



Parramatta Central Council - Reflect and Act Outcomes



Outcomes of the day:

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Related documents:

5. Opportunities booklet (separate attachment)
6. Recruitment booklet (separate attachment)



1. Regional Group Nominated Actions

The following actions were nominated as actions each Region would consider taking. Section 2 of this document addresses some follow up actions to be done by Parramatta Central Council to support these initiatives.

Blue Mountains

	Conference/Region action
1.	Pet visits

Cumberland

	Conference/Region action
1.	Obtain and pass on ideas for a prayer card to give people we visit.
2.	Explore the establishment of new types of conferences, more flexible associate membership, for the purpose of visits to hospital or retirement villages
3.	Poll residents at Merrylands SAFH re social activities to build community such as BBQs, musical capabilities, sing-along groups musical sessions, quizzes, kids activities, bingo,
4.	Birthday celebrations (monthly)
5.	Visitation to hospitals & nursing homes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Simple Guidelines to be established: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Frequency and Format - Bringing Communion an option? - Companion animal - Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Advertise initiative to parishioner o Draw up list of hospitals/nursing homes in the area o Get names o Explain role and format o Setup roster o Setup reporting format.

Nepean

	Conference/Region action
	Region:
1.	More communication/information sharing/social events/days like today
2.	Better links to retail
3.	Interaction through hierarchy of our society
4.	Regional spiritual retreat
	Local Conference:
5.	Parish cultural groups
6.	Build partnerships with local business and community groups
7.	Visiting isolated people



Prospect

	Conference/Region action
1.	Organised visitation for the lonely.
2.	Interact with pastoral council of the parish.
3.	Vinnies could coordinate pastoral care within parishes which do not have an effective pastoral group
4.	Compeer?

The Hills

	Conference/Region action
1.	Visit aged care facilities
2.	Explore "associate" member
3.	Cross-conference meeting attendance to share ideas on what each conference does



2. Parramatta Central Council Supporting Actions

As a result of reviewing the Regional nominated actions, and the opportunities and weaknesses identified by Members, the following is a list of activities the Parramatta Central Council will progress with, to support the ideas generated by Members.

	Item	Action	Who	Update when
1.	Member Application Process	Progress with simplifying	Anne	
2.	Prayer card to leave with people we assist	Kate welcomes input/thoughts from members on prayer cards.	Members	1/3
		Mission and Spirituality team to action	Kate	1/4
3.	Add 'Social Visit' tick box to Form A Request for Assistance	Check with Marte's team name if 'Social Visit' can be added to Form A Request for Assistance	Lauraine	18/02
		Add 'Social Visit' to Form B spreadsheet	Lauraine	18/02
		Send comms (conferences/hubs) on using Social Visit option.	Lauraine	28/02
		Send information on making referrals	Janice	28/02
4.	Obtain more grants, develop capacity to find them and apply for them efficiently	Speak to Maryann, Grants Coordinator (SSO) about communicating and the process for conferences	Janice	28/02
		If grants were to be available, what would Conferences want?	Members	28/02
5.	Youth rep to visit Regional Council meetings in 2020	Email regional presidents & Faith	Anne	14/02
6.	Cross - conference meeting attendance - to share ideas on what each conference does	Regional President to let conference presidents know that all are welcome to meeting	Regional Presidents	
7.	Aged care visitation	Contact regional presidents for Prospect & Cumberland - potential workshop with interested people	Janice	14/02
8.	Social Media	Add Vinnies West Sydney FB page link to next newsletter + how to request posts be added.	Lauraine	
9.	Spiritual Reflection day in Nepean Region	Initial discussions with Mel Topp	Kate	21/02
10.	Update Member and Volunteer Services website with current content. - MAVES	Ensure ability to maintain easily. Update with: a) Comms for conferences b) Retail updates c) Collaboration d) Current resources - statewide & PCC specific e) Community engagement	Gayl	21/02



