



# HILLSONG CHURCH AUSTRALIA

## MISSION IMPACT

MID YEAR UPDATE

MAY 2024





# A LETTER FROM PHIL & LUCINDA

**GLOBAL SENIOR PASTORS**

Dear Church,

As we entered into 2024, we sensed a new season and era for Hillsong Church. Reflecting on our past communications, while we previously shared quarterly updates with you, we are embracing a new rhythm by introducing a bi-annual leadership report, called Mission Impact. As the name suggests, our aim with this report is to both inspire and inform you about the impact of our mission and provide essential updates.

We are more faith-filled, focused, and passionate than ever about our vision, which is to build a healthy church changing lives through Christ. We are not doing this in our own strength but through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ growing stronger together and bringing glory to God our Father. At Mission Sunday in February, we felt to encourage our church to seek after a fresh awakening of God's presence that will empower each of us to accomplish great things together. Filled with the Holy Spirit we each have a significant part to play in establishing His Kingdom here on earth. It is with grateful hearts that we present this update to you, our beautiful church! Personally we have been overwhelmed by your kindness, your prayers, your words of encouragement, and your heartfelt commitment to serve Jesus.

The pages that follow reflect the significance of Mission Sunday, offer insights from our Key Support Team, and share updates from each of our mission pillars. Towards the conclusion of this report, our Chair and Board will provide an overview of their progress.

It was encouraging to see people of all ages make a public declaration of their faith in Jesus, particularly on Easter Sunday. We heard an amazing story of a man in his sixties who knew of God but only recently began regularly attending our church, a Business Connect Group, and has also started serving. It was fantastic to see him decide to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and be water baptised on Easter Sunday. His family and friends were all there to watch and celebrate this significant step of faith! This is just one story of a life transformed by Jesus Christ among many others across our church community.

We are pleased to share the encouraging news of our church's healthy growth. Over the past year, our church attendance across Australia continued to grow, with our average weekend attendance exceeding 20,000 people, an increase of 18% from the previous year. What's even more incredible is the evident work of God among us; in 2023 alone, we witnessed across our services 21,098 individual decisions to follow Jesus, representing a 56% increase from the previous year. Globally, the church is growing, with attendance up by 20% over the past year. It's hard to put into words how grateful we are for the faithfulness of God to build His church in what at times has been a very challenging season.



## A LETTER FROM PHIL & LUCINDA – CONT.

With our key team we've started to dream about the future, and we have a particular focus on the next generation. Our church is a generational church and we love seeing the generations worshipping Jesus and serving together, everyone of us have a purpose and part to play in building our church. As Hebrews 11:1 reminds us, "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." (NIV)

As you read this report, we hope that you feel a real sense of ownership of the many good news stories of health and impact that are taking place within our local communities across Australia and around the world. This report is named 'Mission Impact' to emphasise the significance of our collective efforts. Again to our church family, we say a big thank you for not growing weary in doing good, for living generously, and for faithfully sowing into the vision and mission of our church. Together, let us persist in our prayers and service, continuing to believe for the Holy Spirit to awaken our church and to lead us forward!

We extend our deepest appreciation to our Australia and Global Boards and Spiritual Advisory Team for their continued support as we navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in leading our church onward.

May God continue to bless and refresh our church, our staff, our team of volunteers, and each one of you as we serve Him together.

**Phil and Lucinda**  
*Global Senior Pastors*



“With our key team we’ve started to dream about the future, and we have a particular focus on the next generation.”



# MISSION SUNDAY RECAP

18 FEBRUARY 2024

Reflecting on the journey that brought them to this point, Pastor Phil reminded the church of the importance of passionately carrying the mission and recognising “we need each other” in the service of God’s deep call.

The transition from Vision Sunday to Mission Sunday represents more than just a change in title; it represents a shift in focus towards proactive engagement and personal devotion to Christ. Phil shared, “The focus of Mission Sunday is not just what we are doing but who we are becoming.” Phil again outlined the strategic pillars that underpin this mission-driven approach:

- Building healthy church communities
- Developing purpose-filled Jesus followers
- Creating significant and sustainable social impact.

