



COMMUNITY CONNECTOR INITIATIVE

ABSTRACT

This document contains the Purpose, Mission and Vision statements; The guiding philosophical and Strategic statements; that define and direct all parties involved in the Community Connector Initiative of local Churches of Nillumbik and Banyule.

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Introduction (who we are)

NBC is a coalition of churches from the Nillumbik and Banyule municipalities who are united to make a positive impact on the well-being of our community. Our Christian faith shapes and defines our behaviour and actions, uniting and enabling us, as combined Christian Churches to bring to the very best of ourselves to serve the communities we live in.

Purpose (why NBC exists)

The well-being of our community is impacted by the overall health of its individuals. The ill-health of our community's capabilities; mental, physical, emotional, spiritual, social and financial; directly impacts negatively on our personal and community relationships manifesting in; isolation, disconnection, lack of purpose, hopelessness, loneliness and loss of community.

Our purpose as a coalition of churches is create new opportunities through community partnerships and collaborations, that positively impact the well-being of individuals within communities.

Mission (how NBC will achieve its outcomes)

Through the strategic placement of community connectors at hubs of high community involvement and interaction (e.g. Greensborough Plaza) we will proactively engage in relational activities that will identify individual and community needs and offer practical support through referral and direction to other third-party resources.

NBC will leverage its strengths by activating the resources of their church communities to:

- Provide strong governance through a Committee of Management.
- Financially support the roles of the Community Connectors.
- Engage and support programs initiated by the Community Connectors.

NBC will leverage the expertise of other community groups by:

- Forming partnerships with community chaplaincy organisations; Korus Connect.
- Maintaining strong relationship with locational stakeholders and owners; Greensborough Plaza Management.
- Forming partnerships with other community groups; Banyule Council, Diamond Valley community Support, Victorian Police and other community organisations and service providers.

Our Mission is to co-ordinate and release the combined resources of the coalition of churches and other community groups by supporting teams of paid Community Connectors within key local community locations. (e.g. Greensborough Plaza)



Vision (what NBC hopes to achieve)

As we mitigate negative cultural influences by building strong, positive, communal and one-on-one relationships between individuals, churches, community groups, employers and employees we will witness our local community's flourishing and growth.

Our vision is to witness individuals who have experienced a greater sense of; community belonging; self-worth and belief; supportive and caring relationships.

<https://www.aespire.com/blog/communications/the-difference-between-your-purpose-and-mission>



Our Guiding Philosophies.

We believe that ALL individuals are made in the image of a living God, who loves and supports them.

We believe as followers of the Jesus Christ, that we are motivated by the principles of his teachings and life example to show love and respect, and mutual concern for ALL people.

We believe that the wholeness of humans includes their physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being.

We believe that by fostering, respectful and appropriate engagements, individuals and groups within a community mutually benefit from connecting with each other.

We believe that Christian Churches have a role in being positive contributors in the life of the general communities to which they belong. As such, that the opportunity to participate in supporting the initiative to establish Community Connectors in key community hubs should be open to all churches within the regions of Nillumbik and Banyule municipalities.

We acknowledge that the shires of Nillumbik and Banyule are made up of many and varied; ethnic, racial, gender, faith and non-faith, political, age and social economic communities; and that this reflects the communities we serve.

As a Christian Faith based organisation, we believe that the organisational, governance, and operations of the combined churches of Nillumbik and Banyule in this Community Connector initiative need to be founded and maintained within the Christian faith context.

As a Christian Faith based organisation, we believe we require an autonomy and independence that will prevent the Committee of Management from entering into partnerships, commercial or funding agreements; private or government, that may compromise or limit the independence of the Committee of Management or harm the reputational value of our partnering churches.

We believe that any Community Connector must be part of, and accountable to a Christian Faith based community (church).

We believe that any member of the Committee of Management must be nominated by, endorsed by and be accountable to a Christian Faith based community (church).



Our Guiding Governance Statements.

