

Suggestions for Holding a Wear Purple Day:

The following are ideas for a local congregation planning process:

- Form an organising committee to develop congregation involvement in recognising and honouring older people's individual, collective and lifelong contributions.
- The Order of Service from the St Ives Uniting Church inaugural service 2009 is enclosed as an example to consider and other materials are available as a guide for preparing the service.
- Provide a flyer for the congregation and visitors to take with them. This will include a simple explanation of the significance of the colour Purple for the day and the Respect for Seniors Campaign. Supplies of the flyer can be provided by UnitingCare Ageing.
- Theme of purple for the day: Use the colour purple where appropriate. This may include flowers and other purple décor, as well as congregation members wearing purple clothing, accessories, or just a ribbon.
- Purple Ribbons: The Church craft group may consider producing them for the day. Purple ribbon and small gold safety pins are not expensive.
- The craft group may also be able to prepare purple items for sale on the day
- Invite a young person either from the congregation or in the local community to speak briefly about why they respect seniors and how they show that respect.
- Interview seniors about their current interests, special interest topics or world events e.g. How do they think family relationships could be strengthened through the use of technology?
- You may choose to send invitations to local community members. These may include local VIPs and visitors from local retirement villages, etc. For catering purposes include an RSVP.
- Have designated congregation members to "meet and greet" guests
- A morning tea after the service provides an opportunity for people to talk about the service, especially if guests have been invited.
- Publicity: Consider opportunities for local publicity to promote the event such as local newspapers, council offices and local radio. These may again be useful after the event, particularly if local VIPs have attended. Your congregation may also choose to record the event, either in audio or video format. A cd of the 2009 service is available.
- If the Church has its own website this could be used to promote the event. A link to the St Ives Uniting Church website – www.stives.unitingchurch.org.au - could provide further background on the project.