



TIME TO BUILD

Building lives, homes & communities

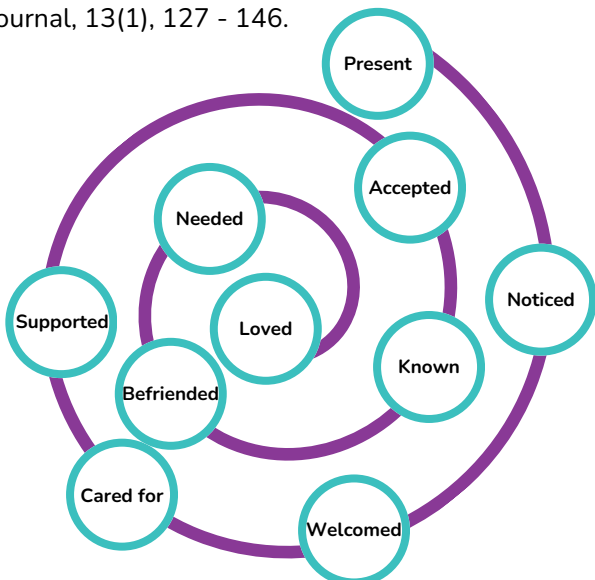
Newsletter of Our Place Christian Communities
and Hope Christian Homes - MAY 2024

Dimensions of Belonging: Part 1

We all want our churches to be places of welcome and belonging. How can we know if they are?

Some research involving 25 parents of young people living with intellectual and/or developmental disability were interviewed. Ten areas of belonging were found. They help us to ask questions about what we do in our churches. This newsletter will look at the first 5 areas and part 2 will be in our August newsletter.

Reference: Carter, E. W., Biggs, E. E., & Boehm, T. L. (2016). Being present versus having a presence: dimensions of belonging for young people with disabilities and their families. *Christian Education Journal*, 13(1), 127 - 146.



Present: are there people with disability at your church? Why or why not?

Noticed: do people get treated as individuals? Are people ok with conversations about disability?

Welcomed: do people with disability receive real greetings, friendliness and hospitality?

Accepted: would people say this of your church: “[we] really know and believe in [our] hearts that we’re all put together differently, and we are all put together in this community for a reason.” (p135)

Supported: do you ask the simple question “How can we support you? What do you need?”

Belonging at CRU Galston Gorge

Update from Kirk Patston

Kirk was on leave due to Long Covid. Thankfully, he has returned to work at Our Place and SMBC at the end of April. We are thankful for your prayers. Please continue to pray for Kirk and his health.

On Tuesday 30th April, Our Place went to CRU Camps at Galston Gorge to train their staff on disabilities and camps. Kirk Patston shared what the bible says about disability. Kelly Peters spoke about common disabilities, how they might look and ways to help leaders work with children with disability on camp. Finally, Simon Shead shared practical steps about helping children with trauma.

Heidi, one of the CRU team, said “I feel much better equipped to recognise different disabilities and to support kids living with them on camp.”

The team at CRU found some areas that can be changed on camps. We look forward to hearing how some of these things are put into place to make camp accessible and welcoming for all!



Kelly Peters presenting at CRU Belonging



Welcome Home Springwood News

What is Welcome Home Springwood (WHS)?

People might ask what WHS is and how it connects to Our Place. Here is an explanation. OPCC seeks to support mixed-ability Christian homes that are linked to local churches. WHS is the first home which we support and is owned by Hope Christian Homes. WHS is home to Jerrah and Simon as well as Jerrah's overnight carers.

We love to share stories from the house. Jerrah and Simon have hosted young adults bible study as well as other family and friends for meals. The housemates enjoyed a trip to Brigadoon in the Southern Highlands, did a fundraising walk and celebrated Jerrah's birthday with a drumming circle party! Jerrah's support workers have helped write and perform a puppet show for church and co-wrote a song called 'Jesus reigns over all'. These are examples of the how this house is a blessing to the local Christian church community.



Simon and Jerrah at Brigadoon



Jerrah with puppets at church



Jerrah's birthday celebration

Fizzy and Suds

Our ambassador Jerrah worked on the theme song for the new ABC kids television series Fizzy and Suds! The show is about two bubbles that explore the world. It is the first ABC show that has been made fully inclusively with people living with disability from start to finish! We are very proud of Jerrah's work on the show!



Continue to support our work by partnering in prayer with us. Our prayer points for May:



- Give thanks for Kirk's health and keep praying
- Give thanks for training at CRU. Pray for Christian organisations to be inclusive for all people.
- Pray for wisdom for the HCH Board as they continue to make decisions for WHS



Book a Belonging workshop for your church. Express your interest in Our Place training by completing an expression of interest form at:
<https://ourplacecc.org.au/belonging/>



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