

2009  
Community Needs Assessment



**Kalamunda Church of Christ**  
"Community on the Rise"

September 2009

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Attachment A - Shire of Kalamunda Consultation Documents

Attachment B - Draft Community Strategic Planning Report

Attachment C - Investing in Early Years Strategy

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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### **Purpose of the Community Needs Assessment**

The purpose of this community needs assessment project was designed to gather information to guide Kalamunda Church of Christ in carrying out its Vision - "Community on the Rise - "Kalamunda Church of Christ is an "irresistible" Christian Community where people become fully devoted Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ."

The study had two primary objectives;

1. Determine the social issues confronting the Hills community?
2. Determine whether the church could effectively help to meet those needs by constructing a new facility?

### **Methodology**

- Information was gathered through targeted interviews
- Demographics analysis of the 2006 ABS Census
- Desktop research of community consultations carried out by the Shire of Kalamunda

### **Needs Assessment Findings**

There were five groups that were identified through an analysis of the community data and community needs interviews. In no particular order the groups are;

- Older people
- People with a disability
- Youth
- Families and young children
- People experiencing mental health and/or isolation issues

### **General Conclusion**

There were a number of contradictions in the communities perception of what really is 'going on out there'. A case in point was the perception that crime rates in the hills had increased, when the crime rate is actually significantly down on the same time last year. The community's perception that Homelessness had come to the 'hills' was another perception that did not stand up under the scrutiny, with no findings of significance from the local police force. This tendency to mix perception with reality may be impacted in part by media or visible incidents of anti social behaviour, such as graffiti, which are very visual and have an affect on people's sense of feeling safe within their community.

The community is ready for programs, services or activities that engage their youth in meaningful ways.

The feedback from the interview process was both positive and supportive; KCOC was acknowledged as an active participant in community and held in high regard. While there was general interest and support for the construction of this facility its sustainability and financial viability will need to be qualified through a financial feasibility study and formal community consultation.

In conjunction with the interview process to identify potential uses for the new facility, a desktop audit was also conducted to identify local venues and their capacity and suitability. This audit was carried out to assist in establishing need for the construction of a purpose built facility.

There was definite support from the community needs interviews for the construction of a purpose built facility, for the purpose of delivering services, programs and activities that benefit the wider community, particularly young people. Support for the construction of this facility will need to be qualified through a financial feasibility study and formal community consultation.

Funding is available for a project of this type both Federally, State, however, the application of these funds requires a great deal of time and effort and in some cases may be restrictive in the use of the building.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

In August 2009, Kalamunda Church of Christ (KCOC) appointed a consultant to assist in undertaking a Community Needs Assessment – A study of the suburbs of Bickley, Carmel, Gooseberry Hill, Kalamunda, Lesmurdie, Pickering Brook, Walliston, within the Shire of Kalamunda.

The key objectives of the assessment are as follows;

- To identify key social issues and needs, key target groups.
- To identify internal church capacity to effectively address specific identified needs.
- To identify opportunities for funding.

Key elements of the Community Needs Assessment Study are as follows;

1. Interviewing service providers, ie schools, disability services commission, Youth Action Kalamunda ect. – Asking three specific questions;
  - What are the current social issues facing our community?
  - What do you think the solutions are?
  - If the KCOC was to construct a building to deliver services to the community what/who would you envisage using the centre?
2. Interviewing elected local government officials.
3. Reviewing demographic data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.
4. Reviewing consultations carried out by the Shire of Kalamunda (**Attachment A**)
  - 2008 Planning Services Workshop
  - Youth Action Plan
  - Seniors Action Plan
  - 2009 – 2014 Strategic Plan
  - Disability Access & Inclusion Plan
  - Aged Care Strategy

The assessment was identified as a priority strategy for facilitating the KCOC goal of reaching out to the wider community, which reflects the Church's Vision ... "Kalamunda Church of Christ is an "irresistible" Christian Community where people become fully devoted Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ".

