

Main Activities 2020

Accommodation for People with Mental Illness in the Loddon Mallee Region

Possible outcomes from the Group's Discussion Paper "The Need for Accommodation for People with Mental Illness in the Loddon Mallee Region" were discussed with Haven Home Safe, the Presbytery Administration Officer and a representative of the Weeroona Combined Congregation.

City of Greater Bendigo's "Affordable Housing & Living Strategy" Discussion Paper

Following the release of the Discussion Paper for public consultation the Group made contributions to its later development into a Draft Action Plan.

Australia's First Peoples

*Attempts to increase participation by Bendigo UC's in the Annual NAIDOC Indigenous Flag Raising/Celebrations continued.

*Negotiations commenced to make changes to the location and method of attachment of the existing Indigenous Flag pole at St Andrews UC.

Meetings with local State Parliament Representatives

Meetings were held with the Members for Bendigo West and Bendigo East seeking their support for the Group initiated letters to State Government Ministers on a variety of social justice issues.

Social Justice Group Letterhead

A new design for the Group's letterhead was negotiated with the Bendigo Central Cluster Council.

Asylum Seeker Banners

The program of rotating the Asylum Seeker Banners across the Bendigo UC Clusters and the Weeroona Combined Congregation continued.

Letters to Members of Parliament & Advisory Bodies

*Federal Minister for Families & Social Security re need to raise the Newstart Allowance

*Two letters to Federal Member for Bendigo encouraging her support for the Federal Member for Warringah (Zali Steggall) Private Member's Climate Change Bill

*State Treasurer and Minister for Planning re funding for remediation work and rezoning of the former Golden Square Secondary College site for the provision of social housing

*Attorneys-General, Victoria and Tasmania supporting raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 years.

*The Independent Panel reviewing the City of Greater Bendigo's Proposed Amendment for zoning of the former Bendigo Teachers' College at Flora Hill seeking mixed development including provision of accommodation for disadvantaged people.

Discussions with Loddon Mallee Presbytery Ministers

Supportive discussions were held with Rev's Rose Broadstock & Gordon Wild regarding forming partnerships with other Presbytery UC's/ individuals who have a commitment to social justice.

Possibilities existed in Mildura and Swan Hill.

Wider distribution of the "Quarterly Insert" was also canvassed.

Synod's Justice & International Mission (JIM) Cluster

Each year the JIM Cluster seeks advice from interested parties on the priority it should attach to its various work areas.

The Group is considering how its response could be broadened.

Quarterly Insert

The "Quarterly Insert" for inclusion within "Uniting Matters" was distributed on two occasions.

On these occasions it was also distributed within the ELM, Bendigo South UC Clusters and the Weeroona Combined Congregation.