Drawing from Luke 5:37 (NIV), “*And no one pours*

*new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins*”, Phil drew the comparison of new wine needing new wineskins, asking, “Will we handle the new thing God desires to do?”

Central to this renewed vision is the call to embody the mission of Jesus Christ in every aspect of life. From local initiatives to global outreach efforts, Hillsong desires to be a beacon of hope and transformation in a world hungry for authenticity and compassion.

In many ways, Hillsong Mission Sunday 2024 served as a testament to the unwavering commitment of its leadership and the passion of its people to make a difference in the world.

**TO WATCH THE MISSION SUNDAY PRESENTATION, [CLICK HERE.](#)**

# KEY SUPPORT TEAM UPDATE

## HILLSONG AUSTRALIA

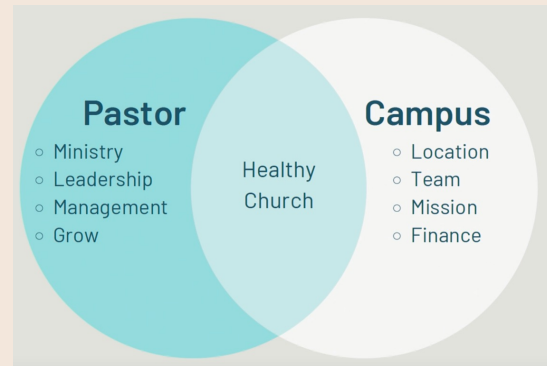
The Key Support Team plays a vital role in supporting our church and campuses, alongside our dedicated Campus Pastors who serve our congregation and community. You can explore the bios of our Key Support Team members on our [website](#), to gain insight into the individuals driving our mission forward.

A priority has been on aligning our strategy to our vision, which is to *build a healthy church changing lives through Christ*. To achieve this, we have a plan in place to ensure that our actions reflect our overarching goal of building healthy churches. This includes fostering the well-being of our campuses and campus pastors equipping them to effectively manage their ministries and ensure excellence in their operations.

On the following pages, we hope you enjoy reading highlights and stories from this year so far that relate to each of our mission pillars.

We aspire to be a church that positively impacts the wider community.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our dedicated staff, volunteers, and wider church community for their support and commitment to our shared mission. Together, we are making a difference and spreading the love of Christ to all we encounter.



