

What in the World is MU doing? ...

With Sydney MU Workers

In 1991 MU Sydney funded its first MU Worker to work specifically among single parents and to link them into the church. Mary-Ellen Jamieson worked in the Parish of St Hilda's Katoomba for two days a week for a period of two years. During that time she contacted the Early Childhood Centres, visited new mothers at Katoomba Hospital, doorknocked and set up a "Playtots Group" which met weekly. Some of the mothers attended Christianity Explained, and a small Bible Study which Mary-Ellen ran. Part of the job description was to train the church women to continue this work, when Mary-Ellen's contract finished.

Since that beginning, MU Sydney has continued to employ women to work in Parishes which need help reaching out to families. Our original aim of working with single parents has broadened to include all families, but our focus has been particularly on those with young children. Most of our Workers have carried out work similar to that done by Mary-Ellen, but tailored to the particular needs of the area they are working in.

We recognise that it is much easier to get financial support for an existing ministry which already has someone running it, than for an idea. So we invite parishes to make submissions to our MU Diocesan Executive, explaining what the Worker would do, and who would be employed. Generally each grant runs for two years and employs the worker for 10 hours a week. The aim is for the work to be continued after our two years of funding are completed. This isn't always possible, but a number of parishes have been able to continue to employ the worker after our MU funding has finished.

As time has passed, we have been able to support two or three MU Workers at the same time. Our workers report to our MU Diocesan Council and are prayed for regularly by our MU members whose donations provide the funding for the work. Where possible we link the worker to an MU Branch for further support.

