



Emmanuel Centre: Mission and Ministry Framework.

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Mission and Ministry Framework.

Emmanuel Centre is a ministry within the Catholic Church for people with disability/different abilities and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, their families and carers. The Centre was set up in 1981 by Sir Lancelot Goody, Archbishop of Perth under the leadership of Fr Barry Hickey, Director of Centrecare (later Archbishop of Perth).

The name given to the organisation – EMMANUEL – GOD WITH US constantly keeps in the forefront as to who is directing our mission and ministry. This also guides our response to the challenges facing all those where disability is an issue to participating fully as a member of the Body of Christ.

The Mission and Ministry Framework is a key resource for everyone who provides services through Emmanuel Self-help Centre and intends the current and future employees and volunteers:

- To gain a deeper and richer understanding of the mission and values that are at the core of the ministry of Emmanuel Centre;
- To continue the mission and ministry to the future by reflecting the guiding principles and philosophy that lead to the birth of Emmanuel Centre;
- To draw from, in leading the values and culture of Emmanuel centre within the broader ministry of the Catholic Church;
- To inform the direction of policies and procedures that facilitate and enhance the full participation of the employees and volunteers of Emmanuel Centre and those who seek support from it. and,
- To guide the decision-making process, choices and daily practices that add value to, in providing support for people with disability/different abilities, their families and carers.

Our Mission.

Our mission is to demonstrate God's love and power present in the world.

This power, reflected through the person of Jesus, is clearly seen in the Gospel. We witness Jesus touching, healing and restoring persons to life. Then the meaning of life is expanded to include one's relationship with oneself and other and hope for life to the full.

The mission of Jesus is alive and dynamic, not set in one period of time or in a single set of circumstances. The mission finds unique expression in all times and through a variety of people. It is also a benchmark to evaluate authenticity and effectiveness and should be the

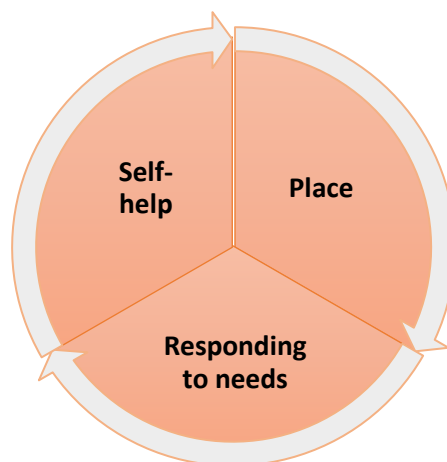
driving force by which decisions are made and structures and systems are developed. A shared compatible understanding of mission is essential to establishing new relationships.

Our Guiding Principles.

The basic operational principles of the Emmanuel Centre – Self Help, Place and Responding to Needs- arose out of a survey commissioned by the Catholic Committee for the Church’s response to the International Year of Disabled Persons (IYDP) in 1981.

The Committee sought input from people with disability/different ability, their families and people who had an interest in their welfare through a questionnaire and face to face interviews.

These principles have guided the Emmanuel’s service from the beginning and will continue to influence its response to meet the needs of those with disability/different abilities in Western Australia.



- Self-help – sharing of gifts and skills

Self-help does away with labels, vertical relationships between giver and receiver and status issues, replacing them with a non-pathological mutually/shared experience of what it means to “love one another”. It reflects the most basic idea that everyone has gifts and able to share and support each other. Self-help identifies skills and capacities each can contribute and uses these in supportive relationships. It emphasises the fact that the receiving and giving are more important than the buying and selling of services.

The Self-help approach turns the conventional approach to services on its head and requires those interacting with Emmanuel to take the time and effort to understand how Emmanuel's foundational philosophy and principles affect all its operations

- Place – where gifts and skills could be shared

Often people come to Emmanuel because programs/services offered elsewhere are not structured to meet their particular circumstances. In this sense, Emmanuel Centre is a last resort for some people. It provides a place for rest and self-growth. Funding and program models are not the defining elements of what is done at the Emmanuel Centre.

- Responding to needs – rather than to programs

The operational approach of the Emmanuel Centre finds its expression through providing a service on a needs basis and without regards to labels. It focuses on the needs of people, their dreams, their aspirations and visions. It focuses on people who want to accept responsibility for their own growth as far as they are able.

