

Making the most of our ministry facilities



The diaconate and pastoral team have recently been considering how PBC can best utilise existing ministry spaces as well as planning for the future. As Parramatta Council have placed a restriction on the size of the auditorium, our focus has been on the growing need for improved ministry spaces beyond the auditorium. Here is some of what we have been thinking, praying and planning about.

The Hub ministry space *(the Seminar room, Counselling room and Offices)*

On Sundays, the Hub is at capacity for the 8:45am Kids' Church program. The Seminar room is full during their time together and every available space is used when they break into their smaller groups. Midweek, the offices are now at capacity, especially on Mondays and Fridays.

In response, we engaged Stanton Dahl Architects to investigate possible changes to The Hub buildings without the need

for a Development Application process with Parramatta Council. They presented options for re-designing the internal structure of buildings, however none of the options provided a significant increase in ministry space.

Their advice however was helpful in identifying some cost-effective measures to make the existing ministry spaces more usable in the immediate future.

These measures are:

- To install weather-proof blinds and insulation on the Hub veranda to create an additional space for Kids' Church to use;
- Replacing some of the large and heavy furniture in the Counselling room and Offices with light weight, smaller furniture that can be easily moved; and
- Reconfiguring existing furniture and the purchase of more appropriate desks and furniture to create additional working space in the Offices.

A longer-term solution would be the purchase of an adjoining property, which subject to Council approval, would allow us to relocate the Counselling room and Offices to the adjoining property. The Hub buildings could then be internally re-designed to provide larger ministry spaces. Please pray that should such a property become available, that we as a church we would be in a position to purchase it and that Council would be willing for it to be used for ministry purposes.

The Basement

The Basement is used by numerous groups throughout the week. Whilst it has served its function well, there are a number of measures that will improve its suitability for ministry:

- Replacing the wall-mounted screen with a side-throw projector and screen that is firstly, less likely to get damaged, and secondly, easier to operate by groups.
- Air-conditioning and/or better ventilation.
- Better utilising the storage areas in the “Bunker” and under the main church area.
- Repaint the area and replace the carpet (which still bears the consequences of the flooding that took place during the redevelopment 5 years ago).

The fenced grass area

The lack of sun and the high foot-traffic has worked against grass growing in this area. It is alternately dusty or muddy, resulting in it not being used as effectively as it could and also a large amount of dirt and mud being walked into the auditorium 5 days a week. To make it a more usable space, we propose to:

- Lay artificial grass over the entire fenced area.
- Provide seating (and possibly a table) for parents to be able to supervise their children from.

The Child Care Centre

Integricare operate the Long Day Care Centre on our property. It is very early stages, but they are currently exploring the feasibility of adding an additional building within the existing “footprint” of the Long Day Care Centre perimeter. If this progresses to reality, the additional building would be available for us to use for Kids’ Church on Sundays.

We trust that this information is helpful for you in understanding the current ministry-facility needs and some of the steps we are undertaking to meet them. We appreciate your prayers for wisdom in the decisions to be made and for God’s provision for the future.