## Key Support Team Australia

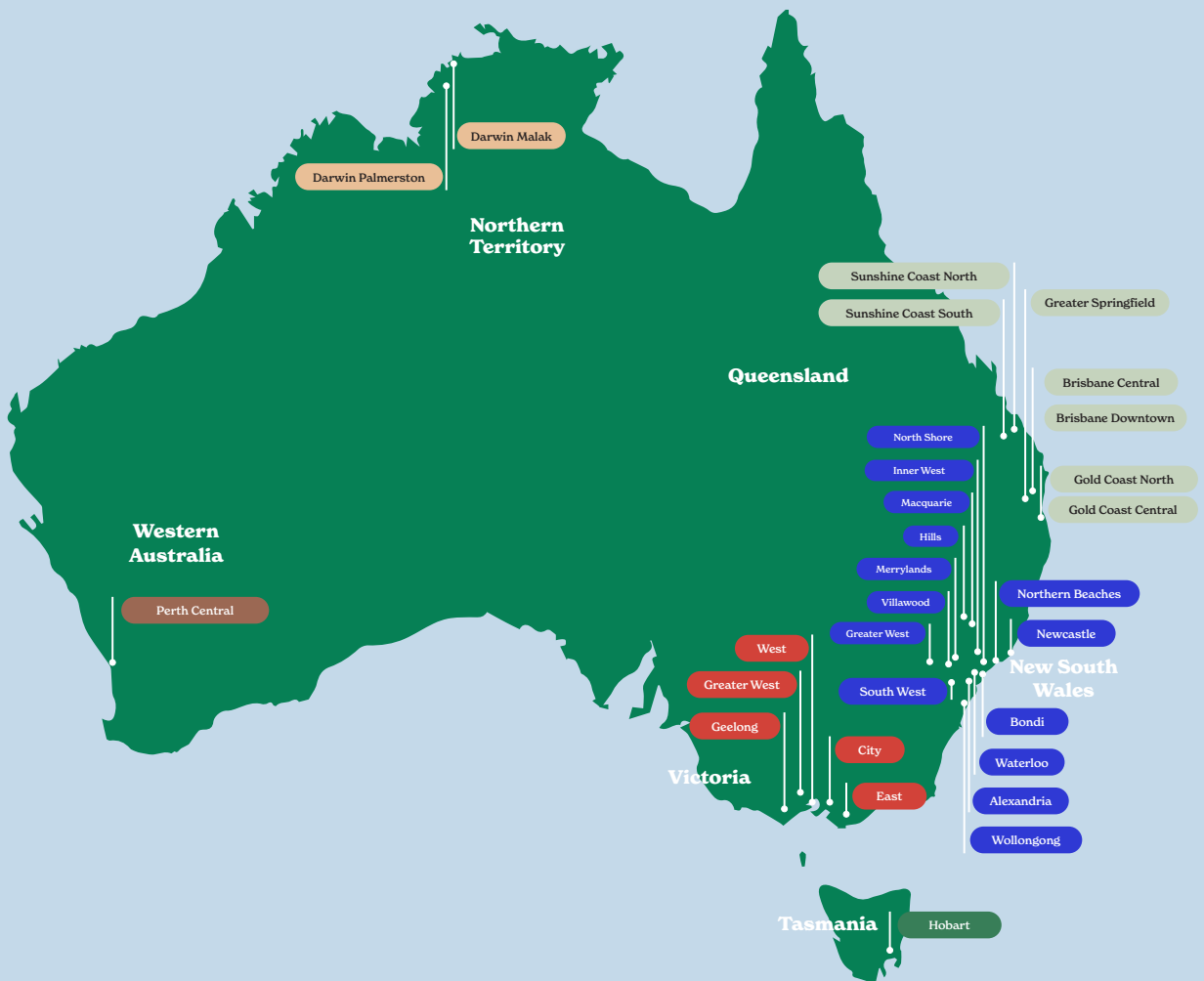
Click [here](#) to view bios.

Campus Support 1	Campus Support 2	Campus Support 3	Campus Support 4	Discipleship Support	Social Impact Support	Operational Support	Strategy Support
Darren Kitto	Andrew Midson	Jay Jury	Nathan Mclean	Katie Schrack	Lauren Thomson	Carl-Hugo Ander	Kent Medwin



# AUSTRALIA LOCATIONS

Our 30 Campus Locations



# EASTER 2024

JESUS: THE LIVING HOPE



## EASTER SERVICES

**43,373 people gathered across Australia**

**1,049 decisions for Jesus**

**201 water baptisms**

As we reflect on Easter Sunday, we are grateful for the many God-stories that came out of church communities across Australia as people encountered the love and hope found in Jesus. The services were filled with praise and joy as we celebrated the victory of Christ over death. Our worship was vibrant, and the message of hope and redemption resonated deeply, especially for those who stepped through our doors for the first time or were returning to church community. We want to express our heartfelt thanks to our dedicated team and volunteers whose efforts helped create an environment where everyone could encounter the love and grace of Christ.

# HILLSONG SISTERHOOD

WE ARE A SISTERHOOD SET APART FOR KINGDOM PURPOSE



## SISTERHOOD UNITED NIGHT

Gatherings in 26 locations across Australia

Sisterhood is the women's movement of our church, for women of all ages and all backgrounds. We are committed to being a community to belong, a place to grow, and a movement that serves. Ultimately our heart is to be women set apart for Kingdom Purpose. Our Sisterhood United Nights are evidence that God is doing something fresh and new in Sisterhood. On these United Nights, women have loved coming together to worship, deepen their faith, and build lasting friendships. Reflecting on past gatherings, a new vision and identity for Sisterhood has begun to take shape. These nights have been marked with authenticity, lots of laughter, and a deep sense of God's presence.

As we move forward, we're committed to fostering a community where every woman feels valued and empowered. We're expectant for what God has in store for us this year and believe that His Spirit will continue to move in powerful ways. Whether you've been a part of Sisterhood for years or are joining us for the first time, we warmly invite you to be a part of this community. Click [here](#) to discover more about Sisterhood.



