

# Consultation with Groups and Individuals - KCO and SAYCO "2017 & beyond"

## Summary of responses

This is a collated summary of findings from consultation gatherings, written input and personal conversations during November and December 2015 and January 2016. Submissions were received from people from a wide variety of congregations (e.g. Spicer, Echunga, Naracoorte, Cummins, Coromandel Valley, etc...)

There were five general consultations and a gathering of KCO Team members, written submissions from a range of individuals and interviews with some key leaders/volunteers. Consultations included:

- Synod office 17/11/15
- Playford UC 28/11/15
- The Corner UC 1/12/15
- KCO Team- hosted A.Hewitt 22/11/15 – not full consultation and included comments regarding 2016 event.
- A Consultation was prepared for 10/12/15 in the Synod office but no one attended.
- UAICC Regional Council 10/12/15
- Burnside City UC 21/1/16

### Supporting information included:

- KCO & SAYCO Mission statements
- UYP Key Directions
- Christian camp research data
- Key feedback from KCO & SAYCO over recent years and demographics (campers, leaders and team).

### Revised Consultation Timeline November 2015 – June 2016

When	2015 November & December	2016 January	2016 February
Who	Anyone involved with Uniting Church SA, particularly groups/churches who attend KCO & SAYCO and volunteers	Mission Resourcing State Advisory Teams for Youth & Young Adults and Children & Families	Mission Resourcing Interim Mission Council
What	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Participate in one of the Consultation gatherings or send in a written response.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discuss &amp; collate Consultation input.</li> <li>▪ Provide recommendations to Mission Resourcing Interim Mission Council.</li> <li>▪ Contact all involved in Consultation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discuss recommendations.</li> <li>▪ Propose ways forward (SC)</li> <li>▪ Communicate with all involved in Consultation.</li> </ul>

When	2016 February	2016 April - May	2016 May - June
Who	Synod staff and 2016 KCO & SAYCO teams	Anyone involved with Uniting Church SA, particularly groups/churches who attend KCO & SAYCO and those who volunteer at these events	State Advisory Teams for Youth & Young Adults and Children & Families and MR Interim Mission Council
What	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Begin planning the logistics and program for the 2016 KCO &amp; SAYCO events.</li> <li>▪ Begin communication with church groups and volunteers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Participate in one of the Consultation gatherings or send in a written response. Focus will be on specific details about the events, for example, timing (dates), age groups, price points, venue.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Finalise event details for 2017 &amp; beyond.</li> <li>▪ Communicate across Uniting Church SA, including with all involved in Consultation.</li> </ul>

### CONTENTS - Each Consultation and Interview addressed 5 Key Questions:

1. What do you most value about KCO & SAYCO? (p.2, 3)
  2. What would you like to change about KCO & SAYCO? (p.2, 4)
  3. What do you see as the key purpose of KCO & SAYCO? (p.2, 5)
  4. What do you think are the negotiables and non-negotiables for KCO & SAYCO? (p.6-7)  
How do we create events that focus on the most important thing/s?
  5. If you were to start SAYCO/KCO afresh what would you dream the following to look like:  
The roles/responsibilities of each congregation/volunteer/Synod office? (p.2, 7-8)
- Further Questions and Issues...** (p.9)
- Key Themes and Conclusions - A.Koh-Butler** (p.10)
- Approved Vision and Key Purposes** (p. 11)
- Next part of Consultation process** (p. 12)

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**CONGRESS RESPONSES** - UAICC interviews and Regional Council responses are presented first. 10/12/2015

## 1. Things most Valued:

-whole gathering, seeing other young people, participating in program  
Growing up UC, going to KCO being part of community. Offers positive experience to kids  
Hear about Jesus in child friendly environment, engage in singing and actions; where you could be a kid; who loves God, immersed in community where it's cool to be one of God's kids.  
See other kids in church - Not regular at churches but will go to KCO/SAYCO - Open for kids not normally at church  
God loves them and kids want to love God back / Can meet in community to know God and Get to know people  
Leaders support by being with other leaders / Growing leadership / Support team leaders in keeping kids safe  
Wet games  
Loved going, want it longer - Kids keen to go - If miss it – ask about it  
Hear the message through preaching and teaching and key messages of protection and how to be safe – both locally  
Cultural connection – like a corroboree etc. / Cross-cultural experiences and building relationships.  
Brings kids from across the churches together.

## 2. Things to change:

-use covenanting – twin Congress and churches to attend event – to provide tents, kitchen and cooks etc  
-pick up from bus and 'house & transport' to and from events (esp. SAYCO if come down day before or stay later)  
-SAYCO date clashes with State Aboriginal Sports Carnival – middle weekend of October school holidays (mainly effects Port Augusta Congress – discuss further with Denise and Ian). And don't move to NAIDOC Week (July?)  
- possibly regional KCOs and Congress attends their closest KCO – keen about mid-north possibility  
Capacity shrunk to enable groups to attend  
Leadership and police checks – last minute / paperwork (history of police connections and nervousness in engaging)  
Fewer families with tents; hiring/renting tents  
More stuff for CALD and congress kids can relate to... Not always go to whole sessions but go to workshops  
How to budget/manage money  
How do we engage CALD/congress young people in program, on stage, leading songs, and in leadership of overall program (upfront leadership is very "white")  
Funding issue – church paying full costs, not asking kids for contribution.

