

# STREET CHAPLAINS

Caring for you when it matters

Across Western Australia

March 2017 Update



## ***Street Chaplains across Western Australia have a new Administrator***

We had no idea back in August 2008 that our first roster of timid and nervous chaplains on the streets of Northbridge would grow to nine other centres around the State by 2017 and over 200 chaplains! It is still growing too! In this newsletter we will keep you up to date with developments and some stories about the ministry. The Executive is also working hard to manage the retirement of our current State Director. He has been founding director for some ten years and is planning in the future to play a more supportive role and do some writing around the place of chaplaincy in God's plans for our nation. His role has now morphed into two roles, a part-time (paid) Administrator and a new (voluntary) State Director. The Interviewing panel met recently and (blest with good applicants) finally chose Jody Sisley for the role of Administrator. Applications for a State Director will close on the 31<sup>st</sup> March.

### ***Jody Sisley: Administrator, Street Chaplains WA***



Jody has excellent people skills and a strong work ethic. Her Certificate IV in Pastoral Care and a Chaplaincy/Diploma in Ministry (Chaplaincy) have developed and grown her ministry and administrative gifts. She currently trains people within the framework of the ACC Churches in providing pastoral care for others in a range of situations.

Jody will be the focus of Western Urban and Street Chaplain administration, using her own home as a base. She will be the first point of contact for those coming into the ministry and for those already involved. She will also have her finger on all our resources and provide direction for the ministry of

street chaplains across Western Australia. Please pray for Jody as she seeks to get her mind and heart around this growing ministry.

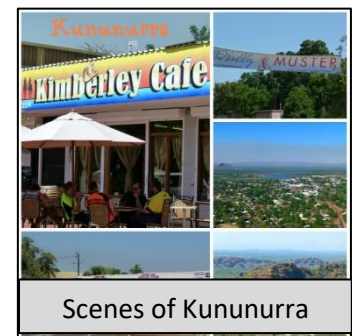
### ***From Kununurra!***

Late last year our training teams planted Street Chaplaincy into Kununurra. Seventeen good Christian people completed the training and began rosters at the beginning of the school holidays.

The Police have obviously been impressed because I wasn't long before they had written up "a success story" within their networks. It means a lot to the Police to have support on the streets. The Police Service carries a huge responsibility and the public has high expectations of them when things go wrong in the public place.

The chaplains in Kununurra have also developed their (closed) Facebook page and use it to encourage and pray for one another.

Recent reports indicate that they are making a significant impact on the social well-being of the town on Friday evenings. We look forward to hearing more good news from this vital group of people. One comment that warmed my heart which reached us recently, was the way the churches in the town had been pulled together in a beautiful way through the ministry with most churches in the town engaged. At the moment, the current Director is



Scenes of Kununurra

relocating back to Queensland with his wife. We value your prayers as this community of Street Chaplains accepts the change and seeks a new director.

## ***Into Karratha!***



The success of getting ministry started in Kununurra has quickly moved through the communication channels of the Police Service. A phone call to our State Director from the Supervisor of Karratha Police is leading towards the churches in that important mining port in the Pilbara being involved.

There's every indication from the Police that the ministry of the Street Chaplains in Karratha will be similar to the Kununurra ministry. Lots of Indigenous youth are on the streets because they feel it's often safer than being at home. It doesn't take much thinking to realise a lot of young people

without much to do, can lead on to significant social issues.

We would value your prayers as we hope soon to present the ministry of Street Chaplains to the Churches in the town.

## ***Daytime street chaplains UPDATE!***

Currently we are finding our Friday lunchtime ministry (from 10am to 4pm) in the heart of Perth city is a vital and busy time of ministry. It is mostly ministry to the homeless. We relate also to the main homeless care centres in the city during the shift.

What has become obvious is the number of rough sleepers who don't interact with the city care centres. Behind that reticence is a fear of being caught up by government processes. So they keep to themselves. Some are small time drug dealers, others are in transit from other places. Most are in need of a listening ear and a bit of care.

Jules Cook is our new Director of Daytime Perth ministries. She looks after the rosters and the growing number of chaplains involved in the rosters and relates to other Service Providers.

Since starting daytime street chaplain rosters, team numbers have grown to a healthy 17 who are supporting the shifts. Women's hygiene issues are very real for the homeless and we've stocked up on hygiene packs to meet the need.

## ***Adding a new direction to the ministry***

On Monday evenings in the Inglewood suburb of Perth there is a very popular street market which draws in hundreds of people. One of the key principals of the market challenged us to place a team of street chaplains into this mix of peoples. We've taken up the opportunity and will run teams over four Monday nights of March and April as a trial.

We don't expect them to be coping with emergency incidents. The plan is to quietly mix with the crowds and offer counsel and care where required.

We would value your prayers for this emerging call to ministry. May God help us to see the best way to be Christian Good Samaritans in that social environment.

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Lastly... our favourite mission statement, attributed to a missionary who a century ago who went into Africa to share the gospel with some needy tribes...

*"Some like to live within the sound of church and chapel bell. I'd rather run a rescue shop within a yard of hell."*