

Community Hub & Café

**holy
grounds.**

Springing from conversations with St Georges Anglican Cathedral in Perth, the Holy Grounds project presented an opportunity to collaborate on addressing social isolation and loneliness in the Perth CBD.

The vision of establishing an operational community café space came into focus as a low-barrier, safe and inclusive place for friendships and community connections to be formed.

What did we set out to do?

The mission of Holy Grounds is to create a safe and inclusive hub in the heart of the City of Perth that fosters community connections and challenges isolation by:

1. Supporting people to create social connections and learn new skills
2. Creating a financially sustainable social enterprise model
3. Contributing to the community by:
 - a) creating a space where people feel safe and connected
 - b) providing opportunities for people to develop social connections through shared activities



Design Principles

People Centred - Customers and volunteers feel safe, seen and connected

Connect Community - The hub is a thriving place of shared activity and meaningful connection

Operate Sustainably - Hub operations are financially sustainable



Outcomes so far

Café fit-out has been completed and the hub opened for trading in October 2024.

Recruitment and training of initial volunteer team completed prior to opening, and continues as new volunteers and paid staff continue to join the team.

Holy Grounds team continue to build relationships with growing group of regular patrons who frequent the cafe for coffee or to use the co-working space.

Regular community activities such as a knitting group occur in the café.

Café sales are trending upwards, indicating that Holy Grounds is on a positive trajectory towards financial sustainability.

Holy Grounds has successfully hired a new Community Engagement Coordinator to strengthen its community partnership and engagement capacity.

Next Steps

Support the Holy Grounds team to develop tools and processes to better track customer and volunteer feedback and enhance community impact.