# HILLSONG CITYCARE

BUILDING HOPE WITH VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

## Campaigns



**Kilo of Christmas 2023**  
12,164 Food Hampers & Toy Packs distributed



**Love Thy Neighbour 2023**  
1,340 Domestic & Family Violence Packs  
1,534 Homelessness Packs

CityCare campaigns aim to restore dignity and hope to those in our communities who are hurting and vulnerable. As part of our church's dedication to fostering lasting social impact, these campaigns offer tangible ways for us to support our community. This is achieved by facilitating the provision of in-kind contributions, in response to the need in our church and wider communities during various times of year and in response to crisis situations.

## CityCare Programs

2023 Full Year

We partner with local organisations and services to run transformative community engagement programs. By addressing the root causes of issues rather than just symptoms, we work to bring about deeper, meaningful change.



**SHINEgirl:** Run in 28 schools with 3,694 in attendance  
**SHINEwomen:** Run in 10 locations with 393 in attendance



**Community Safe Spaces:** Run in 3 locations with 248 in attendance

**Youth Safe Spaces:** Run in 23 locations with 34,745 in attendance

STRENGTH

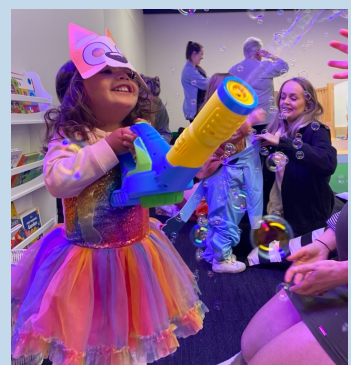


**STRENGTH:** In 20 schools with 2,157 in attendance



**Youth Events:** 5 run, with 982 in attendance

**Playgroups:** Run in 13 locations with 15,586 in attendance



# Faith Mission Partners

A community of faith-filled believers committed and contributing to the mission of Hillsong Church established across the earth.

Dear Church,

Our Faith Mission Partners community is filled with passionate, mission focused people within our church who are committed, playing their part to see the Kingdom of God advance on the earth. This community is for those who are graced with the gift of giving and feel called to seeing the Kingdom of God advance. It is about stretching our faith, it is about continuing to outwork God's mission as we build the church, and it is about partnership as we are doing this together. In partnership with God, we believe that we can do so much more collectively as we continue to outwork our calling and mission.

If you would like to be part of this vibrant community of individuals who are passionate about Jesus and blessed with the spirit of generosity, we invite you to prayerfully consider your role in advancing the Kingdom of God with us. We are continually inspired by the dedication and generosity of individuals like you who share our vision to continue to be a healthy church changing lives through Christ.

We understand that committing as a Faith Mission Partner is an important decision, so please feel free to reach out to our Foundation team at [foundation@hillsong.com](mailto:foundation@hillsong.com) with any questions that you may have!

With love and gratitude,

**Phil and Lucinda**  
*Global Senior Pastors*

[Join Faith Mission Partners](#)



# A LETTER FROM DR STEPHEN CROUCH

AUSTRALIA BOARD CHAIR

Dear Church,

It's my joy to provide an update to our Church! I am constantly inspired by our passionate Church, committed to seeking God's kingdom first. Jesus describes His kingdom in Matthew 5:14 (NIV), "*You are the light of the world, a city on a hill that cannot be hidden.*"

We have witnessed significant growth, particularly evident in our recent Easter services. Across Australia and globally, we have seen an increase in attendance and salvations, a testament to the life-changing work of Jesus Christ within our midst. Even more encouraging are your selfless acts of kindness and service on display.

Your response to the Love Thy Neighbour initiative was remarkable. Our church community assembled packs containing warm clothing, hygiene products, and essential food items for those who are most vulnerable. Witnessing our church family unite with compassion and generosity is truly heartening.

On behalf of our board, I would like to express our confidence in Pastors Phil and Lucinda. They have led us through difficult times with clarity, poise, and love. They have patiently formed an energetic key support team charged with leading and serving our Church.

Hillsong Church, we will continue to speak graciously of the **redemption** of Jesus, to speak enthusiastically of His **resurrection**, and to speak with clarity the **revelation** of Jesus.

