Family church and Sunday Youth Group are the main activity aimed specifically at young families.

Some members of the youth group help with running Family Church. The number of young people participating in activities varies between 12-18.

Over the last few years there has been a steady influx of young adults attending the church (around 30 at present). A number of small groups have been established for young adults.

Currie Crescent Community Centre

The Currie Crescent Community Centre was established as a pilot program in 2014, and in 2015 the church decided to establish it as an ongoing ministry of the church. Its purpose is to:

- Be the vehicle for the church to initiate programs which serve the local community, particularly the needy
- Facilitate church community engagement
- Promote linkages between activities and help to establish and sustain those activities.

The Community Centre is based in the church buildings and hosts a wide range of activities. Some programs are run by the church or with heavy involvement from church members. These include Kingston Babies (parents' group), Kingston Kids (a playgroup), yoga classes, Cooking Circles (a group of people who come together once a month to prepare and eat a meal), and 'Crafty Fingers'. Other programs are run by other organisations who hire space. These include music, dance, and scouting activities. Further details are at www.curriecrescent.org.

The church established the Kingston Organic Community Garden on the church site and continues to be involved in its operation. The Garden provides residents of Kingston and surrounding areas, irrespective of their income, background, race or religion, with an opportunity to participate in organic gardening with their neighbours, thereby building community cohesion and understanding and raising awareness about health and nutrition, food production, waste management and environmental sustainability.

The Church is looking at how align the Currie Crescent Community Centre more closely with the life of the Church and its mission.

Other contacts with the community

People within the church are involved in a variety of mission and service opportunities both as part of the church and in a private capacity.

From 2013-2024 a very successful school holiday program, SMAD camp, was run in late January. In 2025 this was replaced by Kids@CanBap. In January 2026, 60 kids and 20 leaders participated. This program also provides a great opportunity for leadership development for some of our youth group.

As well as the programs offered through the Community Centre, CBC shares God's love to our community with our annual Easter Egg Hunt, Blessing of the Animals and extremely well attended Carols in the Park event.

The church assists refugees and supports international aid and development through our Thank Offering and Christmas Offering.

Property

The church occupies around 2 hectares (nearly 5 acres) of prime real estate in the heart of Canberra. The land tenure is a perpetual church lands lease with Australian Baptist Ministries as trustee. The church complex includes the Church building, a hall, lounge, meeting rooms, offices and manse.

The property is well maintained and its facilities are well utilised by community groups and in this way is a local and wider resource. There is a large array of solar panels on the Waldock Hall and the feed in tariff from these panels is added to the Thank Offering funds.

The church manse is adjacent to the church on the same lease.

Finance

The church is in a sound financial position. In 2024-25 it had operating income of \$368,000 and operating expenses of \$296,000. As of 30 June 2025, net cash reserves were \$618,9736.

Association with other Baptist Churches

Canberra Baptist Church values association with other Baptist Churches. It is affiliated with Open Baptists (www.openbaptists.org).

Conclusion

Canberra Baptist church is a strong and well-established church that seeks to represent Christ and proclaim the gospel faithfully in the context of our city and our time. We believe in the transforming work of God who redeems and restores broken humanity, and brings us into community with one another, with creation and with Godself.