You are cordially invited to come and be a part of **Common Ground**, an informal gathering for the professional development and support of those who spend their daily lives helping others. Some of you may remember the meetings held in Rivers Café a couple of years ago. I’m sure those who were involved back then would agree that there was a real atmosphere of collaboration and community when the “Common Ground-ers” met together! Unfortunately, we have not been able to hold these meetings for some time, but now we have brand new premises and are all set to revive **Common Ground**.

**So, what is Common Ground?**

I’m glad you asked that!

**Common Ground** is a gathering of like-minded people whose vocation involves some sort of people helping. This may include:

- Counsellors and psychologists
- Social workers and human service personnel
- Disability service personnel
- Clergy and Pastoral carers
- Chaplains
- Children and Youth services personnel
- Centerlink and other Government and agency personnel
- Doctors
- Solicitors
- Etc…etc.

**Common Ground** was instigated for two reasons:

1. To provide a network that would connect people working in the people helping industry with each other for potential referral options and the sharing of resources
2. To provide opportunities for professional development, especially in the areas of professional self-care
3. To build mutually beneficial relationships with like-minded people.

**What happens at Common Ground gatherings?**

- As the aim is networking so when you arrive you will be invited to display your brochures and flyers on the display table . . . . and there will be yummy soup and bread!

- Everyone will be name tagged so you will be able to mingle, meet new and old friends and “talk shop”! – bring lots of business cards!

- There will be a presentation or workshop on some aspect of professional development usually allowing for interactive and group discussion. Statement of Attendances will be on request.

- Various people will be invited to give a 3 minute synopsis of who they are and what they do

- There is no financial cost for Common Ground

**What is CHC Counselling and Support Centre?**

The CHC Centre is an initiative of the School of Social Science of CHC. This centre gives opportunity for those in the local community to receive low cost counselling while providing a professional counselling centre for counselling students to complete their practical training.