

Media Release

15 June 2016



The Wayside Chapel Officially Expands to Bondi Beach

The Wayside Chapel is thrilled to announce its expansion into the Eastern Suburbs, with the Chapel by the Sea in Bondi Beach officially coming under the management of The Wayside Chapel to form one strong organisation serving the community in multiple locations.

As of 1 July 2016, The Sydney Presbytery of the Uniting Church of Australia (UCA) officially granted The Wayside Chapel of Kings Cross all responsibility for the governance and operational responsibilities for Bondi's Chapel by the Sea and its related operations. This includes the Community Services Centre at Norman Andrew's House, and the North Bondi Op Shop, as well as all programs and resources as part of Chapel by the Sea officially falling under the management of The Wayside Chapel.

The Wayside Chapel and Chapel by the Sea are both part of the Sydney Presbytery of UCA and have been serving their communities for over 50 years. With the expansion of The Wayside Chapel into Bondi Beach, we have the opportunity to further spread our mission of creating community with no 'us and them' and to offer assistance to more vulnerable people in the wider Eastern Suburbs, not just Kings Cross.

We have exciting plans to bolster our activities to address issues affecting the Bondi community, issues which include social isolation, mental health, addiction and homelessness.

Reverend Graham Long, Minister and CEO of the Wayside Chapel, and Reverend Graham Anson, Minister of Chapel by the Sea, welcome this opportunity to work together and are looking forward to a stronger future for the broader community.

Rev Long: *"This is a wonderful opportunity for the eastern Sydney communities. Wayside and Chapel by the Sea both have tremendous strengths in their own right; but joined together, we will only improve our service to the community and better respond to the challenges that we face as a society today. At Wayside, we know that the minimum human unit is two, and that by creating real community, people will see that there are others with them and for them and will, by their own steam, move toward life and health. This is good news for Kings Cross and good news for Bondi and will see us strengthen the whole community by connecting people from all walks of life."*

Rev Anson: *"This union makes sense – we are both committed to caring for the most socially marginalised in our communities, including those experiencing long term mental health issues, homelessness, and drug and alcohol issues. Coming under the Wayside umbrella allows us to provide more opportunities for the wider community to flourish and to further our joint mission of creating community with no "us and them".*

For further media information, contact Eimear Elkington, Wayside's Marketing and Communications Coordinator, on 0497 841 716 or email eimear.elkington@thewaysidechapel.com

About The Wayside Chapel

The Wayside Chapel has provided unconditional love, care and support for people on and around the streets of Kings Cross since 1964. Today, under the banner of 'Love over Hate', Wayside runs a community services centre, youth space and outreach service, mental health program, community café, and Aboriginal project. All programs are designed to ensure that the most marginalised members of our community have access to essential health, welfare, social and recreational services, as well as a judgment-free place where people are welcome just to 'be'.