



## PLACEMENT PROFILE

### SECTION 1 – BASIC INFORMATION

- 1.1 Placement Name(s):** Minister of the Word - Children Youth and Families
- 1.2 Please list congregations/agencies names below**  
Manningham Uniting Church (MUC) congregation
- 1.3 Profile approved by Church Council/Governing Body** 21/07/2022
- 1.4 Primary purpose of placement:**  
To work within, and complement the existing Ministry Team to provide for worship service leadership; preaching; and pastoral care  
To have a particular missional focus on Children, Young People and Families.  
To be part of a Ministry Team regarded as a team of equals in their respective areas of expertise and ministry, with leadership emerging around issues and projects.  
To join the Ministry Team in working with Church Council to enact the agreed Missional Community Development Framework; Strategic Plan - 'Our Journey Forward'; Children Young People and Families Strategy; Ageing Community Strategy; and a range of Operational Management plans
- 1.5 Suitable for (bold all that apply): Minister of the Word / Deacon / Ordinand/ Pastor**  
Prefer Minister of the Word, or Ordinand, open to Deacon or Pastor
- 1.6 Time fraction:** Full time
- 1.7 Term:**  
Undefined up to 10 years (See Reg 2.7.3(a)) \_\_\_\_\_  
Fixed Term: \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial Term reviewed in: Five Years

This profile should be prepared by the Congregation(s)/ agency in consultation with Presbytery. It is specifically designed to assist in the placement process but it can also be used as a record of mission planning.

**Please Note:** Sections 1, 2 & 3 of this profile will be uploaded to the [VicTas](#) website.

#### Contents

Section 1: Basic Information

Section 2: Mission Direction

Section 3: Context

Section 4: People and Activities – to be completed by each congregation in the placement.

Section 5: Joint Congregations – to be completed if more than one congregation in the placement.

Section 6: Working Relationships

Section 7: New Minister – this section contains a list of mission and pastoral activities which are also listed on Minister's Personal profiles

Section 9: Presbytery – to be completed by Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee.

Section 10: Terms of Placement

#### Enclosures

Please mark all the documents attached to the profile:

- Floor plan of residence
- Financial information including a copy of last year's Financial Statement and financial projections
- Position descriptions of relevant ministers
- Others

## SECTION 2 – MISSION DIRECTION

### 2.1 What is the Vision statement and or Mission priorities of the placement (or of the individual congregations)

Drawn from MUC Strategic Plan 'Our Journey Forward' (OJF):

#### Our Vision

Inspired by God and seeking to emulate the life of Jesus, we will identify and reflect God's love by creating participating in and walking with Communities, locally, nationally and globally.

In order to live out this vision, MUC provides opportunities for meaningful worship, learning and discipleship and purposeful mission.

We do this through our Values of being Christ-centred, Risk-taking, Relational and Hospitable.

- **Christ-centred** reflects a focus to be guided by Jesus' example of love and grace. We seek ways we can understand this example better so that we might share that love and grace with others.

*'We share Jesus' love and grace with all'*

- **Risk-taking** describes our willingness to embrace innovative and experimental ways of joining the Holy Spirit at work in the world and to learn, connect and support each other.

*'We have the courage to try new things'*

- **Relational** recognises that Jesus called people into respectful, humble and generous relationships to connect as community, promoting justice and reconciliation.

*'Our focus is community'*

**Hospitable** is the practical expression of our relational value. It means we offer a warm, welcoming, generous and safe environment to friends, guests and strangers. We respect others and value diversity.

*'Welcoming and safe for everyone'*

**Date Adopted – 25/5/2022 (initial 2015, confirmed 2018, reaffirmed 2022)**

### 2.2 Provide a short description of the placement/congregation(s)

MUC is a relatively large congregation with a clear sense of vitality, energy and diversity, striving to be an intergenerational church. There are multiple forms of worship and a diverse range of programs, mission and other groups throughout the week. It is a congregation wanting not only to work *for* the community but also *with* the community, co-creating projects of mutual benefit. MUC is well organised. With the completion and settling into the Manningham Uniting Church and Community Centre, dedicated on 20th February 2022, MUC has come to a significant milestone in a journey that began over ten years ago.

### 2.3 Church Style best describes the congregation(s)? (From [Church Style Document](#))

In terms of style MUC is best described as a PROGRAM CHURCH

## **2.4 How has the placement/congregation(s) changed over the last 5 years?**

Four congregations – Templestowe (Atkinson/Wood Streets), Doncaster East (Andersons Creek Road), Pilgrim Doncaster (Westfield Drive) and The Grove Box Hill North (Woodhouse Grove) - came together to form the Manningham Uniting Church (MUC) in 2011; each of these four congregations had their own significant histories, also involving merging of congregations. These congregations, three in the City of Manningham and one (Woodhouse Grove) in the city of Whitehorse, took the step of merging into one congregation, even as they continued to worship in four different sites. It has taken some time, and some significant actions and transitional support surrounding this change, to truly come together into one congregation on one site.

