

# PLACEMENT PROFILE

## SECTION 1 – BASIC INFORMATION

1.1 Placement Name(s): Coatesville Uniting Church

1.2 Please list congregations/agencies names below

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

1.3 Profile approved by Church Council/Governing Body 13 / 10 / 2019

1.4 Primary purpose of placement:

To lead and expand the worshipping life, faith development and mission of the congregation; to support the pastoral care of the congregation and to become part of the Coatesville community.

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

1.6 Time fraction: 80 to 100%\*

1.7 Term:

Undefined up to 10 years (See Reg 2.7.3(a))	<u>Y*</u>
Fixed Term:	<u>5 Years*</u>
Initial Term reviewed in:	<u>5 Years</u>

*\* We are open to a range of placement arrangements. Current budget constraints suggest that 0.8 is sustainable longer term, given current trends. With modest renewal in the core congregation a higher fraction could be possible in the future. "*

## SECTION 2 – MISSION DIRECTION

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

Coatesville went on a 3-month journey to establish our Vision and Mission and Core Values in 2003, combining in-worship activities with special congregational events to reach the final version (below). They have been prominently displayed in our main common area (The Hub) since that time. When we began preparing this profile, they were confirmed, unchanged.

#### **Our Vision (Who we want to be):**

A thriving Christian community that feels like family and inspires purpose for every life.

#### **Our Mission (What we want to do):**

Create a sense of belonging that inspires people to know Christ and live with Passion and Purpose.

#### **Our Core Values (How we know what's right):**

- ❖ Love (Acceptance)
- ❖ Caring
- ❖ Community
- ❖ Mission (Active/Outreach)
- ❖ Honesty (Integrity)
- ❖ Joy (Fun/Laughter)
- ❖ Faith (Inner Peace)
- ❖ Harmony

#### **Our Foundational Beliefs (What we know about God):**

- **Every person is loved by God.** Our experience of God's love for us allows us to love God, ourselves and others
- **God is there for all**, a constant, faithful friend in good times and bad
- **God can be experienced** in many ways in the world around us
- **In God we find a source of peace, comfort and strength.** God guides us in every aspect of our life
- **In partnership with God, we can make a difference** to help fulfil God's purpose for all
- **Our doubts and questions are valid** and reveal a deep human desire to know God
- **Jesus died** so that we may live in a right relationship with God
- **Jesus is alive!** So we can live with hope, joy, and a sense of wonder

These statements underpin our activities in worship, fellowship, mission and ministry. For instance, our community Craft Group embodies the Values of *Love, Caring, Community* and *Joy*, as well as being a mission activity where our understanding of God (Foundational Beliefs) can be communicated through action and word.

Our *Vision* and *Mission* and the *Community* value drive our activity in the local region: play- and craft- groups, community events, being involvement with the local primary school (which culminates with their Choir's performance at our Christmas in the Carpark event) and providing material support and referrals for those in need (Community Care).

As we move into the next phase, we are keen to continue these and explore new mission and ministry opportunities that are relevant to this place and time.

<b>2.2</b>	<b>Date adopted</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>Reviewed and upheld</b>	<b>2019</b>
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### 2.3 Provide a short description of the placement/congregation(s)

Coatesville is an active, faithful, worshipping community with a mainly a middle-aged and older membership. While predominantly of British descent, we have members of other ethnic origins (Chinese, Phillipino). Members have a diverse range of backgrounds and interests and most are

involved in one or more other congregation activities in addition to Sunday worship.

Coatesville sees itself as “a great place to belong”, is welcoming and offers friendship and fellowship to all. It is active in the local community with a variety of outreach activities ranging from regular playgroups, craft and material aid (Community Care) to seasonal events such as Christmas in the Carpark, a variety concert and an annual fete.

The music team (7-piece band, with ages ranging from 17 to mid-80's) play a large role in helping to enhance our worship, and we have several people who regularly lead worship when the minister is not available or for special events (e.g. Christmas Midnight Vigil).

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

The congregation has remained strong over the past 5 years. New members have largely balanced out the losses natural in a congregation with a contingent of elderly members.

Charlie (now 3) was baptised into the congregation during this time.

Our teenagers are now involved with the Sonder Collective in partnership with Murrumbeena UC.

Strong development has occurred in our Community Care program, providing support to the needy in the community.

Our *Seasons* program (small group and individual study resources, linked to the worship program) has continued to thrive.

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

Living out our goal of being a faithful worshipping community, and enhancing spiritual development within the congregation.

Providing pastoral care to the congregation, including those who don't attend Sunday worship.

Ensuring our mission activities thrive and those involved are well-prepared and supported in their tasks.

Working together to envision and create the next phase of Coatesville's ministry and mission.

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

Set aside time for reflection and dialogue, with new Minister, to envision the next phase of our ministry and mission.

Sustain and extend existing ministry and mission activity by strengthening support for leaders and participants; as well as leveraging externally available training and networks.

Increasing the local community's understanding of what we do through improved online presence, renewing signage, and increasing our profile in local media.