## 3. Key purpose of KCO AND SAYCO? Be like a kid, freedom

Opportunity to know God, Christian teaching / Learn basic skills eg. Work as team, dishes etc.  
Breaks down barriers; build community / Links with congregations, build relationships with others

## Roles and responsibilities:

### Volunteers:

-build relationships, identify Group Coordinator (who communicates with Synod Office and is part of leadership team, has emergency contacts/parent numbers and parent permission)  
-leaders trained – understand why there, know roles and responsibilities, what to do if things go wrong eg an argument and young person walks off, or if a medical emergency

### Congregations:

Being child-focused and not just how we remember it / Build good faith community for children in local community  
Good leadership team – secure first.

- Has to happen before we even think about going to KCO/SAYCO
- May involve twinning with other congregations; providing equipment, cooking etc.

Having a congress space – with a team of volunteers - options night before and after to engage  
Kids get there, safety, tents etc. Surrender – National youth camp

### Synod office:

-sponsorship from local churches and assist with funding  
-assist with equipment and set up and logistics etc – including for at regional KCOs  
Setup program and run - enable things not possible at local level

## Further considerations:

Regional KCOs – what to do in an emergency? Who does safety role?  
Wirraway? / Country side and space to run around and kick balls / Other camping possibilities for during year  
- Get young leaders to chat about what they'd like.

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## GENERAL COLLATED RESPONSES

### 1. Most valued?

Faith-building AND Mission-building (equipping leaders)

- Missional ministry – invite non-churched to event that isn't like church; Renowned outside of church circles; Welcoming to non-church people; LLL probably a safer event to invite youth to. "Census" – how many are from your church community and how many are "not"? Parents who are not church people, wanting to stay and experience event. (KCO) Evangelism/Outreach for kids with little or no contact with the Christian faith - Children attending who have no other contact with the church.
- "Mountain-top experience" of faith/discipleship - Discipleship opportunities and introduction; Scripture in sessions; Different theologies/perspectives
- Openness to the work of the Spirit; Learning about Christ and the love and hope of God; God in action; God works through these events in amazing ways. Lifting eyes beyond local to bigger vision of the body of Christ.
- Young Adults becoming leaders on camps they took part in /Development to take on event tasks; Range of opportunities to try and learn new ministry areas; Strong sense of community amongst team / volunteers (Is it worth further developing this outside events?); Allows many to experience first leadership opportunities; Generations of leadership growing; Volunteers of all ages expressing their Christian discipleship through service; Modelling of age-appropriate ministry.
- (SAYCO) Teaching gets one thinking even if usually disagree with theology; Experiences for faith challenges; provides opportunities for more relevant/context to get to know Christian message in more depth; Memory builder; Mentoring, Friendship, Networking, Discipleship; Not everyday / Fun experiences.
- (KCO) Children are the focus – everyone is there for the children; for them to feel valued by people other than their families; The opportunity for our children, from a small church, to see there are other children who go to church, are interested in the same things, may also love Jesus! Have Jesus presented in a way they don't see in their church. Important for troubled kids.

Community

- Intergenerational - Can communicate and work with people of all ages and learn from each other
- Time to build community. Benefits for church community beyond; Gathering together as wider body. Leaders value the community and connection/ networking with people from all around the Uniting Church and Kids can see the bigger picture of the church that they belong to (not just their youth group or kids club), including the intergenerational Christian communal nature of state-wide church; Part of the DNA of UCA in SA – everyone (all ages) being discipled, growing faith. Culture setting / Identity shaping
- Love volunteering and chatting with the delegates, and building community with other volunteers; Reconnect again at events and build long term friendships → intentional connections throughout the year.
- Longer time with our kids/youth, the annual aspect means something to look forward to...; Building relationships with children/young people/leaders from my own church
- Small group → large group / teamwork
- (KCO) Very important opportunity to create connections in a community both at home and at KCO, Friendships/relationships/networks being made in SAFE and positive environment; intro to church community and intro to camping - bond created by 'living together'!
- (SAYCO) Interactions with same age group

Components in Program

- Very important both the mix of activities and fun with faith which is not pressured!; Having fun together and learning more about Jesus; Organised program. Economies of scale improves program quality.
- Creativity and ideas that filter back to congregational ministry
- (KCO) Great radio station; Craft Coordinators; theme with 'slogan' and iron on transfer
- Messy Games; Carnival coordinators and volunteers; New resources/new ideas / Music and drama
- Large scale worship with children/young people from other Uniting Churches; Sense of celebration

Site/Venue-related

- Going away, being somewhere different - Provide a special experience not able to do locally
- Free oval space for all to use in free time; encourage inter-church games
- Camping extravaganza within own church group - Camping experience for groups

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## 2. Like to change?

