

PLACEMENT PROFILE

SECTION 1 – BASIC INFORMATION

Placement Name(s):	Lake Bolac Parish/ Hopkins Prison Chaplaincy
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- **Please list congregations/agencies names below**

Hopkins Prison

	<i>Lake Bolac Congregation</i>
	<i>Streatham Congregation</i>
	<i>Tatyoon Congregation</i>
	<i>Willaura Congregation</i>

- **Profile approved by Church Council/Governing Body** / /

- **Primary purpose of placement:**

- To bring the life and love of God to the people in the space and place where they are, exercising one ministry across both the Hopkins Prison and the Lake Bolac Parish.

- To initiate within the Parish an Intentional Ministry and Mission to those within the communities in which these congregations live and move and have their being.
- To find a less pulpit centric means of engaging with the wider community, who are experiencing much rural stress
- To bring the gospel to life to men who are incarcerated in Ararat.

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

- **Time fraction:** _____0.75FTE_____%

- **Term:**

Undefined up to 10 years (See Reg 2.7.3(a))	
Fixed Term:	3 to 5 Years
Initial Term reviewed in:	3 Years

SECTION 2 – MISSION DIRECTION

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

Through the love of God proclaim the gospel. To be caring and non-judgmental, to assist and practically support all members of our community.

- **Date adopted** / /

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To bring the life and love of God to the people in the space and place where they are, exercising one ministry across both the Hopkins Prison and Lake Bolac Parish.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To initiate within the Parish an Intentional Ministry and Mission to those within the communities in which these congregations live and move and have their being.• To find a less pulpit centric means of engaging with the wider community, who are experiencing much rural stress. Ageing farmers, drought, commodity prices, and the realisation that in this day and age of the need to 'get big or get out'. Flow on effects to non-farm industries and services and therefore off farm population.• The rural population are not immune to the current drug scene, and as the stress rises it is noted that alcohol consumption appears to be on the increase, mental health is a real issue, and when it all becomes too much for some, suicide the final solution.• Opportunities to support innovation within the community.• Support congregations with services.• Attend the geographically local Hopkins Correctional Centre weekly to hold worship services and to provide pastoral care, support and build trusting relationships with the men.

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

We no longer have a permanent minister (position finished mid 2016) currently have a supply minister.
Wickliffe congregation closed 2014
Congregations continue to age and therefore decline
It has been difficult to recruit a chaplain at Hopkins CC over the last 5 years. A small volunteer visiting group from the Ararat Uniting Church provides some pastoral support to the men but this is not sustainable. The Senior Prison Chaplain from Synod has been visiting fortnightly for several years whilst trying to recruit to the position. The location and part time hours have made it hard to find a chaplain in the area to provide this important missional ministry. The eLM team at Synod and the Western Victoria Presbytery have had a conversation and found a synergy of needs that could be met by a placement combining both ministries.

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

Bring together the following two parts
Connect with current congregation and also wider community
Maintain the Word
To have one service a month within the parish, spread between the four congregations, not necessarily on a Sunday.
Bringing the life and the love of God to the people in the space and place where they are <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pastoral Care• Ritual and Worship• Empowering — individuals to be able to manage their lives, challenges and opportunities• Fostering Communities — to build resilience, connection and care.
To visit at the Hopkins CC one day per week to provide pastoral support and to hold a fortnightly service for the men. For the UCA to have a regular presence in the prison.
To enable the people of Lake Bolac to participate in the broader role of God's mission in the world through the active life of the gospel brought to life in serving people who are isolated and struggling – in the local rural communities and in the prison in Ararat.

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

Establish a financial base for our purpose (placement goals) –find funding
Explore the possibility of joining a larger region. Calculate the total cost of a larger region –develop a budget and look for ways to fulfil the requirement. Then explore how this would be achieved.
The prison position is funded by Government for the next 5 years for 9.6 hours per week (25% of a stipend). Creating one placement of 0.75 is more likely to attract a minister to the region and the ministry.

