



...an inside look...
Indigenous Chaplaincy Training
Etihad Stadium 14-19th March 2012



Over 25 Indigenous people, some young and some their mentors, gathered from all over the country to open up their hearts and minds for a few days of intensive training with some of the best Chaplaincy facilitators in Australia.

It was a brilliant opportunity to look at some of the practical aspects of 'one to one' ministry as well as the formal aspects of Chaplaincy in this vast land.

The event created a platform to discuss the issues of Indigenous Chaplaincy and to plan to have a greater impact in this vital community service/ministry role.

Participants came from Perth, Sydney, Adelaide, Geelong, Melbourne, Coffs Harbour, Broken Hill, Eidsvold, Brisbane, Nowra, Albury and Eden.





Having a facility like this at Etihad was a real blessing!. Everyone was very focussed and a lot of laughing and learning happened. In addition to the regular facilitation methods we were able to access the internet to discover what Chaplaincy organisations are out there, what training they require/provide and their appointment processes. We even had a speech on the position of the Government on Chaplaincy from PM Julia Gillard. (On the Big screen at least!) Groups and individuals shared their learning with the room. A GREAT exercise in leadership!

Having this level of interest in Chaplaincy by so many people was a welcome surprise for the organisers, Tony and Francine Riches. "We're overjoyed with the response and had a difficult job of capping the numbers to ensure that the venue was not overcrowded and that we could find enough accommodation for everyone."



Tony and Francine Riches

are Chaplains to the Indigenous players and their families involved in the AFL. Tony is the Pastor of the Melbourne Indigenous Church Fellowship, Footscray. A partnership between the AEC and the CoC Vic/Tas.

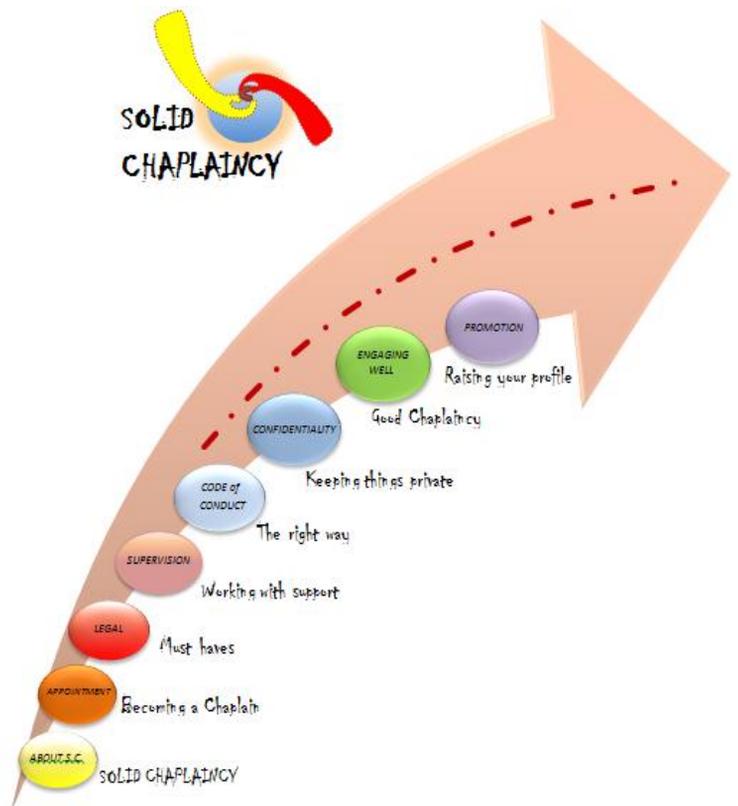
As it was on the weekend of the Grand Prix, inner city rooms were hard to find. It all worked out and with the use of 2 motels over the 6 days, everyone was happy to share together in the days 'full-on' activities and the awesome fellowship after they finished.

Central to the training was the study of a model for Indigenous Chaplaincy which is called SOLID CHAPLAINCY. This is a Draft model developed with advice from Indigenous leaders and Chaplains which draws on aspects of Industry standards but it has a uniquely Indigenous focus.