### Program

- Away from BIG to more connectional conversations and opportunities to be heard; Shift focus to relationships and build into programs (still lots of physical activity for boys and energetic kids); Jam packed program – no space to relax together and build relationships
- Technology use, modernisation.
- Theme is not always connected to all the activities – message could be lost or too soft
- Mountaintop moments: Fine as a component - Unhealthy/unethical as a focus for minors
- Not needing to change faith format for either
- (SAYCO) Worship style does not work for many young people (loud music); Theology inconsistent with UCA (conservative evangelical); less pressure and more opportunity for gentle faith growth without the sense of manipulation; the band (i.e. the worship times) do not lead unchurched young people into worship; there is no sense of approaching God – it is all like a concert, come down the front and jump up and down – and it feels like they are saying to our young people who aren't jumpers that they are not proper Christians.
- (KCO) – Explore. Love concept, some bits good, too wishy-washy (lack of clear purpose) - Focus spiritual input in small groups/local church and together time; Explore needs more work for better engagement. Has been getting better; Explore, some children found difficulty connecting activities to their experiences.
- (KCO) Swimming at the beach – adequate supervision a concern; Fireworks (wonderful) but expensive
- (KCO) Small group sessions don't always easily connect with campers; Christian message is sometimes lost; Hard to know true impact on children and adults; Assumes some Christian knowledge by kids

### Local church engagement

- I wish our own church was behind it a bit more! Need other models of shared/cooperative leadership across congregations. Perhaps Mission Networks could take responsibility for linking Congregational groups and developing leadership teams or providing catering teams for Congregational groups from their Networks?; Limited links to other churches/interchurch organisations
- Events "pop" up 6 weeks before in church minds - Raise awareness in churches - Should it be "longer" in churches? Life full of events, is it just another one? Last minute rsvp/planning? Need to further explore the connections before and/or after with the children and young people back in their own church communities.
- (SAYCO) Connect local churches together at SAYCO - help make connections between rural and city folk for when they head to uni; You can't get to know people in tribes with games like duck duck goose and red rover; The evening activities have got a bit tame/lame/stale. Maybe ask the campers what they want, not the young adult leaders (who still feel like they can speak for youth BUT CAN'T).
- (SAYCO) - Key leaders on team SAYCO not with their young people due to being on team SAYCO
- More ongoing support for small churches
- Church's expectations on KCO/SAYCO team to provide all elements of a program. Churches need to assist volunteers with planning and running the events; Finding volunteers/leaders

### Logistics

- Safety concerns
- Support, encouragement, and development of volunteers
- KCO is a huge effort for short time - explore 2 nights? long weekend or school holidays?; Huge amount of work for one night (KCO) would like 2 nights
- (KCO) Cost of accommodation for KCO has become a big problem. (named by several respondents - some suggested this needs to be an area of investment/subsidy from the wider church - others suggested focused aid for those who travel greatest distances); Affordability – camp cost, transport, equipment etc.; high cost
- (KCO) kids don't want Dad coming to KCO; KCO being away from home – can be traumatic for some kids; Overwhelming for the littlies; Numbers of children attending have been dropping; No shelter for audience when 'sunny' (or raining)
- (SAYCO) Shower facilities; Want to set up night before; Workshop "lectures" boring

### Administration

- Complexity in admin – rego, screening, things to remember; too much paperwork /a lot of prep for one night
- Clarity and transparency of long-term planning; Need to know changes and be positive about making plans

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### 3. Key purposes?

#### Community

- Whole people of God (beyond local); Bringing together; Being part of a bigger church / Inter generational community; Bring together and share mountaintop experience. Wow factor; Linking with the wider church community; Different ways to worship, theology.
- Christians together having fun - leave knowing Jesus loves them; Sharing with others in Christian community; Providing a safe place for young people to experience the love of God through intergenerational support; Fun and entertaining – comfortable; Non threatening; Addictive
- More space to explore questions than found in normal programs. Extended time creates opportunity for a safe place for young people to ask questions
- Different experience of community: is it to build "our" local community? or to build broader community/missional (God’s community?); Short term faith communities that build long term relationships
- SAYCO - great evangelical community for 12-15 yrs and non-Christian mates (not seniors - focus on HSC)
- KCO - less spiritual/faith building value in KCO (over 22 yrs), but valuable community time. Kids see heaps of other Christians and helps them to connect with their mates from church or kids club or school in a different way. It introduces them to things like prayer and mission.

