

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
Date of receipt: 5 April 2019

PLACEMENT PROFILE

SECTION 1 – BASIC INFORMATION

1.1 Placement Name(s): Healesville Yarra Glen Wandin UCA's

1.2 Please list congregations/agencies names below

● Healesville Uniting Church (HUC)

● Yarra Glen Uniting Church (YG)

● Wandin/Seville Uniting Church (W/S)

1.3 Profile approved by Church Council/Governing Body / /

1.4 Primary purpose of placement:

Congregational Ministry

1.5 Suitable for (bold all that apply): **Minister of the Word / Deacon / Ordinand** / Pastor

1.6 Time fraction: _____ 100%

1.7 Term:

Undefined up to 10 years (See Reg 2.7.3(a))

Undefined

Fixed Term:

Years

Initial Term reviewed in:

Years

SECTION 2 – MISSION DIRECTION

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

Vision: We believe all people matter to God and that Christ's message and ministry through the local church is the hope of the world.

Mission: To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God.

2.2 Date adopted 27/01/2019

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

The Yarra Ranges Parish is made up of three distinct and unique worship communities, all within the picturesque Yarra Valley.

Healesville is a middle sized, outward looking congregation that appreciates creativity in worship and involvement in the community. We have rich resources at our disposal including property and faithful people.

Yarra Glen is a very small congregation that does a remarkable amount of outreach as they live out the gospel. They are friendly, caring, dedicated and faithful. They are open minded, inclusive and a supportive and strong community.

Wandin Seville are a small aging congregation in a semi-rural area with urban pockets. Our Church was established by pioneer families in 1868 and many descendants still attend the Church regularly. We have many retirees in the congregation and a small number in the work force. We have excellent facilities in a close proximity to a state primary school. We have several younger families who attend Music Time but not Church services.

The minister leads worship weekly at Healesville and fortnightly (alternating) at Wandin/Seville and Yarra Glen.

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

HUC There have been major changes at Healesville over the last five years. There has been greatly increased awareness of big picture community issues – eg refugees, indigenous reconciliation and climate change. Ministry style is more relaxed with an openness to outside activities. The congregation is more open and accepting. There are a number of new members of different ages. The building has been transformed by a new commercial kitchen, split system for heating and cooling, new paintwork and carpets, new tables and the installation of a 15 Kilowatt solar array.

YG Our congregation size has decreased through loss of young families. Some families have moved away from Yarra Glen and some remain and are connected through play group. The minister has opened the annual AFL Pride Cup at the Yarra Glen football ground in prayer for the last five years. Community activities have increased, ie. Table two meals every week. Our worship style has evolved to something like a home group, where people are comfortable contributing their ideas to the 'sermon'. The congregation is open accepting and inclusive, we value creative worship. The op shop is a major contributor to our community and beyond.

W/S Declining numbers through aging, (Rotary Club now struggle for numbers as well) newcomers to the area are not as community minded as in the past. Further development of Harrison – Berry Homes – with two units built in the last five years.

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

HUC

- a) Show God working by being there for the needy, isolated and marginalised people within the church and community.
 - b) Invite and welcome new members.
 - c) Encourage and equip lay leadership.
 - d) Care for the membership.
 - e) Maintain creative and socially relevant worship.
 - f) Maintain and grow ecumenical participation.
 - g) Continue to support the overseas mission/aid projects initiated by our members.
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YG

- a) Increase the size of the congregation.
 - b) Explore better ways to use property and buildings for Mission, i.e. low-cost housing.
 - c) Continue to worship in Yarra Glen.
 - d) Maintain ecumenical connections e.g. op shop,
 - e) Explore further connections with churches in Yarra Glen.
 - f) Continue building our relationship with Healesville and Wandin Seville.
 - g) Be Jesus hands and feet in the community.
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W/S

- a) Be a people of Christ in the community in which we live and work
 - b) Share and be an example of God's love to our local community and the wider world
 - c) Explore co-operation with other denominations
 - d) Build closer connections to the primary school across the road eg. Mentoring or drop-in morning tea for parents after school drop off
 - e) Explore involvement with stable one
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2.6 What are the next Strategic Steps to achieving those goals?

HUC

- a) Continue participation in and support of – 'Walking Together with the First Peoples', HICCI (Healesville Interchurch Community Care Inc - an ecumenical partnership that provides emergency relief, social and medical transport and a weekly meal) RAR Healesville (Rural Australians for Refugees), Writers and Rhythm events, The Healesville Music Festival, Sing and Share, Being Together, monthly services in three aged care facilities.
 - b) Maintain faithful, caring and welcoming worship.
 - c) Actively seeking new opportunities for mission and outreach.
 - d) Being aware of Uniting Church Presbytery, Synod and Assembly objectives.
 - e) Support the overseas projects, Pancake Day appeal and Frontier Services.
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YG

- a) Develop a strategic plan with the new minister.
- b) Continue exploring development of land with Yarra Ranges Council.
- c) Seek a partner in development e.g. E.A.C.H., Habitat?
- d) Maintain faithful, caring and welcoming worship.