2 Groups attended churches on the Sunday to help build partnerships for ongoing awareness and support of National Indigenous ministries.

A Certificate presentation and Church service was held after a prayer time and fellowship meal. This was a part of the blessing that was a truly wonderful week.

God was in it and it worked!



Cam Butler is the National CEO of Sports Chaplaincy Australia and the Melbourne Football Club Chaplain. He warmed our hearts to the need for Indigenous Sports Chaplains. He brought insights into a Chaplains role in a club environment. We also offered timely prayers for Jim Stynes, his family, and others.



"...Chaplains are people with a heart for God & a heart for people... We need Chaplains in every sport in every part of Australia... We could place 3000 Chaplains today if we had them..."

After a tour of Etihad, Cam Butler lead a workshop in the AFL's TRIBUNAL room.

Sports Chaplains Non Indigenous Indigenous

A confronting stat that is about to change



THIS GODLY GATHERING was made up of people from a variety of cultures, language groups and church 'tribal' backgrounds including- AEC, AEF, Uniting, Anglican, Baptist, Presbyterian and Churches of Christ.

They are Youth Workers, Pastors, Reverends, No role yet's, Deacons, Ministry leaders, Prayer co-ordinators, Prison visitors, Sunday School teachers, Trainers and trainees who are all great people that GOD has His hand on for GREAT THINGS! What a privilege to be a part of such a significant gathering.



Neville Naden President of the AEF of Aus. from Broken Hill, NSW. filling the chair of head of tribunal of the AFL! (Their judgement seat)

Hey,
are we supposed to be having this much fun?

Being in ministry and dealing with people hurting and broken is serious stuff. How do you keep yourself strong and happy?

You need your brothers and sisters in the Lord to share the journey with. 'United we stand' is true of 'Chaplains in training' as well.



Phil Martin (Sports and Grief and Loss)



State Director of Chaplaincy Australia, Sports Chaplain at Spotswood Football Club, Previously Industrial Chaplain.

...Listen to the Spirit of God, Pray and be responsive.Layers of healing happen when people tell their stories...

Donald Hayward - (Schools)



Pastor of the Indigenous Berean Church in Adelaide. First to be appointed to a local Indigenous School as Chaplain.

...Chaplains - Ordinary people doing extraordinary work, empowered by God... The local Indigenous School wanted a Chaplain but they didn't really know what it meant...

effective TRAINING is not just about what *was said* but what *was heard!*...

*We had excellent facilitators and after the event a few trainees have shared some of what we **heard** (words in red)...*

Peter Whitefield (Schools and Community) In his seventh year as a School Chaplain. Spent two years in Chaplaincy in the Kinglake area after the Black Saturday fires. President of God's Squad CMC, Melb. Chapter.

Schools Chaplains

Non Indigenous
Indigenous



A confronting stat that is

Kevin Maddock (Prisons) Originally visited prisons in the mid 60's, and at least weekly since 79.

Employed by Prison Fellowship from 2001 till Jan. of this year as Field Director in Victoria.

He has a "Corrections Victoria" pass which allows him access into ALL Victorian prisons.

...Respond to the call. The need is not the call because there are needs everywhere...

...When entering satans' territory, expect opposition...

...As Chaplains don't assume you have privileges...



Kath Maddock (Hospitals) Works in Footscray ministering amongst cancer patients as a Chaplain in Pastoral care drawing on her vast experience as a Nurse and her Clinical Pastoral Education training. Kath also shared her experiences with the women.

...Don't hesitate to help anyone, better to try and get rejected instead of not trying...

Respect how people choose to go through their journey to passing away. Tears are healthy...

Harley Hayward (Prisons)



Previously National Chairman of the Aboriginal Evangelical Church and the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship.

Pastor of the AEC Perth 28 yrs. Previously the National Indigenous Prison Fellowship representative.

...We must love people regardless of who they are or what they have done...