		<p>events coming up</p> <p>f) Link to social justice resources</p> <p>g) FAQ's</p> <p>h) Conference Toolkit</p> <p>i) Information / awareness on referrals</p>		
10.	Merrylands SAFH	Merrylands Conference members will meet with Merrylands SAFH residents to find out what activities would help build a new community	Anne	
11.	Restarting Merrylands Conference		Anne/Ron	Feb 2020
12.	Vanessa Menezes from Toongabbie Conference offered her experience of grant writing.	Speak to Vanessa – how to connect Conferences with Vanessa to request help with and coordination of grants.	Janice	
13.	Explore Associate membership and new types of conferences	Anne to talk to Kathleen Thickett Vice President Member and Volunteer Support	Anne	
		Gayl to talk to Elaine	Gayl	
		Specific target area and organization?		
14.	GKO and technical issues	How to accumulate all member issues with GKO.	Gayl	
		Identify current work being done on GKO	Gayl	
		How to move forward with this? Training help?	Gayl	
15.	Retail Discussion	Used furniture for people in need – not just resale	Gayl	
		Better links /understanding of operations between Conferences and Retail	Gayl	
16.	Members forum content: - EWON / Retail/ Other		Anne	



3. Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats

We identified on the day what we thought were our strengths, weaknesses and opportunities and threats.

The aim is to leverage our strengths and manage our weaknesses, to take advantage of the opportunities identified. It may help to refer back to your responses below in future, when considering actions your Conference may like to take.

Section 2 of this document addresses follow up actions to be done by Parramatta Central Council to support many of the opportunities and improve many of the issues identified as a weakness.

Strengths

1. Passionate people who want to be here and have strong sense of purpose
2. We are closer to people than government agencies
3. Ability to build relationships - "trust"
4. Many resources – advocacies – hubs
5. Enthusiastic - available - sharing skills and knowledge
6. Social Justice conscience of members
7. Vinnies is a good brand - reputation in community
8. Well known to society (SVdP)
9. Good resource of personnel - ability to look outside the square
10. Hand up instead of hand out
11. Known for good works (trustworthy)
12. Membership is faith based
13. People strength – amazing volunteers
14. Working & non-working conference members

Weaknesses

1. Passionate people who are do-ers but time poor
2. Principle of subsidiarity seems to be lost in the Society
3. Communication - Need for greater collaboration between central council conferences
4. We are not reflecting that we are from The St Vincent de Paul Society" not Vinnies
5. Not linking to other local community groups
6. GKO not able to capture true visitation data and details
7. Technology – especially GKO being non user-friendly missing out on data that could help
8. Availability of past visit info to feed future visits
9. Focus on retailing means poor don't have access to re-cycled furniture which is useable but not saleable
10. Recruitment – failing to attract new members
11. Attracting younger members
12. Inability to attract new members
13. Low youth membership
14. Ageing membership



15. Bureaucracy

Opportunities

1. Prayer cards
2. Obtain more grants – develop capacity to find them & apply for them efficiently
3. Reputation – people experience / flexibility
4. Work with existing outreach people to increase our presence with the lonely and housebound people
5. Raise spirituality with people in hospitals – more appropriate than at assistance time
6. Increasing awareness on referrals (specialists)
7. Intercessory team – praying for members clients, activities, funds (new conference – ministry of prayer)
8. Community and local business engagement
9. Different engagement models for different stages of life (with differing needs of paperwork)
eg
 - a. youth teaching after school tutoring / ESL / computer literacy
 - b. mums with toddler visiting aged homes & hospitals
 - c. linking to conference locally to have a career path for when ready to join a conference for home visits if choose to
10. New form of membership outside the normal structure
11. Social media
12. Now Kate Temby, Executive Director of Strategy and Governance, is a board member of EWON

Threats

1. Possible threat – close association with Sydney Alliance. It's advocacy and association with a number of radicals.
2. Constraint – re visiting nursing homes (non-Catholic). Need to respect organisational policies and procedures of external services (eg Uniting)

4. Links referenced on Reflect and Act day

Conference film clip: <https://youtu.be/OkF-m-4qsBE>

International Council film clip: <https://youtu.be/J2aqhCecWbY>

The Microsite with a variety of resources <https://mavs.vinnies.org.au/>

NSW Schools and Youth website: <https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/>