We believe the primary responsibility for the development, sustainability and growth of the Community Connector initiative; including fundraising, advocacy, strategic planning, management of the combined resources and commitment of local churches in the Nillumbik and Banyule shires should be governed by a Committee of Management (CoM.) made up of representatives of local faith-based communities (churches) that annually commit to support the actions of the CoM.

The CoM. may also include in its membership individuals of specific expertise, and representatives of third parties and agencies, that offer professional skills and support that the CoM. deem advantageous to achieving its responsibilities.

Where possible the CoM. should seek to enter partnerships with third parties and agencies that offer professional skills and support that are beyond the resources of the member churches or are advantageous to achieving the outcomes of the initiative .

The reputational responsibility of the Community Connector initiative is the responsibility of all associated participants; the Committee of Management members, Third party employees and representatives and Community Connectors.

We believe that it is crucial to foster and build on-going connection and commitment of the local faith communities, through newsletters, emails, visitations from CoM. representatives, direct relational contact with Community Connectors (chaplains) and allied partners (Korus Connect).

Our Guiding Funding Strategies.

The Short-term sustainability of the Community Connector Initiative will be secured through funding from local churches, individuals and allied partners.

The Medium-term sustainability of the Community Connector Initiative will be secured through funding from local churches, individuals, allied partners, and grants from Councils, Government and other philanthropic organisations.

The long-term sustainability of the Community Connector Initiative will be secured through independent funding from social and/or philanthropic enterprises.

Current Organisational & Functional Structure

Overview.

Figure 1 indicates the current organisational & functional responsibilities structure.

The NBC Committee of Management on behalf of the local churches has primary responsibility of the on-going growth and strategic planning of the Community Connector Initiative.

The CoM. Has/will entered into a partnership arrangement with Korus Connect as defined in a Memorandum of Understanding.

Functions of the Committee of Management (CoM.)

The functions of the Committee of Management include:

- Co-ordinate the representation of the local partnering churches.
- Provide organisational and governance oversight for the Community Connector Initiative.
- Develop the sustainable provision of financial resources.
- Evaluate other Community Connector Opportunities in the Nillumbik and Banyule shires.
- On-going local marketing and awareness of the Community Connector Initiative
- Maintain effective relationships between itself, the Community Connectors and any allied support partners. (Korus Connector).
- Support of the Community Connectors by
 - Regularly meeting with the Community Connectors for support and encouragement.
 - Invite Community Connectors to attend and participate in CoM. meetings.
 - Assist identifying and actioning people and resources within the local churches.
 - Assist identifying other beneficial networks; e.g. regional pastor and ministers fraternals.

Functions of the Chairperson of the Committee of Management (CoM.)

The functions of the Chairperson of the Committee of Management include:

- Primary contact person for the CoM.
- Oversight for the functions and responsibilities of CoM. As listed above.