Dennis Taylor (Aged care) AEF Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship National Director.



Thornbury AEC (Aboriginal Evangelical Church) Pastor. Chaplain at Indigenous Aged Care centre, ACES.

...A lot of us haven't experienced old age, so we don't know what it's about... Chaplains don't have all the answers...

Tony and Francine Riches (General Chaplaincy and Chaplaincy organisations)

Cam Butler (Sports) Sports Chaplaincy Aus. National CEO. See previous page



...Always acknowledge what's happened, but lead them to hope... You have two ears & one mouth, use them in proportion!..

HISTORICAL FACT Australia's first Chaplain, Richard Johnson, sailed with the FIRST FLEET and arrived in Australia in 1788. When their daughter was born in 1792, they gave her an Aboriginal name -Milbah.

Outcomes, Objectives, Agendas...

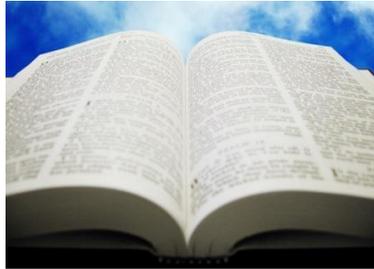
Are all words with no Indigenous language translations...*as far as we know!*

In today's world they are the words to measure the impact, success, importance, etc. of what we do or claim to have done.

Did we do what we set out to do?

Did it matter?

Will it make a lasting difference?



Our TOP TEN includes:

1. To develop a greater awareness of what Chaplains do.
2. To discover what Chaplaincy organisations are.
3. To learn about what is needed to become a good Chaplain.
4. To hear from and discuss issues of Chaplaincy with experts in their various fields.
5. To find out what qualifications are needed to become a Chaplain in a variety of fields.
6. To better understand the needs of people we serve in a Chaplaincy setting.
7. To develop an awareness of historical and current Indigenous Chaplaincy.
8. To table ideas as to why Indigenous people seem to be excluded from Chaplaincy.
9. To discuss what is needed to create a pathway for Indigenous people to become Chaplains.
10. To plan ways to provide ongoing support for Indigenous people who are Chaplains or entering into Chaplaincy.

So Let the people speak...

I have learned...

That Chaplaincy is a very exciting and mind-blowing job that has a relationship between knowing the way of God, and showing the way of God to people who are in need of hearing the word of the Lord Jesus Christ. – Trevor

To be more present

Value my prison Ministry more. – Terry

The roles of being a Chaplain
The do's and don'ts of Chaplaincy
The types of Chaplaincy work
The must haves and attributes of being a Chaplain
The needs of others. - Cameron



Terry and Trevor Sydney NSW

That there is a generation of young men and women who have not been bought up in the 'mission' times who have a fire for God. - Richard

That Chaplaincy is a big area and that many of our people are already doing it. I have learned that the complexities of formalised Chaplaincy is keeping our people from this vital role. – Neville



Chaplaincy has a significant role in aspects of our communities from Sport to health to prison and schools and I am sure there are many other forums where Chaplains are not identified but are doing an awesome role. Willie

Willie Pickett Geelong Vic



Kevin & Glenn Naden Coffs Hbr NSW

As a Christ – As a Chaplain. Judge not the man.
Be a support and listen– Joshua
Less is more (in terms of words/judgement).

That I am not called to save people. That is God's job. I can help people to a certain point and then I must let go and pass them on or refer them to someone else with the appropriate skills and knowledge.

We all have the responsibility as Good Samaritans to help people where we can.

We have also learned...

The dedication and commitment needed for this type of work was evident in all of the speakers presentations. This is a specialised area of Christian ministry and the need for Indigenous Chaplains is immense in all areas.

That there is Godly people committed to serving people and who asked for no financial or personal benefit or gain. There is a ministry totally committed to God.

That God has a special plan for everyone and we just need to be opened to listen and respond. - Sarah
That we can share Christ with others without even saying a word. God won't take us where He can't lead, guide and protect us.