The assessment will provide a research based planning tool for KCOC, through a collaborative and consultative approach.

A Steering Committee has been established to oversee and guide the development of the process, comprising a multi-disciplinary team of Church members.

### 3. POPULATION PROFILE

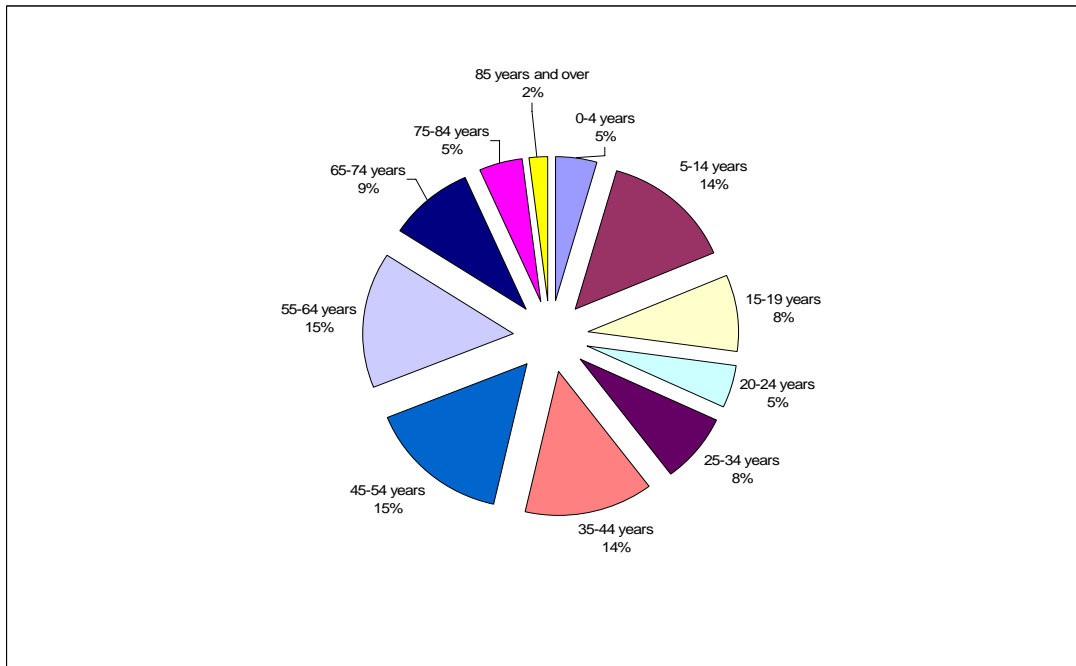
#### 3.1 Demographics and Socio-economic demographic

The 2006 census recorded 20,322 persons 51% female and 49% males. Populations recorded in the suburbs as follows;

Location	Population	% of Population
Bickley	411	2
Carmel	435	2
Gooseberry Hill	3210	16
Kalamunda	6836	34
Lesmurdie	7955	38
Pickering Brook	737	4
Walliston	738	4

#### 3.2 Age Structure

The area has an ageing population similar to the trends elsewhere in Western Australia, and nationally. The median age was 40.5 which is higher than the Western Australian median age of 36.2.



- 31% of the population is 55 and over
- The largest age groups are the 45-54 age group (15%) and 55-64 age group (15%)
- Closely followed by 5-14 age group at (14%) and 35-45 age group at (14%)
- The largest representation of youth 5-14 years of age (40%) resided in the suburb of Lesmurdie, followed closely by Kalamunda with 32%

### 3.3 Family Composition

- 79% of the population is made up of couples with families
- 16% of the population is a single parent family, with Walliston representing the greatest number of single parent families
- The highest number of couples with family was in the Lesmurdie suburb
- The highest number of couples without children was Gooseberry Hill
- Kalamunda has the highest number of population living alone on 43% (566) followed closely by Lesmurdie

