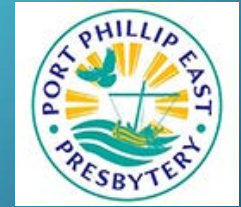


CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY



CHELtenham-MENTONE UNITING CHURCH MISSION PILOT PROGRAM 2020



- Getting to know our Community
- Main learnings/insights
- Group discernment of focus groups

GETTING TO KNOW OUR COMMUNITY

Summary of steps taken in Discernment Process

- Observation of local community during normal activities, walks, bike rides, shopping, sporting activities.
- Conversations with people we have interacted with during above activities
- Direct contact with local businesses including Op-Shop & Real Estate Agents
- Development of a Local Community Directory to identify service trends
- Exploration of Community Websites including My Community, Bayside Council, Kingston Council, Local Churches
- Virtual Community Walk
- Discussions with two of the local agencies directly connected with CMUC – BayCISS and Uniting Prahran

MAIN LEARNINGS/INSIGHTS

- Difference between Cheltenham & Mentone - Cheltenham having an industrial/residential mix, whilst Mentone is more residential with a number of large private schools.
- Large number of churches in close proximity, all providing different social programs
- Large amount of recreation spaces (Gardens/Golf Courses/ Beaches)
- Number of Schools – noted Cheltenham has many public schools whilst Mentone has a concentration of Private schools.
- Increase in young families in the area – seek access to specific school catchment areas.
- Still a large population of retired/elderly/single households.
- Local interest in social topics (Climate change/environment)
- Increase in apartment block type accommodation – increase in population
- Large number of isolated/lonely shut-ins (e.g. Elderly and single people).

MAIN LEARNINGS/INSIGHTS (CONTINUED)

- Anecdotal evidence of increased unemployment in the area
- Evidence of new people/groups experiencing poverty locally through new requests for food and emergency relief, including temporary visa holders and students.

GROUP DISCERNMENT OF FOCUS GROUPS

- The Groups we believe may be engaged in these activities include:
 - Families
 - Isolated/Shut-ins
 - Local Churches/Schools
 - Indigenous and Cultural Groups
 - Socially concerned/aware residents from all Cultures/Denominations and Ages
 - Passers-by the Church building.

GROUP DISCERNMENT OF FOCUS GROUPS (CONTINUED)

- Church Billboard – Contact group – Passers by/General public.

Letting those walking or driving past the church know that although we cannot meet in the Church building at the moment, we are still active and care about them and others.



GROUP DISCERNMENT OF FOCUS GROUPS (CONTINUED)

- Phone Friendship Group – Contact group - Shut-ins, lonely, single households. With about a quarter of people living on their own in our area it has been suggested we could start a Phone Friendship Group. Advertise on our website that if you are feeling lonely and would like a chat then contact us and we could have a roster to call people



GROUP DISCERNMENT OF FOCUS GROUPS (CONTINUED)

- Welcome Boxes or Envelopes
 - Contact Group – New residents.

Distribute to houses that have had For Sale or For Lease signs up in our neighbouring streets. Envelope with welcome note, couple of tea & coffee bags, suggested good Takeaways close-by, doctors, hairdressers, police station, hospital, churches, schools etc.



GROUP DISCERNMENT OF FOCUS GROUPS (CONTINUED)



- Community Gardens – Local Food, Local Jobs, Local Churches. Enquire if other churches in area are interested in joint project. Discern available land. Engage with Indigenous and cultural groups, socially concerned/aware citizens.

- Possible two streams:

- (a) Community Gardening, with volunteers;
- (b) Urban Agriculture, with paid workers.

