

CSSV: Spheres of Influence-State Election Conference 2005

Author: Michelle Harmer

Community Development Worker

**Catholic Archdiocese Melbourne-New Areas (Catholic Social Services
Victoria, Catholic Education Office, Centacare Catholic Family Services and
St Peter's Parish-Epping/Mernda/Whittlesea)**

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Slide one: Introduction:

Notes:

1. 1999 Archdiocese of Melbourne undertook a mapping of service delivery within the City of Whittlesea and initiated discussions regarding a community development project to be piloted in the Parish of St Peter-which includes Epping, Epping North, Mill Park Lakes, South Morang, Doreen, Yan Yean, Mernda, and Whittlesea township.

Slide two: Project initiatives

- **Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne examined the needs of families moving to the Northern Region of Melbourne and provided funding for three years.**
- **The Northern Areas Project includes advocacy, social planning and locality development.**
- **Criteria to work with community service agencies, Catholic schools and a Catholic parish to provide structures where families and young people support their own communities in the expanding growth areas from Epping to Whittlesea. (Parish St Peter)**

Notes:

1. The Archbishop's Report noted preference towards a developmental model "as it provides a local presence before funding of community services can be considered." (Archbishops Planning Committee New Areas: 2000).

The "local presence" was interpreted to mean "actively engaged and working with"

2. The New Areas Project utilised Ife's Ecological Social Justice community development model.

3. Northern Areas Project and Community Development Worker is funded by the Archdiocese of Melbourne, Catholic Education Office and Centacare Catholic Family Services. St Peters (Epping, Mernda, Whittlesea)

4. The Project worker is based at St Peters presbytery in Davisson street Epping and works across Parish and Municipal boundaries.

5. Northern Areas Steering Committee” reports directly to the Archbishops Planning, Building and Finance Committee for Parish Capital Works, Archdiocese of Melbourne, via the Episcopal Vicar -Welfare Fr. Kevin Mogg (Director Catholic Social Services Victoria)
6. The New Areas Project also values Catholic social teaching and the gospel values of social justice, respect, dignity, solidarity, empowerment, advocacy and change.
7. Pilot project is totally funded without Government assistance, giving it an independent voice.

Slide three: Project Location: City of Whittlesea

2004 population 124'000

Area 489.8 sq Km

CBD: 20km/35 minutes

Epping to Whittlesea 23.5km/35min

Population estimates in 2001 (118,292), estimates in 2016 being (163,693)

(City Of Whittlesea: Population Characteristics 2002)

Slide four: Whittlesea

An “interface” municipality part rural part urban

Notes: Placement in Victoria and similarities and links to other ‘interface’ municipalities.

Slide five:New housing estates

- **Photograph (expansion re housing development)**

At the commencement phase the focus had become the new housing estates of Mill Park Lakes and South Morang where linking communities to social services and advocate for services with new growth communities was pursued.

Slide six: Community services challenges at the interface

- **Regional services not adequately funded to cover travel costs to outreach interface communities**
- **Compromises quality and availability of services such as family counseling, domestic violence services, youth support, drug and alcohol counseling for CALD and established communities.**

Note:

1. Supporting the Human Service Gaps at the Interface Report (RMIT: 2003) reveals some challenges.

2. “Providing services at the urban fringe that keep up with the very high rates of population growth and large numbers of families with children under five, as well as young people aged 12-24. Indicators low birth weight, rates of breast feeding,

Michelle Harmer- Centacare Catholic Family Services

Community Development Worker Catholic Archdiocese Melbourne New Areas Planning Committee
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post natal depression, child protection data, school completion rates, youth unemployment, drug use, and young people and self harm.

3. Access to rural and regional funding programs to non urban areas to include actual population levels in real time

Slide seven: Community Services Challenges

- **The high percentage of young people that make up the Interface Council**
- **Distance from Melbourne CBD,**
- **Overstretched human services and lack of community infrastructure**

Slide 8: Community Services Challenges
Inadequate accessible and regular public transport

Slide 9: Reported risk factors

Archbishops Planning Committee, (2000) Interface Gaps Report, (2003) Best Start Findings (2004) and Whittlesea Human Services Strategy (2004)

- High rates Population Growth
- Families with Children under 5years
- Low birth weights
- Low breast feeding
- High post natal depression
- High child protection notifications
- Youth Unemployment
- Young people and self harm