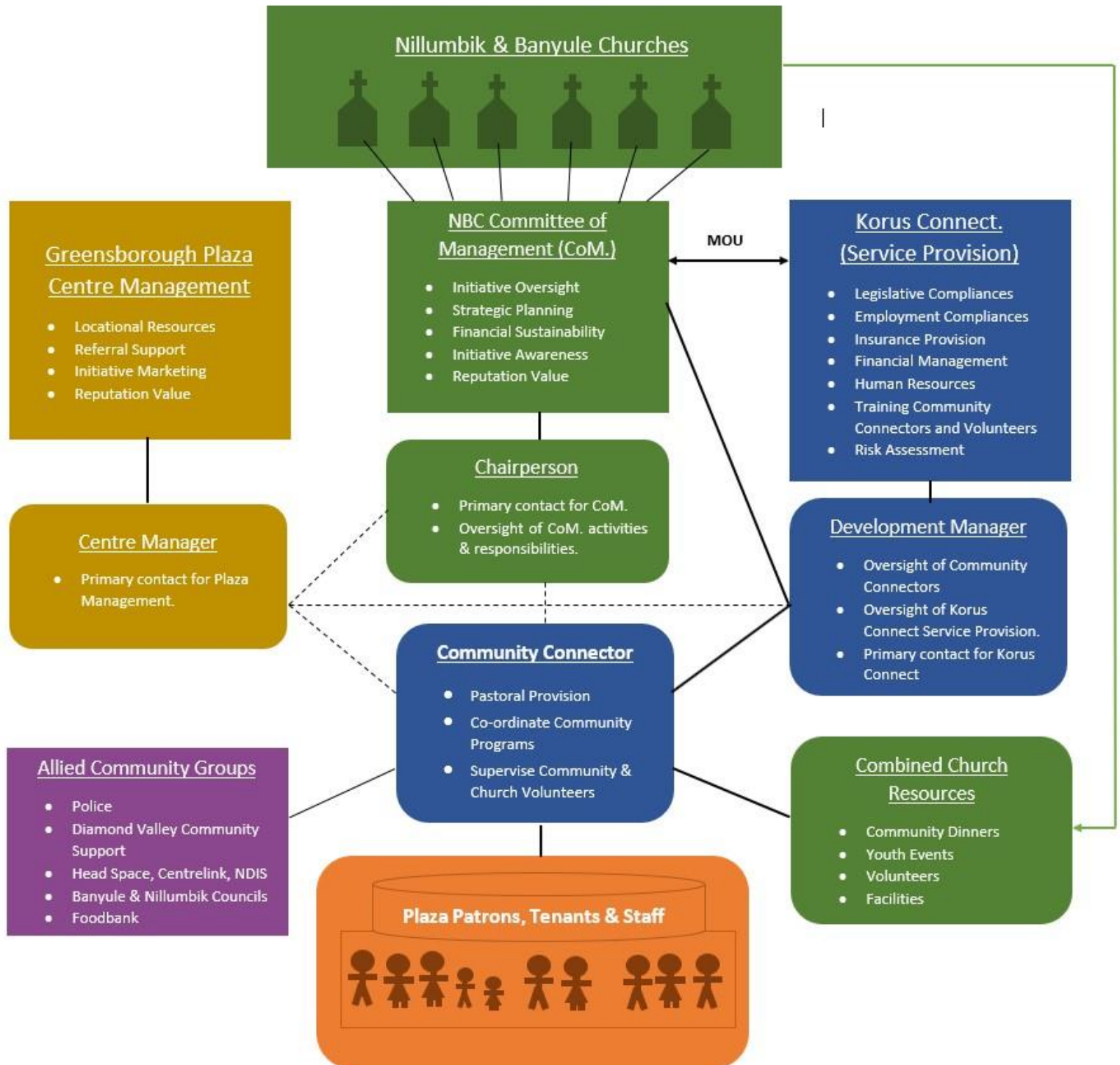


Figure 1 Organisational & Function Structure



Functions of Korus Connect (Service Provider)

The functions of Korus Connect include:

- Day to day management of each Community Connector.
- The provision of; legislative, Work safety, Duty of Care Compliances; management of salary, superannuation, and other employment related items.
- The management and processing of fund raising and donation monies.
- Employment Induction.
- Assistance with selection of Community Connector applicants.
- On-going marketing and awareness of the Community Connector Initiative

Functions of the Development Manager (Korus Connect)

The functions of the Chairperson of the Committee of Management include:

- Primary contact person for Korus Connect
- Oversight for the functions and responsibilities of Korus Connect. As listed above.

The functions of the Community Connectors (Chaplain).

The functions of the Community Connectors include:

- Responding pastorally to individual one on one engagements.
- Responding pastorally to individual referrals from Plaza management and/or staff.
- Identifying issues determinantal to the well-being of the local community.
- Developing programs in response to the issues identified.
- Identifying opportunities and projects for local church engagement.
- Developing and maintaining relationships with key people from local churches.

We recognise that one person may not possess all the skills required to complete the above.

The full potential of the role will be serviced through a team of financially supported Community Connectors overseeing and community and church volunteers.

The Community Connector role should be clearly defined in a job description. That expectations of performance and key achievement markers.