Thank you for your support and faithfulness.



**Dr Stephen Crouch**  
*Australia Board Chair*

# AUSTRALIA BOARD UPDATE

The commitment of the Australia Board is to continue to place a greater focus on trust, culture, and health within our church. In the spirit of this, we would like to provide you with an update on recent developments regarding our church's governance.

As you may be aware, our Church has been the subject of an investigation by the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission [ACNC]. The investigation includes a consideration of our current governance arrangements and is progressing. We are hopeful that the investigation will be finalised in the coming months. We will provide a further update as it progresses.

We want to be transparent with you about the significant costs we have incurred related to reviews, audits, and other investigations. These

efforts, while challenging, are crucial for maintaining the integrity and trust in our church.

Our board is committed to serving with insight and knowledge. Over the past year, with each new board appointment, we have endeavoured to represent the diversity of our community. By adopting a skills matrix along with wisdom from life experiences, we have sought to achieve a breadth and depth of knowledge in our decision-making. Most of the board members have completed the Australian Institute of Company Directors course, setting a high benchmark for boards in this nation.

We thank you for your continued support and prayers as we work through this period of committed evaluation and healthy growth.

## Hillsong Australia Board

Click [here](#) to view bios.



**Dr Stephen Crouch**

*GAICD, FCA,  
B.Bus,  
MEc, DBA  
Chair*



**Phil Dooley**

*Global  
Senior  
Pastor  
B.Bus*



**Dane Gambrill**

*GAICD,  
PMC*



**Jessica Martin**

*BCom/LL  
B, GDLP*



**Louise Markus**

*BSocWk  
Deputy Chair*



**Dr Robyn Ober**

*PhD, MA,  
BA*



**Amanda Tay**

*GAICD,  
EMBA,  
B.Bus*



**David Thambiratnam**

*MEng,  
GDipMngt*

# AUSTRALIA BOARD PROGRESS REPORT

- To be commenced
- In progress action
- Progress delayed
- Completed
- Implementation ongoing

Australia Board Review*	Responsibility	Progression
1. Provide ongoing support and leadership development to both of the Global Senior Pastors.	Australia Board	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
2. Further separate the membership of the Australian and Global Boards whilst leveraging the Church's global governance improvement plans and actions.	Australia Board	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
3. Align the Australian Board's plan to improve Hillsong Church's governance to the global plan, and provide leadership in that pursuit.^	Australia Board	<span style="color: lightgreen;">●</span>
4. Align the development of a new strategic plan, clear goals and priorities for Australia with that of Hillsong Church globally.	Australia Board	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
5. Align how the Australia Board understands, measures and rebuilds trust and health from the inside out with that of the church globally.	Australia Board	<span style="color: green;">●</span>

\*Insync recommendations to the Australia Board dated 12 October, 2022. For further details, please refer to our December 2022 Board Report, accessible via [this link](#).

^Australia has aligned the Australia Board's plan to improve Hillsong Church's governance with the global plan. The identification of this process is complete, and implementation is underway.



# JULY 23-MAY 24

## COMMUNICATION TIMELINE



### JULY

#### AUSTRALIA BOARD REPORT

- Dr Robyn Ober and David Thambiratnam appointed as new board directors.
- Announced Australia Key Support Team.



### NOVEMBER

#### AUSTRALIA BOARD REPORT

- Lauren Thomson announced as Head of Social Impact.
- Pastor Credentialling process update.



### FEBRUARY

#### MISSION SUNDAY

Global Senior Pastors Phil & Lucinda Dooley shared 2024's renewed commitment to the church's mission.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
**PASTOR SERGE  
GRYGORUK**

17 JULY 1943 - 11 JANUARY 2024



With deep gratitude, we will always remember Pastor Serge Grygoruk's four decades of devoted service. His legacy of unwavering commitment to loving God and loving people will continue to inspire generations to come. To Serge's family - his wife Narelle, his three children Rachel, Ben, Adam and his grandchildren - thank you for sharing Serge with our church. As we honour his memory, may we continue the work of love and service he displayed, embracing the passion Serge had for Jesus and His church.



Contact: [governance@hillsong.com](mailto:governance@hillsong.com)