Different types of Chaplaincy ...but all serve the same purpose.
 Different techniques of being alongside someone but realising a lot of times That you don't have to say anything but just listen and having your presence.



That to be a great Chaplain we have to first fully rely on God, put our trust in Him. We are there to support, listen and be a friend to those who are at first strangers. Also to never give up and be patient when we feel we are not influencing.

Phil Broken Hill NSW

Camran Sydney NSW



Mark Kickett B.H.NSW



Mark Naden Eidsvold QLD



Sarah (middle) Nowra NSW
Emily Eidsvold QLD

To be more ears than mouth Just to be there
 To be more sensitive to peoples' emotions, backgrounds. Etc.

How to communicate and encourage individuals in a Christian way. Have a better understanding of resources and support we can use...

Pastors do carry out Chaplaincy duties in a variety of environments. Chaplaincy work can be very demanding and needs clear guidelines to its roles and responsibilities.

28 people shared in at least half a day's training and their time with experienced Christian men and women learning together...**Priceless!!**
 This is the traditional Aboriginal cultural way.

That a Chaplain must have a heart for God and a heart for people. They are there for people to "journey with them" and to be supportive, dedicated, patient, consistent and a friend. Chaplains in doing this, also need to live a life like Christ would, and be supportive and listen to people in need.



The Lords' work is bigger than any individual, church or organisation (reminder). There is a huge need for Chaplains and a lack of workers. Complex backgrounds, personalities and concepts need to be respected in spite of my own beliefs.

Luke Perth WA

Mark Melbourne Vic



Uncle Roy Melbourne Vic



Tom Melbourne Vic



The vastness of Chaplaincy and the complexities that are involved leaves a person in awe of what God has done.

That the church needs to step up and be a real presence in the community, and leading the way in Chaplaincy.



Darren and Michelle Wighton Albury NSW

What Chaplaincy is and what it can be by the sharing and wisdom of the speakers as well as the workbooks from Tony and Francine.

I have learned and been encouraged to think differently about Aboriginal ministry in general but I am happier, wiser, and more encouraged and informed, than when I came. Thank you.! - Darren

I have set before you an OPEN DOOR which no man can shut Rev 3:8

A final word

I have learned ...That through Christ and some more training I can become whatever God has called me to become. After this training I have the confidence to go out and be able to talk to my people and help the ones in need and possibly guide them to Christ through His will and strength.

With all the speakers sharing with us their stories, it has given us a positive outlook on what we can do for our people. I am very grateful for what has been provided for me, it has made my understanding a lot greater.



I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me...Phil 4:13

I will do...

Try to gain experience and understanding
Gain more Chaplaincy training - Cameron

My utmost to encourage nurture and strengthen these young people to try to open doors that are closed and to network with those who can train and equip. - Richard



Continue to attend training to equip myself to be a better servant of Christ and to work for greater inclusion. I will encourage any form of training to equip people for greater service

Be a better support and listener to those that need it
..Trust in God trusting his ability to pull me through and allow me to do anything.

Be more present
Continue to minister to those locked up
Interested to do further training. - Terry



Pray for those who are in Chaplaincy and where I can, support them.
Particularly where I see Indigenous Chaplains hard at work in our communities.

I would like to possibly further my understanding of Chaplaincy and even consider training. - Willie

(be) Christ centred so people can see God in me
Never give up a chance to witness
Walk through the doors God placed in front of me. - Joshua



Pray. Where me Lord?

Pray for wisdom for all who desire to be a Chaplain that God will make known to them which door to enter and what work to do.

Pray for the growth of Indigenous Chaplaincy
Chaplaincy training .

I would like to further my understanding and training in Chaplaincy...

Explore when and what areas of Chaplaincy I would like to go toward.

Always assist when given the opportunity to be a helping hand to someone. Realise my limitations while acknowledging my gifts and talents to serve where God would have me.



More Chaplaincy training!!! Trevor

I will ensure that the development of Chaplaincy be supported further in our state (SA).