### 3.4 Cultural Diversity

- 70% of the population were born in Australia
- 19% immigrated from the United Kingdom
- The remaining 11% are predominately Italian or New Zealanders, with smaller representation from Germany, India, Ireland, Malaysia, Netherlands, USA and South Africa

### 3.5 Industry of Employment

Industry of Employment	Population	%
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	203	2
Mining	402	4
Manufacturing	863	9
Electricity, gas, water & waste services	105	1
Construction	819	8
Wholesale trade	457	5
Retail trade	1,147	12
Accommodation & food services	441	4
Transport, postal & warehousing	492	5
Information media & telecommunications	123	1
Financial & insurance services	260	3
Rental, hiring & real estate services	193	2
Professional, scientific & technical services	803	8
Administrative & support services	294	3
Public administration & safety	686	7
Education & training	1,050	11
Health care & social assistance	984	10
Arts & recreation services	124	1
Other services	474	5

- The Retail industry was the highest employer of the hills population at 12%, followed closely by Education and Training 11% and Health Care and Social Assistance at 10%

### 3.6 Household Income

<b>Suburb</b>	<b>Median Family Weekly Income</b>
Bickley	\$1,614.00
Carmel	\$1,445.00
Gooseberry Hill	\$1,695.00
Kalamunda	\$1,299.00
Lesmurdie	\$1,430.00
Pickering Brook	\$1,314.00
Walliston	\$1,069.00

- The largest gap between incomes is between Gooseberry Hill (with the largest population of couples with out children) and Walliston (which has the highest population of single parent families)

## 4. IDENTIFIED GROUPS AND SOCIAL ISSUES

Groups and social Issues have been identified through an analysis of the community data and the community needs interviews. The groups are as follows;

- Older people
- People with a disability
- Youth
- Families and young children
- People experiencing mental health and/or isolation issues

### 4.1 Older People

At the time of the 2006 Census 31% of the hills population was over the age of 55.

Most people within the 55+ age range are in the 55-64 age group (49%), followed by 65-74 age group (29%) and the 75+ (22%).

Issues/Needs that were identified through the interview process are;

- Need for Respite care – there is a lack of facilities for short term 4 bedroom housing units
- Increasing trends of people in their 70's filing for bankruptcies – due to little or no super they are in large credit card debit
- Growing trend to have grandparents to be child care providers to their grandchildren, therefore diminishing community volunteer numbers
- Need a variety of retirement accommodation options within the SOK

#### *Support for Older People*

Of major concern for the over 55's was the access to suitable services and accommodation options within the area. This has been reflected in the Shire of Kalamunda's Strategic Plan 2009-2014 – Goal 1: Community Development – A strong sense of community;

Outcome 1.1.1	Improve the choice in housing for the aged by providing a range of smaller homes and unit dwellings whilst maintaining a balanced supply of housing stock to meet demand over time.
Outcome 1.1.2	Achieve the required level of high and low residential care places in the appropriate locations to meet current and future demand by collaborating with residential care providers.
Outcome 1.1.3	Expand home support and community care services so that remaining at home as independently as possible is a realistic option for most aged and disabled.

The concern over accommodation for Older People was also reflected in the feedback gathered from the Community Visions Workshops conducted by the Shire of Kalamunda.

## 4.2 People with a Disability

It is estimated that there are around 9,150 people with disabilities living within the Shire, which is approximately 19% of the permanent population. The ageing population within the area will need to be considered as 50% of people surveyed through the ABS over the age of 60 identified themselves as having a disability.

Issues/Needs that were identified through interviews are as follows;

- Need sporting activities for kids who may not be able to participate in main stream sport
- Lift public awareness of Disabilities services/programs (ie Storytelling for people with disabilities)
- Need greater participation of people with disabilities in programs such as 'Art in the Park'.
- Teenagers with disabilities need to be able to be included in generic activities and services (ie. Out of school care).
- We need to be providing additional resources to enable anyone with a disability to be included in community.