People's lives are changed for the better because they are given dignity as they are seen as individuals with their own individual needs and capacities. People are not seen as a category of disability/different abilities with a set model of service.

Our Foundational Philosophy.

The IYDP committee also found a consistent belief that:

- We are all made in the image and likeness of God;
- We are all part of the Body of Christ; and,
- We are all on a journey home walking with each other and with Jesus.

This has informed and inspired the work of Emmanuel from its outset and its overarching philosophy, which underpins its Catholic Identity and culture.

- Every person is the subject of human dignity, with intrinsic spiritual worth, at every stage of human development. Every person has a right to be part of a Christian community.
- People are inherently social. Their dignity is fully realised on in association with others. Our social nature demands that the common good be served: the self-interest of a few must not compromise the well-being of all.
- Preferential option for the poor calls for particular commitment to the people in the Body of Christ who are disenfranchised.
- Stewardship requires that we use natural and social resources prudently and in service to all.

The Values of Emmanuel Centre.

Our core values- Respect for diversity, Openness, Commitment and Authenticity – reflect the values of Jesus and those who have contributed to Emmanuel’s mission and ministry since its foundation.

- Respect for diversity.
We recognise that diversity is what make a person unique and different. This shapes their identity, experiences and sense of purpose in life. It is also about the shared characteristics and values that connect a person to others and communities. Respect for diversity is fundamental to Emmanuel’s mission and ministry as it acknowledges the capacity of each individual to learn and grow within a supportive environment.
- Openness.
We seek out and welcome opinions and contributions of others allowing those who interact with Emmanuel for self-determination and new ways of participation. We listen to understand and create opportunities for personal growth and to be an agent of change.
- Commitment.
Our services are not limited by programs and service models. While the resourcing of Emmanuel Centre is an important issue this has never been a central or determining factor in responding to needs. We continue to endeavour to find and learn new ways to meet the needs of those interact with Emmanuel so that they could live their lives to the full.
- Authenticity.
We strive to be a reflection of God’s love and power. we grow as a family learning from our strengths and weaknesses. We struggle together to find solutions, more or less, for our unique setting and trust in the providence of God to lead Emmanuel’s mission and ministry.

The Ministry of Emmanuel Centre.

At Emmanuel Centre every person is accepted and supported, without favouring one over another. We recognise the value and contribution of each person.

Our holistic approach to service provision takes into consideration physical, spiritual, relational, emotional, cultural dimensions of life. This is reflective of the mission and ministry of Jesus whose invitation is to embrace the fullness of life. This is also expressed

through all our policies, procedures and practices that are at the service of realising Emmanuel's mission and ministry.

The following diagram displays some of the main services of Emmanuel Centre. As these services arose out of attempting to meet the needs of the time, Emmanuel will continue respond to new needs and shape its ministry into the future.