I will further my knowledge in relation to the differences between Chaplain and Pastor.

I will consider the development of people to positions of Chaplaincy.

Ok, sweet!



So we have heard about what you have learned but what are YOU going to do about it??

Put more thought into the community and the individuals who are in need. Respect people who come from different backgrounds.



Never make assumptions
All people have a history and an upbringing that may not be easily understood.
Never discriminate or separate yourself from people who are difficult or hard to understand.
Take more time to listen. - Luke

Stand for what I believe in and be an example for my fellow young Indigenous people.

Lead people to a better life through Christ and do whatever I can for my people and more importantly my God.
I am interested in more training.



Whatever I can to enhance, support and promote the value of Chaplaincy to all of the community and would love to fill a formal Chaplaincy role at some stage in my life.

Be there in my community to share Christ with them in any situation God may have called me to. Put Christ first and foremost in my life to assist others I would like to do more training too. Sarah

More to encourage, help or even train others to think and do the same regarding what we have learned, and what we can seek God to do. I will continue to motivate myself and our young to make a stand for God and the plan He has for our lives. Thank you!! - Darren

Do my best to share Gods' word when given the opportunity and help when needed. Give all my trust to God. I would like to do more training.

My best to listen and just give my time to those in need, knowing that people just want to talk to someone and someone to listen.

To give my time to have my presence in situations when somebody is needed.

'Certificates of Completion'

were presented to encourage each one for dedicating their time and energy to learn about Chaplaincy and develop skills for working among hurting and broken people back home in their communities.



Appreciation of our **MAIN ACTOR** for tirelessly raising support for this very significant training event was given to Aunty Jean Phillips.



Our **keynote speakers** were also thanked for their wonderful work which made it a 1st Class program.



The Certificates did put a smile on a few faces.



Although some could not stay for the awards, the participants went on to lead the service and the celebration which followed which was a big encouragement to the locals at the Melbourne Indigenous Church Fellowship in Footscray.



It really was a lot of fun and great fellowship. It was a good chance to



focus on what Indigenous Chaplaincy could become in the hands of these energetic young people (not pictured above)



Some Key FINDINGS

The group was asked why there are not many Indigenous Chaplains. Their reasons included: Not enough opportunities. No appropriate Indigenous training available for us. The Chaplains role is not well defined as Pastors do much of this work. Training requirements are too high. No clear pathways. Cultural insensitivity. No permission...etc...

Our speakers all shared that Chaplains have a good name in the community which is not always the case for Pastors or Ministers...

In Indigenous ministry Pastors have a good name in the community and there are too few of them. The Pastors do a lot of what Chaplains do in the way of practical and crisis help for people. Most Indigenous people don't know what a Chaplain is.

10 Pastors were asked if they would like to have a Chaplain working with them in order to share the load...10/10 said yes!...Lord of the Harvest...send!

Of 21 responses 15 people stated that they want to do more Chaplaincy training... Great news!



DREAMING ON!
*Of better days behind
or better days ahead?
Which is to be?*

A WORKING GROUP was chosen to meet together to plan **"WHERE TO NEXT"** and to look into **Training**, **Fellowship** and **Support** for Young Indigenous Chaplains.
Isn't the Lord GOOD!

Many sincere thanks to our kind supporters and prayer partners.



Gisborne, Oakleigh
and Footscray
Churches of Christ



“...United we stand...”



SINCE THE COMPLETION OF THIS TRAINING-

A follow up workshop is planned re. Chaplaincy opportunities/training.

Daniel Riches will start p/time work as a Chaplain to ABMUSIC which is an Indigenous music and media training organisation in WA.

Ps. Michael Duckett will take up a contract to provide Chaplains, (himself, Trevor Green, Terry and Camran Manton) to Indigenous prisoners in NSW.

Two of Australia's largest School Chaplaincy Organisations are planning to introduce Indigenous components into their training....The blessing continues!

For further information about this Training program please contact Tony Riches on the details below.

<http://melbindigenouschurch.wordpress.com>



"here to help?"...

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