### *Support for People with a Disability*

The Shire of Kalamunda has conducted consultation and has provided the following overarching strategies in the Shires – Disability Access and Inclusion Plan – 2007-2012

- Outcome 1: People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of, and any events organized by the Shire of Kalamunda.
- Outcome 2: People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the buildings and other facilities of the Shire of Kalamunda.
- Outcome 3: People with disabilities receive information from a public authority in a format that will enable them to access the information as readily as other people are able to access it.
- Outcome 4: People with disabilities receive the same level and quality of service from the staff of the Shire of Kalamunda as other people receive from the staff of the Shire of Kalamunda.
- Outcome 5: People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to make complaints to the Shire of Kalamunda.
- Outcome 6: People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to participate in public consultation by the Shire of Kalamunda.

Whilst most of the outcomes are focused on the Shires performance, these outcomes show a commitment to providing service and consideration to people with disabilities that the Shire would like to see reflected in the general community, including business and service organisations.

There are currently three Disability Service Commission - Local Area Coordinators working within the Shire of Kalamunda, providing assistance to families and individuals and they are encouraging of any organization that is looking to provide services that assist people with disabilities to be included in main stream community.

### 4.3 Youth

At the time of the 2006 Census 37% of the population within the area of interest were considered youth 0-24 years of age. The largest percentage of this age group resides within the suburb of Lesmurdie.

Issues/Needs that were identified through interview process are;

- Increase in Under age drinking and drug taking
- Suicide
- Antisocial behaviour on Stirk Park (drinking, vandalism, drug dealing)
- No Medium term or Crisis accommodation
- No certified training opportunities within the Shire
- No job opportunities, most businesses in the area are small home based businesses.
- Drug use has increased in youth population
- Lack of solid non aggressive male role models
- Bullying
- Increase in alcohol fueled antisocial behaviour
- Need activities for youth between the years of 14-16 predominately males
- The community need a solution to tagging and graffiti (possible school based education programs)
- Need youth programs that create a sense of belonging and camaraderie, teaching community rules. Programs that create connections without commitment. Programs that help youth create a sense of ownership. Programs/Project that were multifaceted with a promise of long term success for the community

The predominant focus of current youth focal points within the Shire of Kalamunda is recreation, incorporating formal sporting activities, skating, bmx and, to a lesser extent, performing arts. Such a focus is relatively narrow and caters for small pockets of youth populations, often predominately male and between 12 and 16 years of age. The broader category of "young people" being between 12 and 24 years of age would highlight vast differences in interests relating to specific age groups, which could be catered for.

#### ***Support for Youth***

It has been sometime since youth have had the opportunity to be heard in a formal survey. The last youth survey carried out was in 1999 and was directed at adults asking for their Perceptions of Young People. The Shire has identified the need for a Youth Survey in the 'Youth Action Plan', and have noted that it would be preferable if it was driven by youth, who are currently undergoing the 'Community Service Program' through the local high schools. The Shire has identified needs within the youth and has responded with the 'Youth Action Plan' which was recently revised in September 2008 (**Attachment A**). Please see below a snap shot of the Shires objectives;

1. COORDINATION - To facilitate a coordinated approach to identifying and meeting the needs of young people by working with other government, community and private sector agencies to ensure the efficient use of resources
2. YOUTH ACTIVITIES - To support and encourage the provision of a diverse range of structured, unstructured and casual leisure and entertainment options that are low cost and accessible to young people.
3. INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION - To support and encourage preventive and early intervention programs which focus on the priority needs and issues of young people while achieving sustainable and long term solutions.
4. INFORMATION - To raise the awareness amongst young people about the role of the Council and the services, facilities and resources available

5. PARTICIPATION - To ensure the participation and involvement of young people, as valued members of the community in Council decisions which affect their lives.
6. PUBLIC SPACES - To foster communication and understanding between young people, business people and residents to ensure young people are encouraged to use safe and accessible public spaces.
7. POSITIVE IMAGES - To support and promote positive promotional activities that counter negative stereotypes about young people, promoting young people and their value and achievements.
8. EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION -To maximise opportunities for young people to participate in employment, education and training.
9. TRANSPORT -To promote safe, affordable and convenient transport options within the Shire and the region.
10. RESPONSIBLE PARENTS - To support and promote the primary responsibility parents have in providing safe, caring and supportive environments for their children, while encouraging parents to maintain this responsibility in a positive manner.

