

**Title:** The Christian Reformed Churches of NSW  
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The Reformed churches came into being at the time of the European Reformation of the 16th century, affirming the beliefs that God grants salvation by grace alone, in Christ alone and through faith alone. Whereas [Martin Luther](#) was the champion of the Reformation in [Germany](#), [John Calvin](#) was the champion of the Reformation in [Switzerland](#), [Holland](#) and northern Europe. It is John Calvin's understanding of the [Bible](#), as spelled out in his [Institutes of the Christian Religion](#), that forms the [doctrinal](#) basis of the various reformed churches. This doctrinal basis is summarised in three key Confessions to which the Continental reformed churches adhere, and by the [Westminster Confession](#) to which British Presbyterian churches adhere.

This denomination was established in Australia by Dutch migrants in 1951. The original small group has grown to an active membership of more than ten thousand in over fifty churches spread throughout Australia. From exclusively Dutch beginnings, it is now a culturally diverse group, reflecting the character of Australian society, and is seeking to proclaim the Christian message in a contemporary and relevant way. More recently migrants from South Africa have also joined it.

The denomination has been instrumental in the establishment of many [Christian schools](#), including the [Illawarra Christian School](#), [Sutherland Shire Christian School](#) and [Covenant College](#) situated in [Gordon \(ACT\)](#). It is actively engaged in Christian missions both within Australia and abroad. They have established their own [theological college](#), the [Reformed Theological College](#) in [Geelong, Victoria](#). They own [Wedderburn Christian Campsite](#), [Sydney](#). They also support [SWIM Solomon Islands](#), a missionary outreach working with the [Solomon Islands Christian Association](#).

**There are 11 local congregations in NSW :-**

- Woodcroft, Blacktown (to which Ray Hoekzema belongs)
- Blaxland
- Dee Why
- Richmond
- Oran Park
- Tanilba Bay, Newcastle
- St Mary's
- Barden Ridge, Sutherland
- North Ryde Sydney
- Wamberal
- Wollongong – Fairy Meadow

**POINTS FOR PRAYER** – by courtesy of Ray Hoekzema (with Delma Porter)

Please pray for this denomination, asking the Lord for His wisdom as they face these challenges:

- 1) Changing culture from a migrant to a missionary church
- 2) Challenges from the influx of South African migration
- 3) The challenge of youth retention
- 4) Upcoming Triennial Synod early in 2009
- 5) The extensive missionary work in the Solomon Islands.