Continuing dialogue with Murrumbeena UC to extend our collective vision of how we might serve and outreach into the community around us.

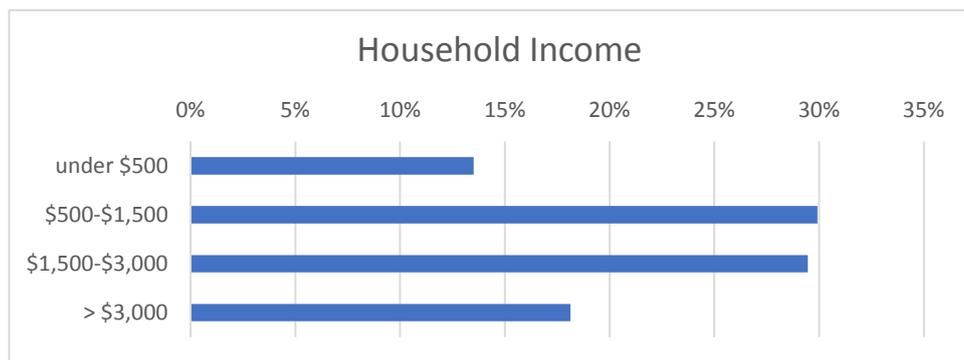
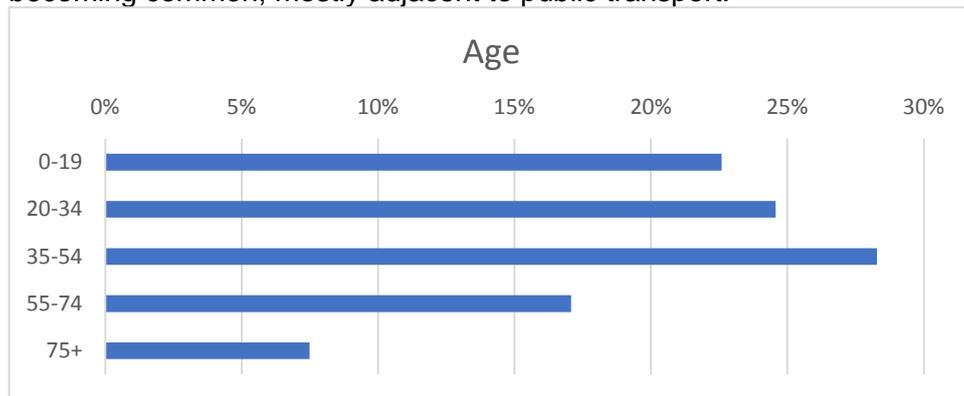
## **SECTION 3 - CONTEXT**

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

We would see ourselves directly serving those within a 2km radius, which includes parts of Bentleigh East, Murrumbeena, Hughesdale, Moorabbin and Oakleigh (postcodes 3163, 3165, 3166 & 3167). We are near the junction of three local government areas – Glen Eira, Monash and Kingston.

The immediate locality of Coatesville UCA, is predominately middle class, though there are a range of different socio-economic and ethnic groups. The local community is approximately evenly divided between Anglo, European (mostly Greek) and Asian (mostly Chinese and Indian).

The area is undergoing steady urban renewal with single residences being updated or replaced with medium density living. Along the main roads, four-or five storey apartment blocks are becoming common, mostly adjacent to public transport.



The predominant faith groups are:

Christianity	44%
No religion	40%
Hinduism	5%
Judaism	5%
Buddhism	3%
Islam	1%

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

The congregational average age is higher (avg in the 55-74 demographic) than the surrounding community (35-54), and predominantly of British descent.

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

Opportunities:

- Continuing urban renewal in the immediate area – which was developed in the mid-1950s. Some single dwellings are being replaced by medium density apartments.
- The two local primary schools continue to have very strong demand.
- A long-term relationship with the Coatesville primary school, where our main joint focus is Christmas in the Carpark, following the cessation of CRE several years ago, when a new Principal joined. We also provide a bursary for needy students.
- Several local churches (different denominations) who are willing to work together on local issues (e.g. Food for Friends at Christmas).
- Community Care – Coatesville’s material aid and referral service which operates every Friday morning – has a steady flow of people requiring its services.

Points of stress and pain:

- Socio-economic pressures
- Family violence
- Concerns about safety
- Mental illness
- Older folk nearing the end of their ability to live independently