#### Discipleship

- An intentional space and place for an encounter with God; Age appropriate faith development that is fun and engaging; Provide opportunities to start becoming a disciple; Growing discipleship among young people; Be a safe space for kids to grow in their faith in Jesus, and to assist children to live, show and share faith; God in action; Intro for new people.
- I want the Gospel to be preached and kids and young people given the chance to respond. I don’t like the language of “make a commitment”, but I like the concept of inviting our young ones to decide about following Christ. It is important that at camps and events the opportunity to embrace the Gospel and the God of the Gospel is offered.
- Communicate love of Christ for every person, lead kids to commitment in Christ/ to come to know God and grow desire to live life following Jesus. Churches use central events to build on regular teaching that can get taken for granted due to regularity. Also opportunity to present gospel to those who churches have relationships with but don’t come to regular teaching programs.
- While KCO and SAYCO are important events in a child’s life, I don’t think that they are, or should be, the be all and end all of a child’s faith journey, but simply a part of it. Their experience at KCO or SAYCO may have only a small part in developing their faith but at the same time is still absolutely critical.
- KCO & SAYCO - Shepherding into life long faith/church - Pathways for bringing young people (Children-YA) into the life of the church; Next steps/intro... UCSA Flow of events (look at Lutherans); Part of faith journey – needs to be followed through at local church/family; Take home tools of event experience, at event and back at church - Important part of discipleship journey for all ages
- Understanding young people are disciples now - Faith booster - all involved; next steps > re energises leaders and gives focus to local ministry.
- To start building missional families and faith communities.

KCO “Foundational”	→→→→→→	SAYCO “Building Structure”
Entry point in “the journey” or intro into relationship with Jesus		Bringing youth into a relationship with God. Building Disciples

#### Leadership

- Leadership development pathways; KCO grows leaders for SAYCO → SAYCO grows leaders for (NCYC/About Face/NYALC etc).
- Young Adult faith community volunteering for events.
- Adults serving young people / People serving and coming together throughout the year.

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### 4. *Negotiables and Non-negotiables? ...*

#### Negotiable

##### Time

- Time of the year -Calendar month; (NB - Many people indicated a willingness to consider alternate times of year)
- (KCO) – 2 nights – length of time - more relaxed / day only (some kids/parents can't cope) OR Big day out (BDO)/ church sleepover might work better for some? BDOs could be part days in regions with broader family focus
- whole event – venue, length (Note: majority of responses indicated willingness to change major ingredients)
- (KCO) Location doesn't have to have showers

##### Cost and registration

- Put total cost out to wider church / subsidies for particular needs / requests to cover certain costs
- Coming as a Congregation - partner with other groups? family register as a family?

##### Program & Team Roles

- Time table/program; Content of activities / how fun and faith are done
- (SAYCO) worship style/experience; Workshop not appropriate; style of speaker / Use variety of speakers
- I don't think it necessary for every event to 'embrace the full diversity of the Uniting Church'. Could we deliberately open the way for the other alternative events to arise. E.G. if SAYCO is to be an "evangelical friendly event" then commission some people to create an appropriate rainbow friendly event. Not to divide, but to give people a safe place to grow in faith.
- (KCO) Saturday night entertainment. Other churches. Use local resources, doesn't need a 'big name'
- Sunday morning games - feels like a gap filler
- Role of mc (keep them, change/adapt role)
- Annual review – open "team" to anyone (many leadership positions taken up by people who have 'hung on')

#### Non-Negotiable

Faith: Christian theme and focus; Explicitly Christian event; God focus; Inclusive of beliefs within the Uniting Church  
Safety: Address the constant concerns of parents sending kids away - Sensible security and safety; "Safe" risk taking - If not this, how do you provide that experience?

##### Program

- Holy Communion; Crafts, games, activities; some 'big ticket fun' eg. carnival; Music, drama; Saturday night big event
- Child involvement in presentation; Engaging 'up-front' leaders.
- Multicultural focus; Age appropriate; Engaging/Participatory/Active;
- Downtime / good small group time; Balance between input and reflection/processing time; SAYCO - needs gaps for teenagers to create community (don't rush) whereas KCO - keep busy
- Prayers - written, engaging, for wider community / Engaging in mission
- Organise outstanding central program of entertainment and teaching.
- Keep flexibility and diversity of experiences
- (SAYCO) – teaching input – relatable, strong, inspired, out of the ordinary, not just a normal Sunday; Last day in response to sessions

##### Venue/Logistics

- KCO needs to stay a 24hr event and 2 nights for SAYCO works well (lots of responses agreed).
- SAYCO could go to a program that starts at 7pm on Friday night and finishes at lunch time on a Sunday if a long weekend wasn't an option; SAYCO date works well. Long weekend
- Need sufficient toilets for girls.
- (KCO) Not at conference centre
- The importance of it being on a regular basis
- Different venues for KCO and SAYCO

##### Community

- Regional KCO support; Accessible to all churches; Community with more than the group you came with
- Uniting Church identity (to help young people see what the Uniting Church is)
- Overnight experience - Learning to live together / relationship building; Confidence of going away / Trust development; Both events need to stay as events where local churches do tents and catering; (Several named camping as key); Food

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- Intergen involvement - prefer all together - hear from the kids (they are disciples now!)
- Age appropriate participation (Youth at KCO are assisting, not attending. Young adults at SAYCO)
- KCO - colour or way of creating a sense of identity that I belong to.
- Training, discipleship and empowerment of volunteers / Debrief post camp experience for all involved
- Enthusiasm

### How do we create events that focus on the most important thing/s?

Thinking creatively → Review constantly; Not resting on our laurels

Change culture around events, not just we've done this and know what it is

Laser focus – know key purpose/ have key theme with focus. Constantly reflect on key purpose. Focus on key aspect of discipleship.