Support for youth facilities and activities was also noted in the Community Vision Workshop held throughout the wards by the Shire of Kalamunda. Youth activities were a common social concern for the majority of suburbs within the hills area.

#### 4.4 Families and Young Children

79% of couples residing in the hills area have families; this figure includes all ages from 0-18 years of age. The 2006 census recorded 3,792 persons aged 0-15years living in the hills suburbs of the Shire of Kalamunda, with this age group representing 19% of the total population for the area. Based upon a continuing national upward trend in the birth rate of up to 7% per annum it is reasonable to expect the hills birth rate will follow suit.

The 2006 Census also identified that 4,785 (82%) of the unpaid child care was taken care of by the 15-54years age group, with 1,081 or 18% of over 55's providing unpaid child care.

Needs that were identified through the interview process are;

- More programs that support parents and children in the 0-8year age group
- Need a 3year old Kindy
- Supported Structured Playgroup
- Women's Health Services (potential outreach from Midland Women's Health Service)
- Counseling – Post Natal Depression
- Parenting Support Advice and Programs ( ie. Rhymetime, 123 Magic)
- 8-12 year old programs (tweenies)
- Establishing an Early Childhood/Family Centre in Kalamunda
- Playground installation and upgrade
- Need for local Occasional Care services
- Improving the facility and services provided by the Kalamunda Child Health Clinic
- Improving local accessibility to Parenting Programs and Support
- Creating Events and Festivals that are more child/family orientated and family friendly
- Creating a Family Friendly Community
- More support for flyin/flyout families to get involved with their community
- Improved availability and support of/for Playgroups

#### ***Support for Families and Young Children***

The Shire of Kalamunda's Strategic plan has identified several of the expressed issues and they are supported in the following outcomes;

- Outcome 1.6.6            Ensure adequate child care facilities operate in the Shire.
- Outcome 1.6.7            Support and encourage delivery of programs for families and parents experiencing difficulties in the Shire.

Families and young children have quietly fallen into the gap between youth and seniors and have not been formally represented in the same way as these two groups. Both Seniors and Youth have specific action plans and staff resources to support the implement programs and activities. It has only been in recent months that the subject of representation for families has been addressed with the newly established Kalamunda Kids - Early Childhood Community Action Working Group. This group has recently compiled a report addressing the development of community strategies for improving services and facilities with Children under 5. **(Attachment B – Draft Community Strategic Planning Report)**

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) have recognized the importance of the Early Years of a Child's life and have recently released a new strategy 'Investing in the Early Years – A National Early Childhood Development Strategy'. Recognition at this level will have flow on funding opportunities for organizations that are positioned to take advantage of initiatives as the federal and state government releases them. **(Attachment C – Investing in the Early Years – A National Early Childhood Development Strategy)**

#### 4.5 People experiencing Mental Health and/or Isolation Issues

Mental health problems and disorders occur when an individual is not able to negotiate the daily challenges and social interactions of life without undue emotional or behavioural incapacity.

'Mental Illness' is a term describing a diverse range of behavioural and psychological conditions. The most common illnesses are anxiety, depression and alcohol dependence disorders, with approximately 18% of the Australian adult population experiencing symptoms within a 12 month period (Federal Department of Ageing – **National Mental Health Report 2007**). The findings from National Mental Health Report 2007 highlight that mental health issues have reached into the fabric of Australian society and for many of us into our own families. Approximately one in five adults will experience a mental illness in any given year and about one in seven children and adolescents will experience behavioural or emotional problems over a six month period.

