

Interpreting the Parish Social Profile for Mission

with Dr Stephen Reid

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

1. Gather insights from the Parish Social Profile.

- a. Appoint a scribe.
- b. Each person is invited to share:
 - i. What were the key things that stood out for you as you read the report?
 - ii. What does the data say?
 - iii. Was there anything surprising or does it align with your lived experience?
 - iv. Can you note one particular area of opportunity for a fresh or renewed missionary endeavour?
- c. Review the feedback to identify both the common threads as well as the differences in the view of the participants.
- d. Are there any other areas that are important to consider, in the light of the presentation and panel discussion?

2. Prioritise areas for action

- a. Spend a short time individually considering the top five areas of the profile where you would like to see a pastoral response?
- b. Appoint a scribe.

- c. Each person to share their top five areas.
- d. Use multi-voting/some form of polling to identify the top two areas/issues on which to focus.

3. Use the data to understand the current situation.

- a. For each of the top two areas/issues, identify the parts of the report that might provide insight into the current status in the parish. For example, a priority area of families might also draw on data from the sections on marital status, households, birthplace, language and attendance at educational institutions.
- b. Use the data from each of the relevant sections to understand the interplay of factors that might be contributing to the current situation.
- c. Identify some options for a pastoral response to this area/issue.

4. Agree how you will communicate the fruits of this exercise to the parish pastoral council and congregation.