



Anglican Church of Australia
St Philip's Care (St Philip's Anglican Church)

Cnr MacPherson & Moorhouse Streets O'Connor
PO Box 6022 O'Connor, ACT, 2602
Telephone (02) 6161 7334 Fax (02) 6161 7322 E-mail stphil@grapevine.com.au
A.B.N. 82 903 869 176

NORTHBOURNE COMMUNITY CENTRE, FORBES STREET, TURNER
Free lunch, support and social activities in a caring environment – Mondays

Coordinator **Revd Robin Moore**

Submission to the
**INQUIRY INTO THE RZ3 AND RZ4 RESIDENTIAL REDEVELOPMENT POLICIES IN INNER
NORTH CANBERRA**
of the
ACT Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on
Planning, Public Works and Territory and Municipal Services
from
ST PHILIP'S CARE AT NORTHBOURNE

St Philip's Care has for over 14 years provided a nourishing weekly meal and a safe gathering place for socially disadvantaged people residing in the Inner North of Canberra and beyond. For the past 13 years this activity has been located at the tiny community centre in Block 5 of the Northbourne Flats.

The program has consistently provided a safe, supportive and non-judgmental environment and offered long-term and short-term assistance on many levels to disadvantaged, low-income and marginalised people. Please see over for further details about St Philip's Care at Northbourne.

Many people living in the area are extremely concerned about what redevelopment means for their future. This has been exacerbated by recent headlines about removing 'ghettos' (an unfortunate, insensitive and incorrect term) and maximising returns from public assets.

The use that is made of these public assets, particularly those on the road leading into Canberra, needs to reflect the priority not only of financial returns but also of the kind of community Canberra is and wishes to be seen as. A mixture of medium and low-density public and private housing interspersed with green spaces reflects this much better than a road darkened by high-rise buildings and uninterrupted by green spaces.

St Philip's Care's management committee asks the Standing Committee to ensure:

- that any redevelopment in the Northbourne Flats area retains suitable accommodation, community and amenity for public housing dwellers in the area, so that they can maintain their own networks of support, and so that people unable to socialise have access to non-commercial areas where they feel secure;
- that there continues to be a place for St Philip's Care to maintain continuity of care and support for this group, utilising both indoor and outdoor areas;
- that redevelopment of this area be undertaken with the following principles in mind:
 - a continuing mix of private and public housing;
 - sufficient public housing to allow a sense of community to be maintained among public housing residents;
 - maintenance of existing or minimally extended limits on the height of buildings;
 - provision for attractive and usable green spaces between building;
 - high priority to item (b) of the R3Z and R4Z zone objectives:

Ensure development respects and contributes to the neighbourhood and landscape character of residential areas whilst carefully managing change in suitable locations.

Yours sincerely

Liz Drysdale, for the Management Committee of St Philip's Care at Northbourne
liz.drysdale@anu.edu.au

ST PHILIP'S CARE AT NORTHBOURNE

St Philip's Care at Northbourne has run a free food program with associated support for over 14 years, located for most of this time in the tiny community centre at the Northbourne Flats in Turner. The program provides a gathering place for many socially disadvantaged people who reside in the Inner North of Canberra and beyond. The primary focus of the program has been consistently to provide a safe, supportive and non-judgmental environment and to offer long-term and short-term assistance on many levels to disadvantaged, low-income and marginalised people. The program is well established in the community and people are regularly referred to it by other support agencies.

The provision of a nourishing meal at lunch-time remains a central activity to encourage often highly vulnerable people to enter the space. The program further seeks to enhance the welfare of participants in their communities by the provision of advice, referral and advocacy. The centre provides a constant in participants' lives.

Attendance at the centre usually ranges between 70 and 110; annual attendance is 3,500 to 4,000 people. Since the program's inception over 14 years ago, total attendance has exceeded 45,500.

Problems that affect this community (either directly or indirectly) include poverty, marginalisation, isolation, mental illness, physical illness and injury, drug and alcohol addiction, family and relationship breakdown, poor living and communication skills, violence, aggression and sexual abuse; also problems associated with high-density living. Isolation can apply to elderly people and those new to the area. The centre also provides a casual environment for migrants to practise their English skills.

The centre is very small; so much use is made of the outdoor areas all year round. Recreational activities include basketball practice rings, darts (at times), books, magazines, various fun competitions, chalk boards, musical instruments, board games, children's toys and a makeshift table tennis table.

Physical support includes free clothing, utility and decorative items. Vital supplies of items such as sheets and blankets may be provided when available. An emergency food supply assists both people and pets in cases of short-term urgent need. People attending the centre also contribute items from their own limited resources and there is much generosity and sharing.

The Coordinator of St Philip's Care at Northbourne, an Honorary Deacon of St Philip's Anglican parish, O'Connor, undertakes most of the centre's work, assisted by a small team of volunteers. The work is overseen by a volunteer management committee of members of the St Philip's parish. The Rector provides pastoral oversight, and administrative accountability is to the Parish Council of St Philip's.

Sponsors

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