- Mental Health – Need low cost housing with supported care.
- Counseling services - it is too expensive for people on a disability pension to access main stream counseling, there are issues of self medication, it would be good to have a regular drop in centre for people experiencing mental health issues that is safe and supportive.
- Welfare programs, checking in with people so that there is an early warning if people are getting off track. There is a sub culture of substance abuse. We need organizations like GROW or ARAFMI or other counseling support services.
- Need services for Indigenous people – There is a growing population. We need social services, marriage and parental counseling, financial planning, drug and alcohol counseling. This group is experiencing long term, generational unemployment.
- Homelessness – There is a need for low cost housing. There are a number of homeless in the area. (evidence of this statement was not supported by the local police)
- Need more mental health support groups
- Lack of accommodation for women transitioning out of a relationship (sometimes involving domestic violence)
- Assisting people through life transitions, and help to end the isolation that people feel when they are going through these transitions.
  - Work to retirement
  - Married to Unmarried
  - Teenagers to Adult

Although Homelessness rates in Western Australia increasing there is no evidence that homeless exists with the Shire of Kalamunda. Senior Sergeant Ray Briggs advised that people may however be temporarily homelessness as a result of domestic violence, family disputes or marital separation. In these cases the police refer individuals to Crisis Care.

#### ***Support for People experiencing Mental Health and/or Isolation Issues***

This particular group of people are not identified in any local government planning documentation, they may in part fall into other categories, ie youth, seniors or disabilities. The interview carried out with a local psychologist practice, identified that since the introduction of counseling onto the medicare system the practice had not been able to keep up with demand. The practice had to on a weekly basis refer potential clients to colleagues in surround shires, as the waiting time for clients to access this practice is 2 – 3 months. The increase in people accessing counseling services is not due to more of the population experiencing difficulty but rather the financial opportunity, through the medicare process to seek help.

## 5. KCOC COMMUNITY CENTRE VISION – THE NEW FACILITY

KCOC – Community of the Rise 2006 – 2011 has proposed the construction of a new purpose built facility to accommodate the following activities;

- Church Administration Offices
- Youth and Children's Ministry
- Professional Seminar Rooms
- Counseling Offices
- Coffee Shop/catering area

It was envisaged that;

- The new facility would replace the existing Function Centre
- The new facility would provide shared accommodation for the;
  - Youth and Children's Ministries,
  - Church administration Centre
  - Community Centre functions
- The new facility will take advantage of the position incorporating a split level design which achieves prominence on Canning Road and takes advantage of the view and fall of the property
- Professional seminar rooms will be made available for business seminars, both to the community and other groups needing such venues
- The new facility would accommodate a café or coffee shop

In conjunction with the interview process to identify potential uses for the new facility, a desktop audit was also conducted to identify local venues and their capacity and suitability. This audit was carried out assist in establishing need for the construction of a purpose built facility.

## 6. VENUE AUDIT

### Shire of Kalamunda Facilities for Hire within the Hills Area

A scan for facilities provided by the Shire of Kalamunda for community use, identified the buildings in the below table. All buildings are well used by the community and several Halls have permanent bookings for playgroups and child centered activities. The majority of the buildings are in excess of 30 years old with the exception of the Kalamunda Performing Arts Centre, which is limited in its booking availability. While the age of the buildings may not be an issue the suitability of them is, most of the facilities provide large open spaces, which would be suitable for some events, however do not meet contemporary expectations or standards for business seminars, events or conventions. Photos and floor plans for facilities can be found in **(Attachment D – Shire of Kalamunda Venues)**.

## 7. SUMMARY- BUILDING USE

The overall concept of building a new facility for the purpose of serving community was supported by all the interviewees including elected members. During the interview process people were asked 'If KCOC were to construct a building to deliver services to the community what/who would be envisaged using the centre?'.