Note; The issues raised by the Archbishops Report (2000):

1. The rate of housing development, 2. Public transport shortage, 3. Needs of families children and young people, 4. Accommodation requirements-social housing 5. Youth, youth unemployment, and youth mental health, 6. Unemployment, 7. Parent education, 8. Services for newly arrived immigrants, and Non English Speaking people, 9. Family violence and breakdown, 10. Counseling services. (across the lifespan: financial, gambling, crisis, marriage and relationship)

Parish experience agrees with community support services experience social such as isolation, (cultural, familial, economic, transport) combined with lack of service options and availability, across the newly developed and rural areas. (Whittlesea City Council 2003:6) remain.

Slide 10:

- ***In 2002/2003 the net losses through pokies in Whittlesea was \$76.1 million.***
- ***Losses per adult in the City of Whittlesea were \$865, compared with the Melbourne Metropolitan average losses per adult of \$677 and Victorian average losses per adult of \$627.***

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Slide 11: Whittlesea has a higher proportion of people who are:

- **Young**

Two Parent families with children predominate at 59.9% for Whittlesea compared to-MSD) (49.8%)

*Three quarters of families in the City of Whittlesea 73.8% have children compared to MSD average of 65%. Just over half of the families in City of Whittlesea have dependent children 55.2% compared with MSD of 49.8%
(City of Whittlesea: 2003)*

- **With low levels of disposable income, unemployed, at the same address that they were five years ago**
- **From a NESB 48%**
- **Financially dependent women**
- **Only 28% of 537 students in Government schools were offered places in University course**
- **Stated identification with a Religion**

*"Predominately 72.9% total population identifies as Christian
(Catholic 36.6%, Orthodox 19.8% Anglican 8.2%)*

Other religions listed Muslim 5%, Buddhism 3% and Hinduism 1%.

Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism and persons with no religion have a higher proportion of younger age groups than the Christian religion which is represented in the 45 years plus age group."

(Social Indicators Statistical Bulletin 20:Strategic Planning Unit: City of Whittlesea 12: 2003)

Slide 12: Top ten countries of Birth

Slide 13: And a lower Proportion of persons

- **Participating in the workforce who are 55-64 years**
- **Attending university or other tertiary institution**
- **Who stayed at school until year 12 or equivalent**
- **Who use computer and internet at home**

Slide 14: population increases and growing service demands

Slide 15: St Peters Parish: St Peters Epping was built in 1874 and became a Parish in 1914. Over 3000 families represent the Parish.

Epping Mernda (St Josephs) Whittlesea (St Mary's) Community connectedness

- **Baptism**
- **Playgroups**
- **Outreach homevisits**
- **Education primary and Secondary**
- **Before and after school Care**
- **St Vincent de Paul**
- **Links to community services agencies**
- **Ministries,**
- **CWL**

Notes:

Northern Areas Project to integrate Parish, Catholic Schools, and broader community to existing human services agencies, programs and networks
Parish learnt about social support services and how to link into them, the broader community might want information about what the Catholic Parish has to offer.

Slide sixteen: Faith and spiritual support

- **Pastoral Care**
- **Home outreach**
- **Linking into new housing estates**
- **Via Parish schools**
- **Supporting principles of social justice and inclusion of diversity**

Slide seventeen: Parish Cultural Diversity Images of parishioners and pastoral team

Notes:

The Parish CALD demographic reflects data in the wider community

Slide eighteen: Cultural Diversity

Notes:

1. City of Whittlesea Social indicators (Volume 4/Issue 20) highlight that 47.8% residents responded Non English Speaking Country as ancestry with either or both parents born overseas (55-64 years 57.2%, 65-74 years 61.4%) the greatest number of overseas born persons come from Italy, Macedonia- FYROM, Greece, United Kingdom, Vietnam, Malta and Lebanon and in 2001, India, Sri Lanka, Macedonia FYRM and New Zealand.

2. Sixty percent (60%) of the population of the Parish Community speak English as a second language. Parishioners -Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Italy, Malta, Iraq, Lebanon, Spain, Germany, Mauritius, Philippines, and Vietnam, Germany, Malaysia, China.

