

# Synergy Project: Advancing the Kingdom

To assist local churches in developing their capability for effective mission the Conference of Churches of Christ in NSW has awarded \$217,300 in Synergy grants for 2008

Sometimes a small amount of money can make a big difference. For churches it might be the difference between hiring a youth minister for one day or two. Or, perhaps the opportunity to send a young leader to an overseas conference that may shape their ministry. For your church it may be the chance to appoint a chaplain or equip a room for children's ministry.

As the local church is the God-designed faith community where effective ministry and mission takes place, the Churches of Christ in NSW is pleased to launch a new program of grants to help churches make a real impact on their corner of the world.

**Synergy Grants come in three forms:**

**Partnership Grants (\$90,000 over two years):** Three churches have agreed to an intentional process of collaboration and leadership partnership over a two year period. Senior conference staff will work in synergy with leaders of the Epping, Lismore and Hawkesbury Churches of Christ to support their strategies for the future. This is designed to diagnose their current situation and enable the church to advance beyond maintenance to more effective mission.

**Project Grants (\$104,800):** Fourteen church projects were approved. These include funds

for additional staff, outreach ministries, welfare projects, chaplaincy, and children's ministries. This money is provided to serve as a catalyst – aimed at getting something worthwhile off the ground.

**People Grants (\$22,500):** Six leadership development grants were awarded to help develop leadership in local churches. These include development activities such as international conference or mission experiences. A key component of these grants is to expose the applicant to learning environments which contribute to maximizing their potential.

Some churches who missed out this year have been

offered consultancy services with conference staff to help them rethink and re-equip for the future.

The decision making process involved much prayer and discussion. It was difficult to say no to many good ideas. However, this is the first time we have offered these grants and we invite you to start thinking about your next application.

In summary, **it is our hope and prayer that these grants will be used by God to encourage and equip – and be a catalyst to help churches focus on mission and health to advance the kingdom.**



*Pictured: Leanne Tate (left) and Sandra Noel are part of the administrative team providing support for Synergy grants*

**for more information about the grant application process please visit our website:**

[www.synergyproject.org.au](http://www.synergyproject.org.au)

## Helpful Tips for 2009 Grant Applications

*The following observations are intended to help those making application for 2009 Synergy grants:*

1. Applications must make a clear request for a specific purpose and a specific amount of money (not just a general subsidy of operations or debt)
2. Sending many applications for different purposes does not increase the possibility of being given a grant (one or two clear proposals for something pivotal to the development of the church is much preferred)
3. Partnership grants are only for churches requesting a collaborative partnership with conference staff over a two-year period to develop areas of church health and mission
4. Applications must be received by the due date. The deadline for 2009 grants is 1st September, 2008
5. Please remember that due to the large number of applications many will not be successful – this is due to limited resources and the need to prioritize. It is not a judgement about the value of a church, ministry, or person

*If there are any enquiries about the current grant decisions – or assistance needed in making a 2009 application please don't hesitate to contact David Tolman, John Crowther or Steve Smith on (02) 8719 2600 or check out the website: [www.synergyproject.org.au](http://www.synergyproject.org.au)*

## 2008 Synergy Grants

**PEOPLE (Leadership Grants):**

• Castle Hill Community Church	\$4,000	Youth Minister: Conference, USA
• Greenacre Church of Christ	\$2,500	Associate Pastor: Mission Experience, CAMBODIA
• NorthGate Community Church	\$3,000	Youth Leader: Soul Survivor, UK
• Rivergum Community Church	\$5,000	Ministry Team: Church Planting Workshop, TAS
• Kingsway Community Church	\$6,000	Ministry Team: Staff Development
• Welcome Street Church	\$2,000	Creative Team: Staff Development

**PROJECTS (Catalyst Grants):**

• Campbelltown Church of Christ	\$8,000	Children's Minister
• Bathurst Church of Christ	\$5,000	Teen Centre
• Kingsway Community Church	\$5,000	Frogs Street Ministry
• Penrith Church of Christ	\$5,000	WIN (Women In Need) Ministry
• Bowral Church of Christ	\$5,000	Coffee Club Ministry
• Lifegate Community Church	\$5,000	ABLAZE Children's Ministry
• Greenacre Church of Christ	\$10,000	Villawood Ministry
• Illawarra Central Church	\$10,000	Xarts Ministry
• Oyster Bay Church	\$7,200	Mainly Music Ministry
• Northgate Community Church	\$9,600	Ministry Staff
• Nowra Church of Christ	\$10,000	Youth Minister
• Rivergum Community Church	\$10,000	Mount Druitt Child Care Centre Chaplain
• Coast Community Church	\$5,000	Skaters Ministry
• The Heights Family	\$10,000	Ministry Staff

**PARTNERSHIPS (Synergy Grants):**

• Epping Church of Christ	\$30,000	Church Development
• Hawkesbury Church of Christ	\$30,000	Church Development
• Lismore Church of Christ	\$30,000	Church Development



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