Partnering with other organizations

Multiple ways - what is the preferred way? What can we pull off?

### **5. Vision:**

#### **a. Roles/responsibilities for each congregation?**

There were general comments about being aware of the changing reality/contexts for congregations (different now from a few years ago)...

Local Group Coordination

- Advertise/promotion; Paper work and legal responsibility; Debriefing and future planning
- Commit early - open the doors for others - Have team organised early
- To bring people. Churched and unchurched. To follow up those young people in their local setting. To release leaders from other roles at church to attend camps (I think particularly of ministers – I think every minister should come and spend time, at least one day/night, with their sayco community- honestly it's the most encouraging thing when the minister joins the young people and shares the camp experience with them.)
- All organisation within groups and partnering between groups encouraged. Supervision of kids while in activities. Details on individuals, supply of tents and food. Local churches provide a 'home' for kids to come back to during event. Provide activities/craft/worship with their kids
- Coordinating the kids and leaders from the local level; Look after children / Support a group going; Provide appropriate Leadership.
- Prayer - pray a year before hand. Advertise, prayer, resource and fund the leaders and children.
- Leaders meet kids before camp or are provided background information on kids; Assemble small groups intentionally to enable faith discipleship; Local churches embrace these as key discipleship moments.
- Commissioning those who go and hearing back from them.

Volunteers

- Briefing volunteers, recruit/equip leaders - Support and encourage volunteers - communicate what we might offer to other churches; Job descriptions
- Identify and empower volunteers to be part of the wider volunteer team. Suggest names for event team.
- Prayer/encouragement with kids; Be enthusiastic / Sense of expectancy and positive excitement.

Logistics

- Day event – just turn up not creating own camp community - Organise a sleep over if they choose to do so
- levy every congregation even if they don't send any kids. Share the cost, so that everybody contributes to the discipling of children and young people, not just the ones who are doing it day in day out; Financially support underprivileged campers/congregations
- Use "whole" church as resource to enable groups to attend. The church talking to churches who doesn't have children to support with funds – equipment. Proactively twinning. Can't put more on churches; Each congregation's resources need to be considered and this will influence role/responsibility of what they do.
- Support with fundraising.

#### **b. Roles/responsibilities for volunteers?**

- Prayer, compliance, love; Dedicated; To nurture through God's love; To serve with a servant heart and willingness to see lives transformed above all else. Assisting the team any way required; Role modelling; Positive work ethic 2:14
- Show us what the Uniting Church stands for. What the UCA values.

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- Be prepared - know what's going on (attend briefing/training before & after event, heart prepared to work with children, sleep before); Chasing up forms
- Safe - police checks and age appropriate.
- Time poor; inspire commit to events. Make it events they value; Overview of year long ministry of where events fit; All feel responsible, this is our event. Change the mindset; Look at culture of green team.
- Clarity in roles – who does what / Clear structure; Roles have job description - Responsibilities depend on role
- Commitment to the young people (throughout the whole year)
- Christian? Up to local church. Depends on role.

### Event Team

- Night-time surveillance and security of general areas. Facilitate central program. Work toward all having a great time. Intentional in creating a program that engage kids where they are at.
- Actively engaged who are functioning and assist it in making the event happen.
- Team coordinators being responsible for own teams; more parents/grandparents as vollies; “roles should stay the same. It would be good to have more vollies though. Perhaps open the age up to parents and grandparents as well as just 18 to 20 year olds.”