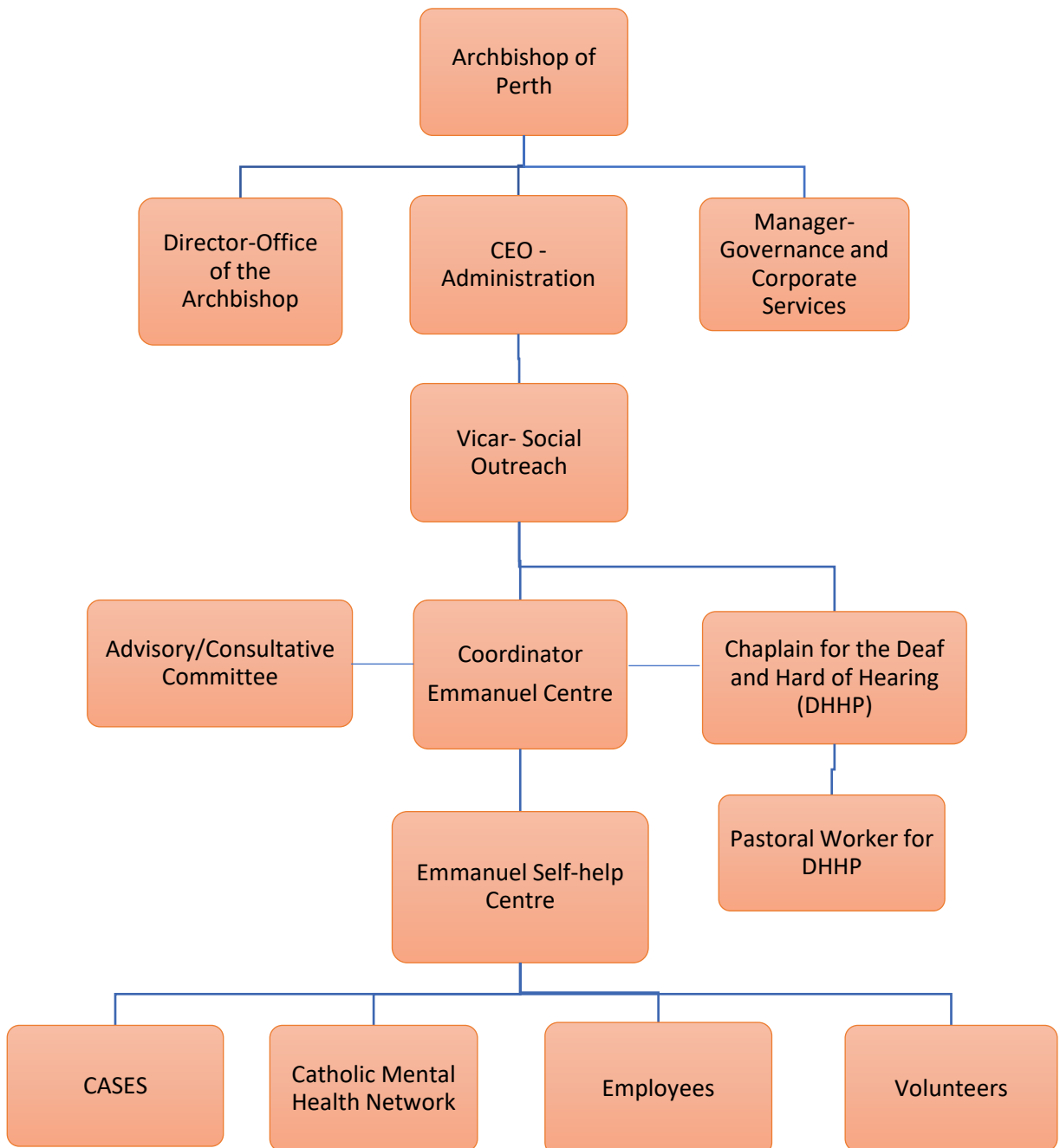
- **Connection and Community:** We provide opportunity and a welcoming place for sense of belonging and relationships.
- **Advocacy:** We are committed to support and facilitate the care for the whole person with the support of our staff and other Catholic and non-Catholic service providers to meet the needs of those with disability/different ability. Active engagement with relevant organisations is an essential part of our endeavour to be an advocate for the needs of those with disability/different abilities.

- Accommodation Support: We provide opportunity for people with disability/different abilities to have a safe place, learn new life-skills and take responsibility to care for each other through our accommodation support.
- Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care: We provide opportunity to participate in religious experiences and become close to what matters to them most.
- Spiritual Counselling: We support people to build on their strengths and skills to manage challenges of life and living.
- Personal growth and skill development: We support people to explore who they are and discover God's plan for them. We are only 'companions on the journey' in their self-discovery and fulfilment.
- Education: We provide education support within church and community setting to enhance one's capacity to engage and respond to the challenges faced by people with disability/different abilities, families and carers.

To ensure safety, dignity and full participation of all those who interact with the mission and ministry of Emmanuel Centre, our employees and volunteers should follow its policies and procedures and continue to review their effectiveness.

Current Policies: Code of Conduct, Work Health and Safety Policy, Complaint and Grievance Policy, Communication/Social Media Policy, Interagency Support and Referral Policy and Mental Health Policy, Accommodation Support Policy.

The governing structure.



Acknowledgment.

Since Emmanuel Centre's foundation in 1981, there have been many individuals and organisations who have generously shared their gifts and resources to ensure that it continues its mission and ministry. In looking back at the past years of its existence, they provide a foundation for the future contribution Emmanuel could make both within and in society in the areas of disability/different abilities in Western Australia.

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