

PLACEMENT PROFILE

SECTION 1 — BASIC INFORMATION

1.1 Placement Name: Berwick-Pakenham
Casey Cardinia Regional Mission Area – Presbytery Placement

1.2 Please list congregations/agencies names below

- St Andrew's Uniting Church, Berwick
- Pakenham Region Uniting Church

The aim is to transition towards a regional ministry team of Presbytery placements in the Casey-Cardinia area from 2023 as ministry placements are renewed or created. See attachment for details.

1.3 Profile approved by Church Councils Berwick 1/12/22, Pakenham 4/11/22

1.4 Primary purpose of placement:

- To develop shared ministry between the Berwick and Pakenham congregations as part of a forming a regional ministry team in Casey-Cardinia
- To lead worship and worship planning for the two adult congregations and to redevelop and experiment with intergenerational worship opportunities
- To work with the councils and leaders to provide faith development opportunities for all generations
- To continue to build welcoming, inclusive faith communities who are engaged in local mission

1.5 Suitable for: **Minister of the Word** Ordinand Deacon Pastor

1.6 Time fraction: 100 %

1.7 Term: Fixed Term: 5 Years with possibility of extension

This profile should be prepared by the Congregation(s) or appointing body 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. 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 8: Presbytery – to be completed by Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee.
- Section 9: 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)

St Andrew's Berwick is a congregation that seeks to welcome all people wherever they are on their faith and life journey and to grow as a welcoming, inclusive, intergenerational and intercultural community of faith affirming people of different languages and cultures, abilities and limitations, identities and sexual orientation.

Pakenham is "A vibrant heart in the community. 'Sharing the love and life of Christ in a positive, safe and inclusive environment".

2.2 **Date adopted by Church Council:** Pakenham 11/3/22 Berwick 30/10/22

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

St Andrew's Berwick is a small congregation surrounded by a rapidly growing and increasingly diverse, population. It is located on the edge of the historic Berwick village, while also being a short drive from the rapidly expanding growth areas along Clyde Road to the south and the Princes Highway to the east. Prior to COVID, a 9.00am service connected with young families through a non-traditional style of worship. Once a month, Messy Church - with a shared meal, is offered between 4pm and 6.30pm. A South Sudanese church has begun worshipping in the building on Sunday afternoons.

Pakenham UC is a small congregation who worship weekly, situated in the town centre. There is significant population growth in the region. While the congregation has to a limited extent been multicultural, this is much less the case today. There are several social, faith development and outreach activities or groups, as well as services in local aged care facilities. There is an Intergenerational Pastor (10 hours per week) and a Community Development Pastor (20 hours per week) working with the Sudanese community. The property is rented to a Coptic Church on Saturdays.

See attachment regarding Casey Cardinia Mission Area.

2.4 **What Church Style best describes the congregation(s)? (See [Church Style Document](#))**
Pastoral Church

2.5 How has the placement/congregation(s) changed over the last 5 years?

St Andrew's Berwick: Over the last two years, as a result of a retirement and a change in employment, the congregation has gone from having a full-time Minister of the Word and a half-time Family and Children's Worker to supply ministry and a budget for a half-time ministry placement. In addition, they have experienced a drop in income, hence the step to partner with Pakenham UCA in sharing ministry. Congregation numbers declined due to COVID restrictions and an ageing population. During a time of supply ministry, a 9.00am intergenerational worship service ceased, resulting in little engagement with this group. There have been several recent departures from Church Council (currently Rev Dr Tony Floyd is interim chair)

Pakenham is an ageing congregation (75 years average) Many church members are in aged care or living in retirement homes. COVID has a significant impact on children and family ministry participation, as well as to some extent on worship attendance. Recently the Homework Hub' program has recommenced. There have been several recent changes in Church Council membership (currently chaired by supply minister). The previous minister and lay worker led a quarterly Messy Church. Some Sudanese families were connected with the congregation, but they have moved on to other churches.

In both congregations the age of members is making the availability of sufficient leadership a significant issue, including on church councils.

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

See the attached mission priorities documents.

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

- Establish a shared ministry partnership between the two churches and explore ways to collaborate, encourage one another, share and develop leadership.
- Work with the presbytery on financing increased hours and regional roles for the lay workers
- Make connections with other community groups for the sake of exploring local mission, including those who may wish to use our facilities.
- Explore alternative days, times and formats for worship and faith development activities, particularly with families with children.
- Explore a shared children and family ministry between the two churches and Beaconhills College.

SECTION 3 — CONTEXT

3.1 Describe the communities in which this placement is located (Mission context).

Berwick is a suburb of 50,000 people in the City of Casey, a rapidly growing area of 365,000 people. Pakenham is a suburb of 54,000 in the Shire of Cardinia, a suburban/rural area of 120,000. Casey and Cardinia have a median age of 34 years. They have high proportions of families with pre-school, primary and secondary school age children. The suburbs are increasingly multicultural, with significant migration from India and Sri Lanka - also people from Afghanistan, China, New Zealand and the Philippines. Personal and household incomes are quite varied in these areas. There are many, many schools. The area is also characterised by manufacturing, trades and wholesale services, health and community services, retail, transport and construction industries. It is the suburban fringe of greater Melbourne.

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

Both congregations are predominantly Anglo-European heritage and comprised mostly of retired people. The children and family workers and community worker have in the past done good work to connect with younger generations and with people of varied cultures, however these connections largely disappeared over the COVID lockdowns.

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

The outer suburbs were a mixture of long term residents, plus people attracted by cheaper housing. Hence there has been significant social disadvantage. However new housing developments mean expensive homes and an influx of double income families and homes with 3+ bedrooms. Financial stress is notable. New communities, including those with migrants, may lack social cohesion. Infrastructure including public transport is quite limited in some areas. Social isolation is an issue. Family well-being pressures exist. For older people, isolation, health and income are significant concerns.

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

BERWICK

- Developing a relationship with a local Sudanese community and providing a space for them to worship.
- Supporting the Prison Fellowship through the Christmas Angel Tree;
- Supporting the Cranbourne Transit Food Truck;
- Providing a meeting place for a local AA Group and Probus Group;
- Collaborating with the local Council to apply for grants and to inform the council about services offered by the church [e.g. Playgroups which have run in the past.]
- The church also supports – Uniting World; Act4Peace; Royal Flying Doctor; Frontier Services; Sammy Stamp and Aviation Mission.

PAKENHAM

- Monthly services held in aged care facilities
- Community Development Pastor

- Cardinia Interfaith Community
- Homework Hub servicing at-risk Primary school children
- Members of the congregation volunteer with Red Cross, CFA, Scouts, Guides, CWA

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

Pakenham: John Henry Primary School, Edenbrook Secondary College, Pakenham Primary School, Pakenham High School, Lakeside College, Beaconhills College (Pakenham Campus). **Berwick:** St Margaret's Grammar School, Berwick Secondary College, Berwick Primary School. Beaconhills College (Berwick Campus). Numerous other schools, kindergartens and maternal health centres exist in the region.

Federation University, Chisholm TAFE. **State School Chaplain** – Kambrya College, Berwick College, Nossal High School, Timbarra College. **UCA Chaplain** at Beaconhills College (Rev Steve Terrell)