

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT
ENGAGEMENT
SUMMIT

3 | INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

A CASE STUDY

EVA ING

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
AUSTRALIA / 25-27 MAY 2018



Why Institutional Partnerships?



“In fact, young people are by and large not to be found in churches, but they are in schools. The opportunity therefore in Christian schools, which have the freedom to advocate a faith position, is both immense and strategic.” John Collier (2014)

GSC - CONTEXT

- **Churches** – nearly 10,000 members in 93 congregations, multicultural ~ 25 language groups
- **Schools** – 2,400 students in 6 schools
- Recently in dire financial situation, but in the last 5 years, we've turned around our schools, all solvent, and operating well
- Ratio of Adventist to non-Adventist – 40%
- Huge mission field $2400 * 4 = 9,600$ (potentially double our membership)
- 6.8 Chaplains = 10 people, 7 are part time, also having church responsibilities
- All 6 schools have either a church next door, or have churches worshipping in their halls.

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Chaplain Survey

- High level of Job Satisfaction 4.5/5
- All extremely busy – staff worship, chapels, class visits, mentoring, bible studies, WoSE, home visits
- Challenges – under-resourced, managing expectations, timetable, language barriers
- Engagement with local church – varied, some wanting to build connection, many don't. “Scale of 1 to 10, 1”



Landry Patii
Associate Chaplain

Wahroonga Adventist
College



Marcus Pereira
Chaplain

Mountain View Adventist
College



Iorangi Eiao
Chaplain

Macarthur Adventist
College



Abigail Figueroa
Chaplain

Macarthur Adventist
College



Ian Cangy
Chaplain

Hills Adventist College
Kellyville



So What is Happening?

- **Conference**

- 3% of tithe goes to schools, plus 9 offerings a year (one specifically for School Evangelism)
- Evangelism grants for schools (upto \$7,000 per year) – 2016/2017 Road to Bethlehem at MVAC
- First Chaplains Conference last year
- Chaplains part of the ministry team
- Ensuring that many Chaplains have ½ time responsibility with a neighbouring church
- Promoting Youth events at school – eg Summer camps

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A lot more can be done!

- 2019 School Offerings will be for scholarships and school evangelism
- More resourcing for chaplaincy
- School Evangelist, or Chaplains to the chaplains, potentially sharing costs between conferences
- Creating links between School and Youth Depts
- Spiritual Care for our teachers and ancillary staff – focus is mainly on students



So What is happening?

- **Local Churches**

- Pastors meet and greet children at “Kiss and Drop” everyday
- Church has a budget item called School Outreach, and an elder responsible
- Social events every term – Mothers Day Morning Tea, Pancake Breakfast
- “Coffee” Club every Tuesday
- Offering meeting space for free or at low cost
- Mentoring Program - Retirees at Church mentoring Year 4 students
- Vacation Bible School
- Evangelism series

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So What else is happening?

- Church board action plan for outreach and support – standing item at Church board meetings
- Church members doing bible studies with parents
- School Church services and students encouraged to be involved
- Church sponsors awards at speech nights
- Adventurers and Pathfinders
- Friday night school/teen ministry events

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Employment

- In Greater Sydney, so far we've employed 30 new teachers this year. Growth and turnover
- Correspondingly Avondale's teaching intake this year was 56.125 EFTSL
- Our first year teacher's salary is \$71.674 plus 9.5% super, plus benefits
- Shortage of Adventist teaching staff – competition for Avondale graduates from both Adventist and non Adventist employers

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TEACHING

It only takes one teacher...
to shape and grow
future generations.

Teaching is more than a job.
It's a ministry.
A ministry to encourage young people to reach their potential.
A ministry to prepare our future leaders.
A ministry to influence the young lives we connect with.

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Where to from here?

- More intentionality to which churches get to use school facilities
- More accountability from our Youth departments, addressing the question for all youth programs/events, how are we reaching school students, both Adventist and non-Adventist
- AUC Restructure – impact of local church, school and aged care – districts
- More funding for chaplaincy
- Local churches, especially youth, to create new programs, new initiatives for school community engagement

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Questions



1. Why is the relationship between Church and School important?
2. What can you or your Church Youth group do, to engage with your local Adventist School?
3. What are some of the challenges that you might face in engaging with your local Adventist School?
4. How do you surmount those challenges?