3. Pastoral staff: culturally diverse

- Parish priest who spent some years in South America/South American
- Urdu speaking associate priest from Pakistan,
- Chinese Malay Religious sister, and Pastoral associate
- Spirituality and faith is a connecting settlement factor for new arrivals as a familiar link in a new country. New and emerging communities and Refugee populations moving from Darebin to Whittlesea also includes Christian Assyrians, Chaldeans, Iraqis, and Sudanese communities.

Slide 19: Project initiatives (how)

- **Consult with agencies parish schools local groups about key service directions**
- **Developed a joint vision for improved local service provision**
- **Key principles integration and colocation of services.**
- **Input into developing proposed model for service delivery with agencies and Council**

Slide 20: Elements informing the Community Development Model

Profiled:

- Socio economic disadvantage, social issues, specific risk factors, key challenges

Working Together:

- Parish, Whittlesea City Council, community support agencies

Commitment to:

- Better integration of services and improved service provision to meet local needs

Note: The Northern Areas Project works with four interconnecting levels:

1. Parish, 2. Catholic Schools and their families, 3. Broader Whittlesea community (residents and service providers), and 4. Centacare:

The four interconnecting levels are:

1. **Parish Community:** intra and inter parish. (Pastoral Team, Parishioners, Parish House Workers.)

Rationale: Strengthen the capacity for the Parish infrastructure to enable the development and maintenance of project initiatives, both locally at Epping and through the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

2. **School-Community:** Core social integration (Catholic schools in the Parish- St Monica's (Secondary-Epping), St Peters' (Epping-Primary) and St Mary's' (Whittlesea-Primary)

Rationale: To strengthen the links the school families have with external agencies and the broader community by bringing agencies into the schools and or supporting the capacity of schools to link families and students to external agencies. Support School Parish families who are isolated and new arrivals to the locality and do not participate in/with potentially a supportive church community.

3 **Wider Epping/Mernda/Whittlesea Community** (Residents and Human Services/Health/Education: networks, agencies, programs and workers.)

Rationale: Representing Centacare-St Peters actively participate as a key player in strategic planning, research, and community committees, in developing working relationships and partnership arrangements with generic and specific agencies, in examining possible funding arrangements (federal, state, local and philanthropic) as well as to develop and support a significant service presence in the area.

4. **Centacare outreach-** Linking families and agencies to Centacare services outside the area, developing a significant active Centacare representation in the Northern Area, as well as seeding models of community development profiles within Centacare.

Rationale: Working representation of Centacare both externally and internally to the region as well as resource the development of community development as a viable theoretical and practice context.

Slide 21: Project collaborators:

Working internally with the parish and externally with Community services agencies, the project linked into existing networks or in some instances initiated collaborations to address gaps.

MEETING	CRITICAL FOCUS	WHO, WHAT, WHEN	RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUSTAINABILITY
LOCAL REFERENCE GROUPS	Advocacy and planning for the Project at a local level and Parish	Monthly Sth Morang	Via Parish restructure
PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAMS	Advocacy and Planning for the Parish Input into future strategic directions	Bi monthly	Development of three more LRG to feed into Parish and maintain active communication with Council, and other Community Support Services. Knowing who to approach re advocacy issues.
<p>PARISH SCHOOLS</p> <p>St Peters Primary Katherine Hudson (Principal) Diane Thompson SWC</p> <p>St Mary's Primary Whittlesea Kevin Bourke (Principal) Best Start</p> <p>St Monica's Secondary Brian Hanley (Principal) Josephine Smith (Faith and CD 2004) Julie Fitzgerald (Social Justice 2005)</p> <p>****Main issue: Parish being aware of what is happening in schools and school families and working together to focus on prevention strategies.</p>	<p>Link with school families and the community as requested</p> <p>Additional support re Positive Parenting Program and "Seasons" Grief and Loss</p> <p>Additional support school-community links Participant Ethos Committee ****Schools being aware service delivery in community support agencies and Parish.</p>	<p>Outreach as required</p> <p>School continues independently of worker</p> <p>School independent with community agencies ie Asylum Seeker Centre, Community Information Whittlesea Ethos Committee independent</p>	<p>Student Welfare Coordinator</p> <p>School maintains links independently if chooses to with programs or agencies</p> <p>School independent</p>