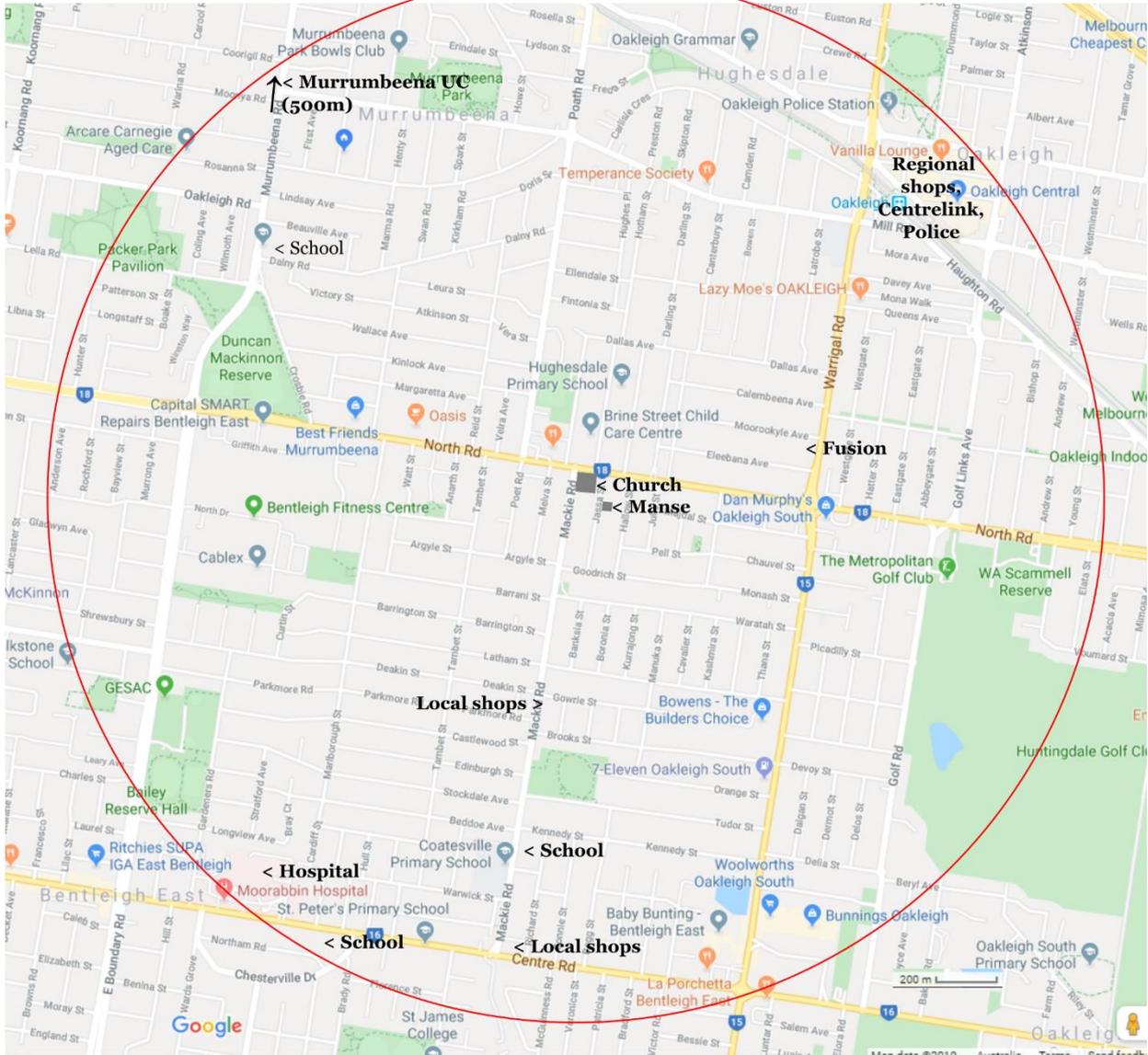
### **3.4 List ways in which you connect with, serve, or partner with people in your wider community?**

- Community Care – financial & food aid and referrals on Friday mornings, staffed by the congregation.
- Two playgroups. We employ the leader, and the program is linked to Playgroups Victoria.
- Craft Group – led by Coatesville but predominantly community membership.
- Events:
  - Christmas in the Carpark (which involves the Coatesville Primary School choir)
  - Carols service
  - Fete
  - Frontier Services Concert
  - Games Nights
- We provide a bursary for needy students at Coatesville Primary School,
- Community and other groups using our facilities
- Fusion – South East Melbourne (4 of our congregation volunteer in their youth and community work programs or support their work in other ways.)
- See also <http://www.greatplacetobelong.org.au/minister/> for additional information. Password is JNC2019

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

While the four postcodes host a broad range of services, the following list focuses specifically on a 2km radius of the church.

- Coatesville Primary School – since no longer able to provide RE we are making a conscious effort to continue engaging strongly with the school and provide a bursary for needy students
- Hughesdale Primary School – very little current contact, but substantial opportunity.
- Two Catholic Schools – St Patrick's (Murrumbeena) and St Peter's (East Bentleigh)
- Fusion – South East Melbourne (youth and community work) Hughesdale.
- Centrelink Oakleigh (regional shopping centre)
- Monash Health – Moorabbin Hospital (East Bentleigh)



← Murrumbeena UC (500m)

← School

Church  
← Manse

Local shops

← Hospital

← School

← Local shops

Regional shops,  
Centrelink,  
Police

← Fusion

Dan Murphy's  
Oakleigh South

The Metropolitan  
Golf Club

Woolworths  
Oakleigh South

Bunnings  
Oakleigh

Oakleigh South  
Primary School

200 m

Google

Oakleigh