### **c. Roles/responsibilities for Synod office?**

- Legally someone who takes on the responsibility; Legal responsibilities, safety, ohs, programming, screening
- Oversees the whole picture; Vision-casting / planning; Managing of making event happen; Key Coordinator in PD; Organisation of site and central program. Understanding how difficult the local coordinator roles are; Be the catalyst for building connections; Overall ‘manning’ and set up; Pull it all together; Central point that can see what is happening; Continuity - holds on to what is negotiable and non negotiable
- Needs synod to staff. Or at least organize. Events coordinator...; clarify process - Who is go to person? Events coordinator?; Oversight role /
- To broker the organization of the event, seeking input from lots of sources, and if necessary retiring some people if they seem to be getting a stranglehold on it.
- Coordinating the volunteer team; Staff facilitates team to enable teams to do their job and manage “burn out”; Expertise looking after team and spiritual element
- Coordination and consultation; Communicate with transparency; Seek input and be transparent
- Provide support and resources, people and financial; Seek sponsors; Build a capital fund to generate ongoing funding for Kco and sayco
- Resources - Promote, forms; Provide info early for congregation - briefing and volunteer prep. eg. Craft; Theme and resourcing; Collating songs, prayers, stories; Debrief resources: Follow up after camp (discipleship journey); Videos from camp (of sessions); Future studies, suggestions for studies that follow on from camp; Where to find songs. Financial support for a guest across all KCOs (speaker/singer/juggler)
- Check out what Eyre Peninsula and South East are doing, and model KCO on that. And to be frank, SAYCO isn't anywhere near the quality or usefulness that CE Camp is. If our youth could go to one camp a year, it would be CE not SAYCO. So send observers, or talk to those who go/lead CE Camp, and see if we can't make our event a bit more like theirs. Or be clear that SAYCO is a stepping stone towards something more deeply Spiritual like CE. (To be fair, the speaker at SAYCO for the past 2 years has been exceptional.) We do appreciate KCO and SAYCO.
- Show us what the Uniting Church stands for. What the UCA values.
- Ask for local church contact; Be aware of each congregations dynamics; Communicate through secretaries
- Resource the local congregation. – get speaker/acts that tell the gospel story, that accurately share faith. Get worship teams that speak into the depth and breadth of the church – teams that remember that there are unchurched young people there.
- Help build bridges and connections for local pastors and leaders, connect churches. Find time to develop young leaders with training on the camp weekend, e.g. KCO young leaders events. E.g. SAYCO, women's leadership network chat, pastor prayer meetings.
- Involve the people who don't get asked but would get involved; Info to key players, those who care about events and passion with enthusiasm; Communicate event team roles to be filled.
- look into churches data of 0-7 year olds – how many attending and plan future for that (if KCO numbers reduce so will SAYCO eventually unless new input)
- develop discipleship map/blueprint – what are the milestones we want to celebrate with young people? And where do events fit at congregation, state and national level? How do we then resource that? And how do we (congregations and Synod) resource parents; Explore pathways for discipleship 7-25 yrs (18-25 camp?)



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### **Further Issues Raised:**

- Generational change in churches / Local church leadership change
- Concerns with those who work in both SAYCO and KCO. Energy levels.
- Valuing wider Synod events – calendar priority / SAYCO – depends on school holidays.
- Mad March? Start of year life busier now?
- Decrease in children at KCO, what are the reasons why?
- Dreaming challenged by lack of dedicated staff "Event Officer".
- If you don't have an Easter camp opportunity then SAYCO is important.
- Change – tension between outreach and discipleship is one stronger at it than the other?
- Role of camping/ease of camping – is camping viable? How are other churches/para-church organisations camping ministries going? Are we restricted to dream just on camping?
- Cross denominational boundaries.
- How are we connecting with our local and UC schools?

### **Suggestions:**

Information made available a bit sooner.

Brainstorming gathering 6 month before for planning.

Do a consultation process every 5 years.

- Combine KCO and SAYCO. (A truly all-age and internee event?) The venue would need to be right for this to work. Have a central camping area where each church provides tents and cooking for their whole age group from 7 to 17years. All ages eat together but then the 7-12yr olds go off to an outdoor stage and then do crafts, carnival or whatever and have their own evening program like a drama or band. The 13 to 17yr olds go to a gym and have their own worship and guest speaker and their own night life. Then both groups come together for a massive celebration and closing service. Would combine a lot of resources keep costs down. VOLLIES and Tech crew could move from one event to the other depending on where the greatest need was for a particular time of the day
- I think that finding a good venue is the key to the future. It needs to be close to Adelaide but I don't think it is 100% critical that power is provided. With today's technology, led lights work a treat and Ice keeps milk much colder than a fridge. Just get Adelaide ICE to have an onsite freezer to store Ice like at a servo where church groups can buy ice as they need it. This then opens up more venues if power is not required to campers as any school oval has a starting point. What we save on hire fees can go towards portable showers and toilets.
- One SAYCO several years ago was held a farm at Strathalbyn. Space wasn't an issue, cost was next to nothing and tent pegs wasn't an issue

### **2016 Event Questions raised (answers in italics)**

'Transition year' would be good to use in communications. *(Yes, 2016 is a transition year as we explore the possibilities of a new site and staffing/team structures.)*

Glenunga gathering? What happened with that meeting? *(This meeting had over 70 people attend to discern how we might plan for 2016 events and particularly to transition KCO from the Barossa to another venue due to rising costs. A lot of information was shared at that meeting to assist with understanding why a venue change was needed. Input given from attendees strongly favoured 2016 KCO being an overnight camp which meant we needed a longer planning lead time to adjust to changes. From this gathering the recommendation was given to Standing Committee for the 2016 KCO to be held on September 10-11 at Adare.)*

This consultation is about 2017. Where is the conversation about 2016? This changes how churches operate (reality for 2016). Decisions already been made for 2016? *(Yes, decisions were made in September 2015 for 2016 events. The conversations about 2016 started in 2016 once we had time to refocus. April 9 is a program brainstorming and site visit opportunity for churches to engage with KCO 2016. More information will be available from April 2016.)*

What are the Live Life Loud Metro numbers? We estimate around 1000 people attend across the 4 metro venues.

