

Planning for a Date Time or for the GREAT AUSSIE DATE NIGHT

(The second Saturday of September each year)

A suggested outline of the major points to consider when hosting a Date Time, which can be held any evening or time of year, or "The Great Aussie Date".

Firstly, why it is called "The Great Aussie Date" - because you will be one of many around our nation involved in such an event aimed at providing a quality fun evening for married couples in a safe, friendly environment where marriages are affirmed, celebrated, and honoured. A time when couples feel loved and can relax away from the calls of "life".

Some points you may already know or have completed and some may not be relevant to your situation.

- 1) An obvious beginning is to pray before starting out on the planning – seek guidance on the venue; will it be a joint venture with other churches nearby; who should be on the 'team', timings, etc.



- 2) Ask and appoint people to organize the team and a prayer team.



- 3) Whilst the target group is married couples, decide whether you will be reaching to couples outside of the church. This could have knock on effects/requirements.



- 4) What is your target and maximum number of couples?



- 5) Child care – can this be provided?



- 6) Will the night be held outside the church in a safe environment e.g. restaurant, café, function room etc.



- 7) What will the catering be –e.g. a meal, dessert with tea or coffee? Who will organize this?



- 8) Fix start time and finish time and hold to them. Especially important for those arranging child care.



- 9) Is the format of the evening going to include: Live music, invited speaker, video etc



- 10) Appoint a suitable married couple to host the evening.



- 11) Budgeting, - will you be seeking to recover all or part of the costs. Having decided this, list all the known and potential costs e.g. room hire, catering costs, room decorations, audio/visual equipment hire, prizes/presentations, speakers expenses etc.



- 12) Advertising – local Christian radio station, church notices, noticeboard, local shops.



- 13) Create a "Run Sheet" for the evening



- 14) Pray, pray.... VITAL