

# STREET CHAPLAINS

Caring for you when it matters

October 2017 Update

Across Western Australia



## Kununurra developing well!

In our newsletter in March this year we mentioned that Kununurra now had Street Chaplain teams on the streets of a Friday evening. This has continued faithfully since then and made a significant change to the social environment in the town. So significant is the change that a major Aboriginal Corporation recently made contact with the Kununurra director and commended the work the chaplains were doing. That's such really good feedback. Their biggest challenge will be the recruitment and training of new chaplains. This far-north Kimberley town suffers from a continuous movement of people resulting from regional employment and social changes. We would value your prayers for Frank, our director as he recruits amongst the churches for this ministry.

## Karratha & Roebourne



The Kununurra story has a sequel. The Police in Karratha and Roebourne heard about the changes in Kununurra and this is what happened: First up our State director, Garth received a phone call one morning from the Executive Officer of the Karratha Police. The officer was seeking the start-up of street chaplains in his Pilbara town. Garth's reaction was positive and he proposed to contact the Pastors' Association in the town to gauge their interest in supporting the project. Then, a most strange thing happened. It began later in the day when he received another phone call. This time from the OIC of the Roebourne Police. She also was asking if the churches would consider starting street chaplaincy in the town as the social dysfunction there was high. Garth asked her if she had been talking to the Karratha Police about the same problem. "Not at all", she replied! Garth then asked how far was it from Roebourne to Karratha? "Only about 25 minutes" she said. "Wow," Garth thought, "the angels are busy in these two Pilbara towns today!"

We subsequently did a presentation in a number of the Karratha churches and following that the Karratha City Council offered to pay all travel and accommodation costs for two teams of trainers to come in and prepare God's people for this ministry. Over twenty people from the churches have completed the training and anticipate beginning their ministry this month.

The sole church (a fine Aboriginal church) in Roebourne has also flagged the desire for its members to do the training and this is continuing. We were blest to have the Police initiate this development and have their support in the training of the new chaplains. Please pray for the new Karratha chaplains that they can find the right time and method for serving in the town. Please pray for the Aboriginal church people of Roebourne that their interest in the training can come to fruition and a valuable ministry to Roebourne can begin.

## Heaps of good developments...

**State Directors get-together:** There are now ten centres across the State with directors and chaplains active in bringing peace and care to their communities. All ten directors came together in the Chittering Valley for a week of reflection and discussion in August. It was such a good time of worship, learning and responding to local and State issues for the chaplains.



**Record number do training in Perth:** Our Fastrak training team were so surprised and pleased that at the first



night of the August training sessions, thirty six people turned up to begin the journey. They have now finished the course and adding to the three metro areas where we are working. It was quite a big step to handle this record group, but such a delight. With the rise in numbers seeking to train, we have developed a training team under a competent director to handle this and future Fastrak courses in the metro area.

**A really good news story:** Last weekend one of our teams in Perth were approached by a man who had recently become a Christian. This is the comment of the team leader of the conversation...

*..... Last night at Northbridge a guy and his girlfriend approached me to thank Freo chaplains for helping him. He got thru a suicide attempt and is now discovering Jesus. He gives full credit to Freo Chaplains. I told him he is a miracle made in the image of God. He thanked me a lot. Big smile from him. Please pass this to Freo guys ..... This is such a good reason why we are on the streets!*

**A valuable Associate:** At the AGM in September, the Executive affirmed Dee Stepanoski as Associate State Director. She had been capably serving in the role since April and brings to the ministry significant skills in people care and on the street ministry. You can see Dee as the fourth person on the front row of both pictures on this page. She recently launched the Rockingham ministry while its director was overseas. Her love of people means that she is constantly in touch with chaplains who may have had a difficult roster or who are working through personal issues.

Planning is well under way for 2018 with the first Fastrak training in metro Perth preparing to start on 12<sup>th</sup> February with an Info Night and the course underway the following Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

Contact us at any time through our website: [www.streetchaplain.com](http://www.streetchaplain.com)

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