SECTION 3 - CONTEXT

- **Describe the communities in which this placement is located (Mission context)**

The parish as a whole is suffering in the main from a decline in population and a high proportion of the people would be of older age. Rural properties are increasing in size with often non-residential managers which lead to a depletion of rural connection. Large proportions of the people estimated around 70% are welfare dependant, aged, and low socio and unemployed. Many of the smaller farmers are income negligible/health services are a major issue often no full-time Doctor, Ararat/Ballarat/Hamilton/Warrnambool the nearest centres. These are also the closest locations for shopping so private transport essential as public transport regular but infrequent. However one cannot help but admire the people's enthusiasm for community activity which always attracts much support from all.
The Hopkins Correctional Centre is a 780 bed male protection prison located just out of Ararat on Warrak Rd. The prison is medium security and has men on remand as well as men doing long sentences including life. Chaplains from other faiths also provide ministry at the prison. UCA worship has been well attended at the prison and pastoral visits are highly valued. Men struggle with issues of grief, shame, anxiety, isolation (or rejection) from family, mental illness, addiction and despair. There are also a number of men who are quite old and frail living in the prison. For many men, finding meaning and hope through the Word of God, is what gives them life. Worship, pastoral care, bible study and Christian education are important aspects of this ministry.

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

In the main the congregations are white-anglo and ageing, this is not reflective of the age of the general community
In Hopkins CC, the community is male and aged from 19 to 90 years (currently). Ethnically it is a diverse community – Anglo, Aboriginal, European, Asian, Pacific Islanders etc.

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

Decline in volunteer base/ excessive drinking and substance abuse both male and female Variation in farm prices effects sense of security. Drought. Lack of qualified workers Lack of services transport and health. Isolation both on properties and in town. Farm accidents which have a real knock on effect as others seek to support neighbours
Suicide Family Violence. Next generation leave for education or work
Opportunity to help wider community work through these stresses and pains.

Men are either waiting for court or are sentenced to a term of imprisonment. There is a lot of anxiety and uncertainty for men on remand as well as men waiting for appeals at court. People are in a place that they don't want to be with people they don't know, trust or want to be with. The environment can be harsh and is restrictive. There are programs and work opportunities for the men during the day but many struggle with boredom, anxiety, mental illness, addiction and bullying or coercion from others. Basically they live in a different world culture which takes time to get used to and even longer to undo when it is time to leave. But this is a place where people seek meaning and purpose and so, seek and find God. Bible reading, prayer and worship become important parts of the life of many men in prison. Coming to church reminds them they are still human beings and beloved by God.

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

•	Lake Bolac School with approximately 100 students. A congregation member attends to spend time with the children
•	Willaura Have a coffee shop that opens to the community twice a month for conversation with many of the town's folk. The main street is sparsely occupied. Connections with primary school (44 Children) through pancake day, Easter and Christmas workshops. Interact with senior citizens.
•	Streatham Community connection with Garden club(once/month), Craft club (once/month) and monthly community Barbeque
•	Tatyoon Run Tatyoon Fleece Floral and Craft Show in conjunction with community and local schools. Combine with community to host Christmas Carols followed by community Christmas Party.
•	All active members of the congregations are involved in many and varied activities within the particular locations Hopkins CC – the chaplain supports and participates where possible in other wider prison events and celebrations such as Waitangi Day, Naidoc Week, Anzac Day, Eid celebrations etc. Also, the UCA chaplain works collaboratively with the other prison chaplains to provide Lent, Easter, Advent and Christmas Services/activities in the prison.

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

Lake Bolac: P-12 School, Kinder, East Grampians Health Service District Nursing, Bush nursing, Visiting allied health/community services, Ararat Medical ½ day per week
Willaura: Kindergarten, Primary school, East Grampians Health services Willaura campus- High Level & Low level care, District Nursing, Senior Day Care, Ararat Medical 2 days per week, Visiting allied health/community services
Skipton: Hospital
Aged care: Ararat, Willaura, Skipton