



Annual Report

2020



Respect • Compassion • Service

ESTABLISHED IN WA, FOR WA COMMUNITIES



Photo taken by
Area Chaplain,
Raelene Forsyth

What our schools are saying about their YouthCARE Chaplain...

"Around COVID, our chaplain has absolutely continued to serve our school with excellence. Part of our student population and families have had to re-engage back into school and this has resulted in a number of different issues and concerns that makes this process challenging in different ways. Some of these include a few new enrolments that have been a little challenging and require additional support. Each case is different but Jody has been available for all of them and willing to be the additional hand/strategy that we need throughout this time."

Principal, Nollamara Primary School



"I just wanted to share with you an example of what Paul is doing to assist us and our community. Paul chooses his advice with the utmost care and in a timely manner. We are fortunate to have Paul on our team in these very uncertain times. Paul and our partnership with YouthCARE has never been stronger. Our team has never been stronger."

Principal, Dianella Heights Primary School

"Joyce is extremely professional in the way she operates in our school. She dealt with delicate situations during the COVID period with integrity and openness. She provided a range of resources during COVID to support both the students and the wider community which she initiated."

Principal, Booragoon Primary School



"She is always available and willing to meet/speak with families and offer suggestions of outside services that may be of assistance."

Principal, Churchlands Primary School

Chair Report

GLENN BERGSMA

Chair Report



I would like to start by thanking the YouthCARE Board, CEO and Senior Management Team for their support as I have accustomed myself with the new role as Chairman in 2020. This appointment is a gift and privilege afforded to me by the member churches, for which I thank them.

Although I continue to hold leadership and governance roles in other settings, my affinity for YouthCARE is enduring, given my previous connection with the organisation. It's like coming home! I hope that my experience as a former YouthCARE chaplain and my insights from other working environments, will be helpful to my fellow board members and management as we seek to serve God faithfully in our roles.

Given the pandemic, we have had to do some things differently to ensure the continuation of service. We held our first ever electronic 'Zoom' AGM followed by a number of 'Zoom' board and other committee meetings. Despite many external challenges, YouthCARE continued to grow.

Individual church engagements, partnerships with government institutions, businesses, individuals and schools - assisted us to meet the growing requests for YouthCARE services. We now have the highest number of staff serving at YouthCARE with a record number of schools being offered our services.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Stanley and the rest of the YouthCARE leadership and staff for their commitment and hard work over the last year. We would not be where we are today without your faithful service.

As the year ended, my colleagues on the board and I had an emerging sense that YouthCARE is on the cusp of an imminent and significant growth trend. Please hold us in your prayers as we work with our CEO and his team to meet the opportunities of a new kind of future with the ever-evolving global scenario.

To begin 2020 we encouraged all involved with YouthCARE to pursue “peacemaking” as expressed in the Beatitudes as our working theme. With growing polarizing views on all manner of topics being expressed in unkind ways within society, we saw an opportunity to bring people together. However, it wasn’t long before we realised that we had to do a different kind of “peacemaking” with the impact of COVID-19.

With schools remaining open, our organisation continued to support students, families and school staff through this very difficult period. Our chaplains pursued the commitment they gave to God to stay with school communities during both the good AND challenging times. Many of our chaplains undertook tasks and delivered services in creative ways in response to the situation and the needs; often, they were a calming presence in what was a trying period.

Our Christian Values Education (CVE) program and other organisational services were suspended for a good part of the year, but our hope is that we will be able to return to full operational duties in 2021.

In order to maintain our services, we had to continually adapt and learn new ways of working and supporting communities throughout WA. We trust that God’s love and care through YouthCARE was available to all.

Despite significant pressures experienced by many of our supporters, they continued to maintain their support of YouthCARE through their prayers, gifts and talents.

I thank our church supporters, board members, volunteers, staff and partner organisations and individuals for staying the course with us as we saw God’s love demonstrated in many unique ways throughout the year.

CEO Report

STANLEY JEYARAJ



CEO Report

COVID-19

YouthCARE's Response to the pandemic

Although our CVE program run by volunteers was suspended during the COVID period, our chaplains continued in their roles throughout the pandemic.

Their roles looked quite different during this time and required them to think creatively and outside the box to maintain the high level of service their schools needed.

While teachers navigated online learning and students were anxious about family situations and parents losing their jobs, our chaplains provided a calming presence in their schools.

Chaplains used this time to provide hampers to families in need, morning tea for staff who needed an extra level of support and fun programs for students to participate in.

They also used their community connections with churches and local businesses to access resources for their school communities.

Many chaplains have commented that although the pandemic was a stressful time for all, it allowed their school communities to come together and lean on each other for support.

We have heard from many principals expressing their gratitude for their chaplain and highlighting the many creative things they did to help their schools.

We are thankful for all our YouthCARE chaplains who stepped up during this time and provided a level of peace in their schools.



Condingup Primary
ran dance breaks
some fun as they
of



Nathan is the
Kardinya Primary
with local ch
hampers to fami
needed s



Primary School Chaplain Jake
talks with staff for fitness and
they navigated a new season
of teaching!