MEETING	CRITICAL FOCUS	WHO, WHAT, WHEN	RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUSTAINABILITY
EXTERNAL MEETINGS			
WHITTLESEA CITY COUNCIL			
1. Human Services Strategy Network Ruth Spielman Director community services Short term project work	Development of a municipal plan for future human services	Launched December 2004	Parish Council Maintain contact Parish Schools part of information and action networks, such as Best Start Hubs.
2. Whittlesea Housing Forum Ruth Spielman Small network housing agencies (4) Day meeting usually 11-1.00pm	Last meeting 2004, focus on the direction of housing stock , to include aged, disability and social housing issues		Depending on Profile and what is seen as relevant by Parish Council. Parish could link with emergency housing services re homelessness, mental health issues or domestic violence.
3. Transport Interconnectivity Lynette Green: Policy and Project Officer Community Services Day time 11.00-1.00 pm depending can vary Parish participated in extension of train line petition.	Examination and focus on a range of potential transport options for the municipality including aged, disability, bicycle, shared transport, community transport and advocacy for the extension of Public Transport	Meets bi monthly Organising a forum in 2005 with Transport Companies and local community services agencies (to hear issues)	Transporting issues a major problem in Municipality and the Parish. Infrequent and sometimes costly Public transport. Capping re disability and aged Taxi services. Transporting children to and from school and elderly/ill people to medical appointments difficult.
4. Aged Services Network Teamleader Whittlesea Community Care Rebecca Haack Possibly 50 agencies	Planning, sharing and networking around all Aged and Disability services located in the municipality	Meets eight times per year Day time 9.00-11.00	This network provides a broad overview of services, and addresses gaps.

<p>5. Best Start (0-8 years) Facilitated by WCC with 30 agencies Pina Guerra Coordinator Family Services Sarah Hammond Best start Facilitator</p> <p>Partnership Network</p> <p>Guidance and Support (Coordinating Committee for Best Start)</p> <p>Project Sub Committees (Vulnerable Children)</p> <p>WHITTLESEA CITY COUNCIL (CONT'D)</p> <p>TSUNAMI RESPONSE Neville Kurth Coordinator Municipal Emergency Response Team Tel: 92172170</p>	<p>State Government brokerage funding to meet State Government researched concerns. eg. Breastfeeding, Literacy, Early years Aboriginal health, School Absenteeism, Child Protection. Above issues addressed with a Local Response.</p> <p>Community Development Playgroups</p> <p>January 2005 Short term project</p> <p>Supporting Sri Lankan and Indian residents during the Tsunami crisis here and overseas.</p>	<p>Partnership meets twice per year usually 3-4 hours</p> <p>Guidance and Support meets monthly</p> <p>Vulnerable children was meeting monthly now as needed.</p> <p>Supported Sri Lankan residents with women's skills day and Sri Lankan Womens Group</p>	<p>Depending on profile and what is seen a relevant to Parish Council. Project ends in July 2006. Further interest to support Whittlesea flagship Project. Partnership Committee most relevant.</p> <p>Guidance and support relies on Northern Areas Project as representing Catholic Services and Agencies ie CSSV and Centacare.</p> <p>Will complete as a pilot project July 06</p> <p>Local responses tied into Parish response for an expansion of Community Development playgroups. On new housing estates the first point of call for parents, guardians and children to meet with a focus on play activities and regular service pop in, referral out and or information packages for dissemination.</p> <p>Relevant for Parish undertaking activities as part of international Women's Week and or looking at long term supports for women from cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds.</p>
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<p>Strategic Planning Unit Jon Rawlings Felicity Leahy 92172474</p>	<p>Overall Municipal Planning combining data with building and service planning Multifaith Project for 2005 Worship Site presentation to Faith Leaders August 26th</p>		<p>Ongoing to support needs of St Peters New, Emerging and Established Multicultural Community, Leadership.</p>
<p>Active Women's Week Planning Group Sharyn Paul Recreation Coordinator 92172170</p>	<p>Concentrated Meetings January to March</p>	<p>Commenced Vietnamese Women's Group Trung Vuong</p>	<p>An outcome was the establishment of Trung Vuong with Sr. Madeleine Hue from Mary of the Cross. Linked women to Whittlesea council, Whittlesea community connects, Best Start's Lalor Park Hubs and ties in St Lukes and the Vietnamese Saturday School.</p>