Venue - Adare. Is it locked in? How Adare can expand and other options in the area? *(Yes, we are using Adare for 2016 and planning to use Adare for the future too. We have negotiated use of the Victor Harbor Beachfront Caravan Park and are negotiating other nearby spaces for activities.)*

Do we have other sites than Adare? *(Uniting Venues operates 5 sites in SA: Adare (Victor Harbor), Nunyara (Belair), Thuruna (Tumby Bay), Tarooki (Robe), Emmaus (Clare Valley).)*

## Consultation with Groups and Individuals - KCO and SAYCO "2017 & beyond"

### **Key Themes and Conclusions – Amelia Koh-Butler, Executive Officer, Mission Resourcing**

#### **Themes**

The majority of responses indicated a high level of interest and concern. People seemed committed to discerning ways forward together. Despite consistent voicing of a sense of loss for some of the past, most people also seemed to have a strong appetite for change and rejuvenation. In some instances, people expressed concern that many of the possible changes had not taken place over the last few years.

Many people talked about changes in context. Most of the information provided was of an illustrative nature. This raises the question about some hard data. We need to clearly examine the changing demographics and changing lifestyles and patterns among KCO and SAYCO attendees and participant/non-participant churches. Several ways of doing this spring to mind: using the next KCOs and SAYCOs to invite Campers to participate more fully in designing future events, using NCLS/ABS data and SA education strategic planning data, AND accessing Children and Youth Affairs Govt and Transition SA for community development data in this area.

To date, we have asked for opinions. This helps us to understand more deeply the felt reality of key stakeholders. We now need to do more focused spiritual discernment, inviting consideration of:

- what are the most important trends in faith formation of 7-25 yr-olds today? (NB - How does the impact of John Roberto's work on Intergenerational Faith Formation play out in a KCO/SAYCO setting?)
- what are the key biblical foundations and spiritual disciplines that will ground both events?
- what are the key spiritual and ecclesial traditions and experiences (not just what people like)?
  - e.g. what aspects of mountaintop events are essential for liminal experience that shapes faith formation?

The flavour and content of the general consultation and interview responses compared with the KCO 2015 Team responses show some differences in approach and emphasis. While this shows some understandable differences between "providers" and "users", or "hosts" and "guests" some work needs to be done to align everyone to shared goals, values and priorities. In reality, every adult and many young people attending KCO and SAYCO are in shared community leadership. Every person on the discipleship journey has shared emerging responsibilities. Good leadership will emphasise the need for co-accountability to God and one another as a Covenant Community, seeking to live out a holy set of relationships.

The 'tiredness' of some (and the concerns around two events within a month in 2016) showed that some people may need the Church to make clear that people should not feel responsible to have to 'do' every event. In 2016, some people will have to choose involvement in one event or another OR neither. No event depends on only one or two people. If we are genuinely seeking God's will, we should expect that God will call those who God has in mind. We should be prepared for some unexpected leadership to emerge, with the consequence that new leaders also bring new experiences and flavours. God is bigger than our expectations or human frameworks.

#### **Conclusions**

Last year the KCO 2015 Team recommended that KCO 2016 only be a Big Day Out. However, the Consultation has clearly shown a majority preference for an overnight event. For 2016, this necessitates a smaller event, while larger scale logistics are developed for 2017. Many people suggested "negotiable" areas that might previously have been thought of as "non-negotiables". This allows staff and Team to be more flexible in planning for both 2016 and 2017.

It is clearly possible to put on a (limited) KCO in September 2016 (possibly with a smaller Team), followed by SAYCO on the October long weekend and plan for a larger KCO 2017. This fits with the decisions already made by the Standing Committee.

## Consultation with Groups and Individuals - KCO and SAYCO "2017 & beyond"

### ***2017 & Beyond - Vision and Key Purposes for KCO & SAYCO (approved by Mission Resourcing Interim Mission Council and affirmed by Standing Committee (February 2016))***

The Consultation input shows that KCO and SAYCO are both 'expected' events of the UCSA. KCO is held very dearly by many people across age demographics and there is a real struggle by many to dream into a new space of how KCO either could be or needs to be different. There were far fewer people engaged with SAYCO who attended and often those who spoke about SAYCO were also involved with KCO. This is a reflection on the attendance numbers as more churches engage with KCO than SAYCO.