W/S

- a) Congregation and Minister working together to achieve the goals above
 - b) Explore possibility of meeting with other Churches more often
 - c) Different types of worship away from traditional services
 - d) Providing events that interest the wider community
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SECTION 3 - CONTEXT

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

HUC

Healesville has emerged out of a timber town to be a town of contrasting parts. It has a vibrant tourist hub with world class wineries, beautiful mountain ash forests, the renowned Healesville Sanctuary, countless coffee shops, a large monthly market, and an active arts/music community. It is situated 63km from Melbourne. Its population of about 10,000 and proximity to Melbourne sustains access to a range of schools, hospitals, nursing homes, medical and dental facilities and many other services. Healesville also has cheaper housing than suburban Melbourne and community housing that accommodates many isolated and low-income people. It has a low SEIFA Index of disadvantage (ie high disadvantage), shown by higher than average renters, unemployed, older people and one parent families. Soon after white settlement Coranderrk was made the home of the Wurundjeri and many others of the Kulin nation who were moved here. It was the home of Barak and his family. A remnant of the Coranderrk land remains today, and Healesville has a significant community of First Nation people.

YG

Yarra Glen is a small town of 3600 people situated in a semi-rural area, 54 km from central Melbourne. Tourism is a major industry with wineries, the Chocolate Factory, and a race course. The town has a primary school, medical centre, one large supermarket, bakeries, specialist shops and several restaurants and cafes. There is a large, active Men's Shed. Compared with the wider Yarra Ranges Shire, Yarra Glen has newer housing, more private ownership, more young families, higher income and bigger mortgages. Sport is a significant past time for Yarra Glen residents; including football/netball, basketball, cricket, bowls. Yarra Glen has a very active living and learning centre.

W/S

The community is made up of families who have been involved in farming and horticulture for generations as well as newcomers who commute to work outside of the area. There are many retired people in the community.

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

HUC

The Healesville church reflects something of the diversity of Healesville. It has a number of people who struggle in various ways. As a church we are slightly older than the median age and are more ethnically diverse. Healesville as a town has low ethnic diversity.

YG

Our congregation is older and represents longer term residents. The local community is mostly Anglo background with low cultural diversity, and this is reflected in the church.

W/S

Our congregation is older and represents longer term residents.

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

HUC

Elderly care and support, mental health, loneliness, isolation, affordable housing, unemployment, financial stress, youth activity, inadequate public transport, abuse/family violence, drugs, hospital care, growth in strong right political views, Indigenous disadvantage, homelessness.

YG

The Yarra Glen community has the points of stress associated with young families who are often time, money and support poor. A bus runs to Healesville and Lilydale but greater frequency would be desirable. There is the need for an aged care facility. Opportunities – Growing community, tourism, greater ecumenical development

W/S

Under employment as well as unemployment, drug and alcohol abuse, single parent families.

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

- **HUC**
We take three nursing home services once a month. We host and support quarterly Writers & Rhythm events, the Healesville music festival and the Mt Evelyn & Yarra Valley Art Society annual show. Church people attend and support HICSA, (Healesville Indigenous Community Service Association, RAR Healesville (Rural Australians for Refugees) and CoRE (a local group working to make Healesville 100% energy self-sufficient) who gather in our buildings. Our annual fete and annual mini-market create significant community interaction. HICCI (Healesville Interchurch Community Care Incorporated) emerged out of Healesville's Christian communities thirty years ago. It continues as a partnership between the seven churches of Healesville and Yarra Glen (Anglican, Catholic, Baptist, Salvation Army, Assemblies of God, Uniting and Liberty Family Church) who provide the members of the Committee of Management, and between them and community, over one hundred volunteers. HICCI employs five part time staff and it is the provider of Emergency Relief, HAC transport and 'Dinner at Darron's', a weekly free two course community meal hosted by the Uniting Church. HICCI is a very well respected and supported local organisation.
- **YG**
Sunday night community meal 'Table 2' Sunday evening community meal
"Just Because" monthly afternoon tea group
Play group – Grandparents, carers and parents all attending bring children
Ecumenical op shop
Church fete is a social gathering of the church and the wider community
Host Alcoholics Anonymous weekly
Hire of Hall, weekly dance school
HICCI
- **W/S**
Music time for younger families
Visitation of the elderly at Berry Homes

Home Study group

World Vision sponsorship and Zimbabwe orphanages

Monthly Ladies Luncheons

Donating to HICCI

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

HUC

Healesville Primary, St Brigid's Primary, Badger Creek Primary, Chum Creek Primary, Gruyere Primary School and Healesville Secondary College. Healesville Hospital and Yarra Valley Community Health, Melba Services, Healesville Indigenous Services Association (HICSA), Eastern Community Legal Centre Inc, HICCI (and various outreach services that operate from the HICCI building - drug and alcohol, gambling, homelessness, employment, mental health) service clubs, sporting clubs, Healesville Living & Learning Centre and U3A. Uniting Church Harrison Maroondah Village.

YG

Yarra Glen Primary School, Dixons Creek Primary School, Yering Primary School, YG Pre-School, YG Child Care Centre, YG Living & Learning Centre, Sports Groups, RSL.

W/S

Wandin Yallock, Seville and Wandin North Primary Schools

Wandin and Seville Kindergartens

Berry Homes for the Elderly