<p>AGENCY MEETINGS</p> <p>WHITTLESEA MULTICULTURAL ISSUES NETWORK 15 agencies 2.00-4.00pm Bi Monthly Chaired Whittlesea Community Connections Settlement Workers 94016666 Emma Antonetti Jill Cooper</p> <p>Temporary Protection Visa Sub committee Emma Antonetti Michelle Harmer Katerina Yakimov</p>	<p>Examines needs, data and experiences of the municipalities CALD (Cultural and Linguistically Diverse) Population (50% Whittlesea population) Human Rights Advocacy</p> <p>Development of directory for asylum seekers and TPV Holders moving to the municipality Short term meets monthly</p>	<p>Supports development of Refugee Week and a rang of ongoing sub committees, such as education, information, health.</p> <p>Resource information to be completed July 05</p>	
<p>Whittlesea Domestic Violence Network Meets monthly Jenni Robinson Plenty Valley Community Health Centre/North East Housing Rufus Street CALD Training Package</p>	<p>Examines and develops supports for agencies and clients around issues of Violence but with a focus on Domestic Violence and power issues of abuse.</p>	<p>Launched last week October 2005</p>	<p>Parish participated in women's week without violence stalls in Whittlesea (outreach) 2004</p> <p>DV Issues high compared to State average, information package training and launch 2005. Input into the Law Reform Commission review of Domestic Violence laws.</p>
<p>Disability and Spirituality Forum 2005 Rev Robert Stringer Uniting Church Australia 92515286</p>	<p>Project with Council of Churches and Department Human Services Developing Forums in Melbourne, Geelong, Wangaratta, Sale and Bendigo</p>	<p>Need to finish evaluation May – July 2005</p>	<p>Parish to be aware of the recommendations to be pursued Brought in as representative re Community Development practice. Ran CD Workshops for the Melbourne forum.</p>

<p>Whittlesea Multifaith Network Michelle Harmer 94011100 Secretariat and convenor (until July 2005) Meets monthly at Northern Hospital Pastoral Care Centre Rev. Bernadette Hurley Korshed Khisty (Whittlesea Community Mental Health)</p>	<p>Developed to advocate for community harmony, respect and education of faith issues in the growing municipality. Works with Whittlesea City Councils Strategic Planning Unit in 2005.</p>	<p>Forums operated 2004 Funded St Peters and Whittlesea Council. “The lanterns are different but the light is the same” 2005 August 26th Presentation to faith leaders regarding growth of municipality and possible planning for worship sites.</p>	<p>Independently sustainable, Depending on Parish resources the Catholic Church playing leadership role in community harmony and building with other faith beliefs.</p>
<p>North Western Mental Health CALD Advisory Committee Khorshed Khisty Ethnic Mental Health Consultant 94089510</p>	<p>Meets at Northern Hospital Psych Unit Conference Centre 6 weekly day time 11.00-1.00pm</p>	<p>Focus on providing appropriate infrastructure support surrounding mental health and CALD communities.</p>	<p>Sustain: Interested for mental health and wellbeing, as well as advocacy issues for people and families experiencing issues mental health</p>
<p>Volunteers in Church Communities Whittlesea Volunteer Resource Centre. Emma Sampson Ali 94016666</p>	<p>Initially meeting as a range of churches and faith beliefs as a response to map support and resources given by churches in supporting local community. An attempt to liaise and refer.</p>	<p>Links churches and other faiths into support and training for their parishioners /volunteers</p>	<p>Sustain: St Vincents Epping part of this forum.</p>

RECAP:

- **Link with 4 levels of CD Work:**
Parish,
Parish Schools and their families,
Broader community/Community support agencies,
Centacare.

Slide 23: Community Development Response

Parish:

- **Forming local responses**
- **Local reference groups**
- **Multifaith network**
- **Community development playgroups**
- **Sri Lankan women's support**
- **Vietnamese women's group/Trung Vuong**

Slide 24: Community Development Response

Schools:

- **St Monica's**
- **St Peters**
- **St Mary's**

Slide 25: Community Development Responses

Broader Community

Active and regular contact with advocacy networks, programs and committees

Slide 26: Community Development Response

Centacare

- **Representing Centacare in the Northern Region**
- **Linking families and agencies to Centacare Services**
- **Seeding relationships for collaborative work.**

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