

IDEAS FOR ACTION- Checklist

From Building a Multicultural Church, Multicultural Ministry Unit, Board of Mission, NSW Synod

1. Discovering Your Neighbours

- ✓ What is the cross-cultural make up of your area?
- ✓ Who are the main groups, their culture, their leaders?
- ✓ What are their needs and their gifts?

2. Growing a Cross-cultural Congregation

- ✓ What is the cultural make up of your congregation?
- ✓ How do people from different backgrounds participate in the life of your congregation?
- ✓ How do people respond to the cross-cultural interaction of your congregation?

3. Sharing the Vision

- ✓ Is your congregation intentionally cross-cultural in its mission?
- ✓ How can the whole congregation be encouraged to grow in understanding, owning and sharing in the vision for cross-cultural outreach?

4. The Bigger Picture - Networking

- ✓ What is being done by other churches and groups?
- ✓ What existing activities or plans could you join in?

5. Resources

- ✓ Who are the bridge-builders in your congregation?
- ✓ What can your congregation offer in response to cross-cultural needs?
(*Eg. people, buildings, worship, hospitality, English classes etc*)
- ✓ Are you in contact with the cross-cultural network in Presbytery or Synod?

Some further ideas for action

1. Learn a local community language as a way of building bridges into the community or invite someone to teach their language to a church group wishing to learn.
2. Establish links with communities in your area and local migrant resource centres.
3. Read the guidelines on sharing of property. Could your congregation offer to share property? Contact your synod of presbytery multicultural ministry officer.
4. Experiment with forms of worship life that better reflect being a multicultural church eg music, prayers we say, readings in other languages.
5. Evaluate the participation of Non English Speaking Background (NESB) people in leadership in the life of the congregation? What barriers exist?
6. Ensure your church signs, banners, notice boards, notice sheets, church leaflets reflect a welcome and supportive environment, and are printed in community languages.
7. Where there are combined/ bilingual services provide interpretation (it isn't that expensive) contact Assembly Multicultural Ministry for more information
8. Develop a cross-cultural ministry team or congregational multicultural ministry working-group to keep these issues alive in the congregation.
9. Celebrate *One Great Sunday of Sharing* and make use of resources leading up to it.
10. Organise special multicultural festivals and cross-cultural events as opportunities to grow and learn from each other.
11. Develop cross-cultural skills by encouraging visits to partner churches, doing further study in cross-cultural ministry and making time to build friendships.
12. Invite *Action for World Development* to run an anti-racism workshop; plan for a cross-cultural relationships workshop in your presbytery or congregation (contact Assembly or Synod Multicultural Ministry staff -available from 2002)
13. Develop a ministry with refugees (contact NCCA state ecumenical officers)
14. Reflect on culturally appropriate forms of evangelism with reference to particular groups
15. Help fund Multicultural Ministry projects such as translation of key documents; cross-cultural relationships workshops, enabling cross-cultural workers/ youth workers.

If your area isn't very multicultural- you can still share in multicultural ministry! Express your willingness to host families for weekends or holidays or invite members from one of the migrant congregations to come and share in worship and hospitality