

STEWARDS' FOUNDATION AS TRUSTEE FOR YOUR CHURCH PROPERTY

Stewards' has been holding properties on trust for churches and assemblies for over 50 years. Stewards' is a legal entity and operates under the authority of the Stewards' Foundation of Christian Brethren Act 1989. There are advantages for churches and assemblies within the network of Brethren assemblies and churches within the CCCAust network of churches to have the church property held on trust by Stewards'.

If you are considering the trusteeship of your church property here are some things to consider:

1. Stewards' is a legal entity established by an Act of Parliament. As such it is not limited by the lifespan of an individual trustee or trustees. Individual trustees are required from time to time to retire or cease to be trustees for reasons such as: death or incapacity or the individual trustee is no longer attending the church or it one of its members. These changes require amendments to the trust deed and the transfer of trustees on and off the title of the property incurring unnecessary expenses and fees. These issues do not arise when Stewards' is the trustee.
2. The powers of Stewards are transparent and contained in the Stewards' Foundation of Christian Brethren Act 1989. The rules and processes for Stewards' to hold a property as trustee for an assembly are clearly set out in the Act. Appointing Stewards' as trustee means the church continues to be involved with the use and control of the property. The Act states one of the reasons Stewards' exists is: "to use and permit the property to be used for Christian worship, the celebration of The Lord's Supper, prayer, the teaching and exposition of the Word of God, the preaching of the Gospel, Sunday School, youth and other activities carried out by the Assembly (or in association with it) for the promotion, maintenance and furtherance of the principles and practice of Christianity, or as incidental thereto".
3. Stewards' has developed a strong reputation for its experience and expertise in acting as trustee for many church properties. This allows Stewards to assist the church with advice and support when it is required in matters relating to the church property. The Stewards office is able to assist churches with advice and support when required. The Stewards' board are experienced and committed members of assemblies and churches within our network of churches and have a strong record in governance and vision in local churches and para-assembly organisations.
4. Stewards' has strong financial resources to assist in administering its roles as trustee and working with the local church. For example Stewards' can assist churches financially on request. Churches with individual trustees would otherwise experience difficulty in raising finance from other potential lenders. Stewards' is committed to providing funding to churches within our network to assist those churches in their fulfilling their mission and vision. You are able to become a member of Stewards' and be involved in its important work.

5. Appointing Stewards' as trustee assists to prevent assembly properties from being lost to our network of churches and supports the heritage that so often exists with our church properties.

6. Stewards' is subject to an external audit as part of its annual governance and accountability. Part of that is to properly maintain records and registers and the proper security of its records including the holding of Certificates of Title for properties it holds on trust. These rigorous processes assists in the proper security of important legal documents on behalf of the churches and reduces the risk of the loss of those documents which is often the case where individuals hold the trusteeship. If these important documents are lost, they must be replaced which incurs unnecessary expense.

The Stewards' office is able to answer any questions you may have about the trusteeship of your church property and to expand on the advantages outlined above.