Chaplain Di and students at
North Woodvale Primary
School went around to staff
and teachers taking coffee
orders and preparing hot
drinks for them!



YouthCARE chaplain Diane
read stories online each week
to students at South Thornlie
Primary School! This kept
students engaged and gave
parents at home a break.



the chaplain at Ardross and
Mary Schools and coordinated
churches to provide food
families in the community who
d some extra support.



Chaplain Leon from the Great
Southern area ran a live
interactive music program for
any of his kids who were lonely
at home and wanted to connect.



YouthCARE continued to
commission chaplains into
their roles but it looked a little
different during the pandemic
as we ran training and
commissioning online!

Operational Report

2020 turned into a challenging year as we navigated a 'new normal' for our staff both in central office and in school communities. Our staff quickly adapted to changing school requirements and still consistently provided a high level of pastoral care to their school communities.

We saw an increase in the request for chaplaincy services in 2020. This is a recognition of the critical role YouthCARE chaplains provide to our state schools.

While CVE had to pause, it has started again strong with new school interest and an increase in volunteer applications. The COVID period provided an opportunity for CVE staff to write and pilot an exciting new school program; watch this space!

I want to acknowledge God's kindness as we continued to serve him during a challenging time in 2020.

As I finish up my role in 2020 as Chief Operating Officer, I am grateful for my time here at YouthCARE and the many rich blessings this role has brought with it.

Michael Norman

Chief Operating Officer

CHAPLAINCY

103,615

Formal Student
Conversations

7,732

Formal Staff
Conversations

7,324

Formal Parent
Conversations





286,552

MEALS SERVED
AT BREAKFAST CLUB

14,016

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL
SESSIONS RUN



TOP 4 ISSUES DISCUSSED:

19%

Mental
Health

16%

Family
Relationships

12%

Peer
Relationships

12%

School
Concerns



CHRISTIAN VALUES EDUCATION



150

Volunteers



46

Schools



18

Treasure
Hunters
Programs



28

CRE
Programs

Operations

G.R.I.T.



In 2020, two Central Office staff worked together to write a new resilience program for schools called G.R.I.T. - Growth, Resilience, Integrity, Traction.

The program utilises experiential learning processes and practices, where students participate in a series of challenging activities and tasks followed by debrief and review. The debrief seeks to unpack and apply practical lessons for the students to apply to their everyday life.

Before piloting the program in schools, members from the Department of Education participated in the program, providing great feedback and endorsement.

Training has already commenced for chaplains to run the G.R.I.T. program in their schools!

New Initiatives

In term four, Geoff was doing his rounds, flying his Cessna 172 plane from Mount Magnet to Meekatharra, then on to Yalgoo and Cue, delivering YouthCARE Christian Values Education programs. He had been teaching the students Christmas stories and songs and was travelling around for final assemblies and performances. Geoff was greeted by schools with thank you cards and special thank you presentations for all he had done in the year for them.

Upon arriving at Cue, Geoff had been expecting to see the smallest class he runs CVE with, a total of three students. On his arrival his class had grown to sixteen students and three more staff! The extra students and staff were visiting from a remote Aboriginal community about forty-five minutes flying time north of Yalgoo. After singing Christmas songs with the students and running the lesson, the remote community school principal asked Geoff whether he could add their school to his list of visits for 2021. This will be the first Aboriginal community Geoff visits, not connected to any town, to take up CVE in their school!

CVE by Plane!



Finance Report



Finance

Value
For
Money

Research has found that for every \$1 contributed by governments towards school chaplaincy in WA, YouthCARE value-adds a further 95 cents. This includes, but is not limited to in-kind donations, financial donations, and volunteer time.

YouthCARE values and is thankful for the generous financial and people support it receives from churches, government, business, community groups and individuals.

Board Members

Mr Glenn Bergsma - Chairperson
Rev'd Malcolm Potts
Mr Bernie O'Shea
Rev'd Steve Francis
Rev'd Mark Illingworth
Mr David Shaw
Mrs Li Ai Gamble
Dr Kaaren Watts
Dr Susmita Thomson
Mrs Cassie Kirtisingham
Ms Mildred Rego
Mr Stanley Jeyaraj - Chief Executive Officer

Member Churches

Anglican Church of Australia
Assemblies of Christian Brethren
Australian Christian Churches
Baptist Churches Western Australia
Catholic Archdiocese of Perth
Christian Outreach Centre
Church of the Foursquare Gospel
Churches of Christ in WA Inc
Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan District of Western Australia
Lutheran Church of Australia
Presbyterian Church in WA
The Salvation Army
Uniting Church in Australia

Acknowledgements

We are thankful to the 13 member churches as well as over 200 supporting churches across WA for their continued prayer and support over the past 12 months. This support from the local churches makes YouthCARE possible!

We acknowledge the Federal Government, the State Government of Western Australia, the WA Department of Education, various Local Governments in WA, Hall & Wilcox (Jillian Howard, Special Counsel) and Squire Patton Boggs (Margie Tannock, Partner) and other corporate supporters for their continued support.

For More Information



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YouthCARE Australia