Through the Consultation there is a clear sense of what the key purposes of these events are and what is most valued about these events. The hope is that we can now communicate these key purposes clearly and then shape both KCO and SAYCO's programs to more strongly engage with and work from the key purposes. As we move forward with these events in light of the Intergenerational Team's restructure, we need to refocus everyone on the key purposes of KCO and SAYCO and in doing so create sustainable events that meet the needs of discipling today's young people with the resources that we have available. There is a sense that over the years, both events have tried to achieve too much whilst working with decreasing attendance numbers and resources. By working from the key purposes, we hope there will be greater understanding about why changes to the program are being made so that both KCO and SAYCO can continue sustainably.

1. The vision for KCO & SAYCO is consistent with the Intergenerational Team Vision:

*That young people become life-long disciples of Christ within missional families and faith communities.*

When speaking with young people this vision can be rephrased as:

*A radical generation of lifelong Christians fired up to do anything to serve God.*

2. a. The key purposes for SAYCO are to provide a safe environment, both physically and spiritually, in order to:

- work together across the UCSA community, including UAICC community.
- provide a long weekend camp of excellence for young people in years 8-12.
- unite local youth ministries.
- inspire radical transformation in their communities.
- provide intergenerational leadership development in both local groups and for the wider event team.
- provide a mountaintop faith experience for young people to grow in their identity as a beloved child of God/identity in Christ by providing a variety of deeply spiritual experiences.

2. b. The key purposes for KCO are to provide a safe environment, both physically and spiritually, in order to:

- work together across the UCSA community, including UAICC community.
- provide an overnight camp of excellence for 7yr olds to year 7s.
- provide an opportunity to engage with the wider Uniting Church.
- inspire radical transformation in their communities.
- provide intergenerational leadership development in both local groups and for the wider event team.
- provide a mountaintop faith experience for children to grow in their identity as a beloved child of God/identity in Christ by providing a variety of deeply spiritual experiences.

The key purposes will shape each of these events, especially regarding setting priorities within each event program.

3. Connect with P&S Strategic Plan:

To hold a Consultation for our key events after each P&S Strategic Plan is formed. The first of these reviews will ideally take place as part of the P&S Strategic Planning process after the 2017 events to allow time for the current consultation results to be implemented.

4. Communicate the above approved recommendations:

For the recommendations (above) to be communicated to Church Councils by a letter from the Presbytery and Synod, as well as via other communication tools, such as UC E-news, New Times and FaceBook to ensure as many congregations and key contacts are informed.

## Consultation with Groups and Individuals - KCO and SAYCO "2017 & beyond"

### The next stage of the Consultation process

The initial consultation phase included input for the following three questions and a summary of those responses is below. These questions are yet to be discussed by the State Advisory Teams for Children & Families and Youth and Young Adults or the Interim Mission Council.

#### What roles and responsibilities do Volunteers need to have?

- Be prepared –know what's going on (attend training/briefing), pray, complete paperwork, including safety checks
- Be positive – good attitude of serving and love towards young people and team.
- Event Team – provide event program, have clear role descriptions and team structure

#### What roles and responsibilities do Congregations need to have?

- Pray and prepare for own church group to attend, possibly partner with other churches to manage these responsibilities – promotion, paperwork, practical resources (tents, food), communicate with Synod
- Identify, appoint and equip appropriate leaders, organise leaders early, encourage relationships between leaders and young people prior to event
- Disciple young people – encourage young people to attend, pray for them, follow them up, supervise at event and build good community of faith.
- Financially support – assist with finances, fundraise, resource leaders and children.
- Suggest leaders for Event team and encourage involvement.

#### What roles and responsibilities does Synod need to have?

- Overall event coordination – venue, program, 'go-to' person, overall set-up and management, legal responsibility, OHS, screening, safety, continuity across years.
- Work with local (church) coordinators
- Coordinate event program – theme and program resources, such as songs, prayers, activities; key-note speaker or performer ; provide debrief/follow-on resources for use in local congregations.
- Encourage wider church connections between churches, other denominational churches and schools to attend and engage with each other at events.
- Coordinate event leadership team, encourage involvement and provide leadership development training
- Communicate clearly, share information as early as possible and be open to input.
- Resource through people and finances, including possible funding options and sponsorships.

### Part Two of the Consultation Process

Using the approved recommendations, we plan to open up a conversation about:

- Dates/Timing of events; Venues ; Price points; Shaping of the programs.

Some initial input from the current Consultation:

#### Dates/Timing:

SAYCO continue in current form on a long weekend.

KCO to be a one night, 2 day event and for the KCO date to be set in a different time period to SAYCO.

#### Venues:

General comments are that Woodcroft College is a good venue for SAYCO so long as more work is done regarding shower amenities.

There is a lot of conversation about the KCO venue. People acknowledge the partnership with Adare as a positive but a lot of concern around not fitting all campers and requiring a second site for sleeping and safety across to the oval for activities. Also concerns about Adare not being central and the length of travel for mid-north groups.

#### Price-points:

Just some initial conversation about sharing cost, encouraging all churches to contribute (whether sending campers or not) and those who can pay more, while those who can't pay less.