## **2.5 What are the congregation(s)/placement's goals?**

This role/person will work with the Ministry Team and the congregation to create a true intergenerational culture and diverse opportunities to interact together.

Focussing on children young people and families this role/person will:

- Create and sustain a place in the life of the congregation for young people, that is those who fall between little kids and old people
- Engage youth in faith formation activities and enable them to develop a sense of belonging within MUC
- Commence youth programs that engage with the wider community.

Reflecting our Christ Centred Value of sharing Jesus' love and grace with all, this role/person will also share ministry and pastoral care across all parts of the church and will work to enhance the congregation's capacity to open up avenues to newfound faith in Jesus Christ.

## **2.6 What are the next Strategic Steps to achieving those goals?**

Three documents set out more detailed strategies for MUC mission priority areas. They are:

- Children, Young People and Families Strategy (CYF), February 2019
- Ageing Community Ministry Strategy, February 2019
- Missional Community Development (MCD) Framework, 2022-2025 (in place from 2014) (The reviewed framework was presented to the June 2022 Council meeting. A couple of extra points will be added in response to discussion before its final approval).

## SECTION 3 - CONTEXT

### 3.1 Describe the Communities in which this placement is located

MUC is on Wurundjeri country, in the present municipality of Manningham. In 2016 the estimated population of Manningham was 127,573 and is largely an ageing population with a median age of 43. Approximately 40% of residents were born overseas in countries such as China, Italy, England, Malaysia and Greece. 42% of residents do not use English as their first language Manningham has one of the largest networks of open space in metropolitan Melbourne with 17% of the municipality being set aside as green space. Another of Manningham's unique features is that it still has local shopping strips, villages and plazas where residents can shop and socialize. (Manningham City Council, Community profile)

### 3.2 How does your congregation reflect or vary from the age, and ethnic mix of your local community?

The MUC congregation is made up of a large percentage of members older than 65. In recent years the number of young families has grown and includes children aged from new-born to teenagers. The majority of MUC members were born in Australia and speak English as their first language. Recently there is an increasing number of refugee families connecting with MUC through the English Language classes; and the number of families with diverse cultural backgrounds connecting with MUC through our Playgroup Ministry has significantly increased in the last 6 months.

### 3.3 What are the opportunities and points of stress and pain in the wider community?

Manningham Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021 - 2025, identifies Priority Communities needing support as the socially isolated, seniors, people with disabilities, disadvantaged, youth, women and children experiencing violence and the LGBTQI+ community. In developing our Missional Community Development Framework, we have identified the points of stress – social isolation and disconnection; poverty – asset rich but cash poor; family breakdown and conflict; affordable housing; and increasing multicultural diversity of the community. We have identified missional opportunities as follows:

- Collaboration and partnership with other community organisations already expressing an interest and wanting to work together for the benefit of the wider community;
- Establishing community connection and relationships in neighbourhoods and experimenting with place making - facilitating the re-establishment of connection to place (where we live, work and play) including the building of relationships with the people who live around us;
- Purposeful connection with the Indigenous community;
- Extending and furthering the relationships with local schools, the staff, young people and families within them; and
- Developing mentoring relationships.

### **3.4 List ways in which you connect with, serve, or partner with people in your wider community**

MUC has an extensive list of ways it connects with the community in 2022, including: Redgum Café (open Tues-Sat each week) ; three playgroups operating per week; mothers groups three times per week; free English classes, weekly conversation and learn English; Dementia Support working group; Connections (supports newly arrived and refugees; LinC (supporting families in need); regular worship services and visiting of Aged Care Facilities; and outreach to Doncaster Secondary College through supporting the youth worker, the college wellbeing term, and college leadership with various programs.

MUC has on-going relationships with a wide range of community organisations with whom we regularly collaborate on several initiatives including but not limited to: Doncaster Police; CareNet – a local food relief initiative; Access Community Health; Manningham City Council environment team, arts department, community place making and wellbeing department, and economic development department.

### **3.5 What schools/agencies/institutions are in your local communities?**

Thirty-two primary and secondary schools; More than thirty aged care facilities and retirement villages; Five supported residential services; Doncare (the municipality's major community and crisis support service) and Manningham Youth Services (Manningham Council auspices this service).