

Media Release
June 29, 2009



State Government injects \$2m into *The Wayside*

The Wayside Chapel has welcomed the State Government's decision to contribute \$2 million to *The Wayside Chapel's Redevelopment Project*, from the 2009/2010 budget.

With 30 per cent of the current building condemned, *The Wayside Chapel* was facing a significantly reduced service or permanent closure within a year. To continue its vital work with the socially disadvantaged and homeless, The Wayside Chapel needs to be rebuilt.

The Redevelopment Project is to be carried out in 2 stages and requires a capital investment of \$7 million. The Wayside Chapel has privately raised \$1.5 million and together with the \$2 million contribution from the State Government the first stage will now proceed in late 2009.

To enable the second and final stage of the redevelopment in mid 2010, The Wayside Chapel has sought Federal Government funding for a further \$2 million and hopes to privately raise the remaining \$1.5 million.

Pastor of the Wayside Chapel, Rev. Graham Long said he offers his thanks to the State Government for contributing to maintaining the future of The Wayside Chapel. He also congratulates them on the courage they have shown to make provision for the thousands of people in the community who "fall by the wayside" each year.

"With the increase in the number of people accessing The Wayside Chapel on a yearly basis and the expansion of the services we provide, it is paramount to have a fully functional building to help those who are socially disadvantaged, homeless and mentally ill to gain equitable access to essential health, welfare and housing services.

"The Wayside Chapel has been part of the social fabric of Sydney since 1964. We are committed to our future role in Sydney's society, however, to maintain our role and capabilities we need a new building to ensure we can continue to provide our various services, like our much needed Youth Service, Community Services Centre and Day to Day Living Programs.

"We are pleased to accept this help from the State Government and feel confident that it is an investment that will yield handsomely and be measured by people from every spectrum of the community who give testimony that when they fell on their worst times, they found a safe pair of hands at The Wayside Chapel," Rev. Long said.

For further media information or a building prospectus contact Graham Long at The Wayside Chapel on 0411 375 529. graham@thewaysidechapel.com

The Wayside Chapel has provided unconditional love, care and support for people on and around the streets of Kings Cross since 1964. Each year, thousands of people visit the Wayside for assistance in gaining equitable access to essential health, welfare and related services. The Wayside Chapel is well known for its Youth Service, Community Services Centre and Day to Day Living Programs.