Suggestions for potential uses were;

- Community Child Health Nurse needs a new premises as the one they are currently in is too small to run all the programs they would like to
- Music/Teenage programs
- Seminar rooms, functions, conventions and events (large seating capacity)
- Social support programs
- Parent Help Services
- Hot desks for Centerlink, Homeswest and other government agencies
- Mental Health Services
- Psychology Clinic
- Drop in Centre
- Womens/Mens Health Services
- Training rooms, with data projectors already installed to make the venue more attractive to trainers and organizations
- Hot desk for financially counseling services
- Seminar rooms for teachers professional development for the Canning Education District
- Youth facilities
- School events (as you can not always have access to the performing arts centre)
- It would be good to see a similar project to the men's shed for the youth (a place where they could hang out, table tennis, pool tables, activities and an outside area where they could talk in a garden environment. Have staff and volunteers on hand to mentor or just quietly monitor activity – no pressure. To cater for youth up to 17-18 years of age. Building and programs offered would need to be non denominational/no religion to be attractive to the wider youth community. Provide opportunities for informal participation – no commitment. If the building was closer to the middle of town to help create belonging – a sense of belonging to community.
- Parenting programs for people that have been identified as a family in risk by Department of Child Protection

There was definite support from the community needs interviews for the construction of a purpose built facility, for the purpose of delivering services, programs and activities that benefit the wider community, particularly young people. Support for the construction of this facility will need to be qualified through a financial feasibility study and formal community consultation.

## 8. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### **Building Funding**

In the event of KCOC moving forward with plans to construct a purpose built facility, a funding matrix has been compiled of likely funding sources (**Attachment E – Funding Matrix**). If the plans for the building move forward it is advisable that a delegation meet with Federal Member for Hasluck, Sharryn Jackson and the State Member Mr John Day. These meetings will assist the Church in accessing up to date briefings on funds available and from which departments. As illustrated with the Kevin Rudd Infrastructure Stimulus Package there are opportunities that do not present themselves in the normal predictable funding rounds.

### **Programs & Activities**

Funding for the delivery of programs and activities is also available on an ongoing basis and this information has been added the funding matrix. Funding is available for programs and activities for all identified groups. The church will need to develop program that fits within individual funding criteria of each funding body.

## 9. FINAL SUMMARY

### Community Needs Assessment

The overall consensus of the interviews was that the hills area was 'doing pretty well' in comparison to some areas of Perth, however the hills are not immune to the trends in society and while the issues may be considered smaller in number they are none the less present. While the hills residents were considered a resourceful group of people with the means to source solutions to their issues, there are still the vulnerable within our community that through disability, youth, or illness are unable to have their voice heard or source solutions to their issues and it is up to community as a whole to ensure that their needs are met.

The identified groups of older people, people with a disability, youth, families and young children, and people experiencing mental health and/or isolation issues are groups that from time to time experience difficulties and require assistance outside of the normal family support networks.

Social needs that present areas of opportunity for KCOC are;

- Support programs for grandparents who are providing child care
- Counseling Services (Depression, Anxiety and Post Natal Depression)
- Youth Services and Activities
- Transition counseling or programs
  - Work to retirement
  - Married to Unmarried
  - Teenagers to Adult
- 8-12 year old programs (with the opportunity to include children with disabilities)
- Parenting Support Advice and Programs ( ie. Rhymetime, 123 Magic)
- Provide venue and support for outreach programs (ie Midland Women's Health Care Place)

### New Facility

The feedback from the interview process was both positive and supportive; KCOC was acknowledged as an active participant in community and held in high regard. Support for the construction of this facility will need to be qualified through a financial feasibility study and formal community consultation.

Issues to consider;

- Financial feasibility
- Program/Service delivery
- Can services, programs or activities be delivered from current site in the meantime to demonstrate need
- Council zoning/re zoning
- Funding sources and restriction of usage