

28. UnitingCare WA Forum

<i>Chairperson</i>	Robert Watson
<i>Members elected by Agencies</i>	
<i>GSI Chairperson</i>	Trent Bartlett
<i>GSI Chief Executive Officer</i>	John Knowles
<i>Juniper Chairperson</i>	Fred Boshart
<i>Juniper Chief Executive Officer</i>	Chris Hall
<i>UnitingCare West Chairperson</i>	Peter Fitzpatrick
<i>UnitingCare West Chief Executive Officer</i>	Amanda Hunt

UnitingCare Australia is the national body for the UnitingCare Network, one of the largest providers of community services in Australia. With over 1,600 sites, the network employs 40,000 staff and is supported by the work of over 30,000 volunteers. We provide services to children, young people and families, Indigenous Australians, people with disabilities, the poor and disadvantaged, people from culturally diverse backgrounds and older Australians in urban, rural and remote communities.

UnitingCare Australia's mission is to express God's love for all people through the Uniting Church's commitment to supporting individuals, families and communities through advocacy and the enhancement of community service provision.

In WA this mission is expressed through our agencies: Good Samaritan Industries, Juniper, and UnitingCare West. (For more comprehensive details please see their individual Synod Reports.)

I. UNITINGCARE AUSTRALIA NATIONAL COMMITTEE

The Chairperson of the UnitingCare WA Forum currently sits on the UnitingCare Australia National Committee. Each synod is represented by its UnitingCare Director (or equivalent) and a number of Assembly elected members.

The national body is currently considering a significant restructure so that it can meet the changing political landscape, the needs of our Uniting Church agencies and governance responsibilities.

There has been a process of consultation to review the Mandate and the National Committee structure. Currently, the Assembly Standing Committee is considering the establishing of a board structure. It is probable that the proposed board will have 12 members – 6 of whom will be Synod representatives.

I.1 Theological underpinnings

At UnitingCare Australia's invitation, Rev Dr Ji Zhang is developing a theological reflection titled *Mission and Service of UnitingCare*.

I.2 New premises

Due to occupational health and safety concerns and access problems, UnitingCare Australia has moved to 42 Macquarie Street, Barton.

I.3 Position of National Director

Claerwen Little was appointed to this position in 2017.

I.4 Position of National Chair

Bronwyn Pike is the Chair of UnitingCare Australia.

I.5 Leaders Forum

A Leaders Forum is being planned for November 2018. It will be held in Canberra.

1.6 UnitingCare/Target Christmas Appeal

The amount raised in the 2017 Appeal was considerably less than the record amount in 2016. This we believe was mainly due to problems within Target. It has been decided to have an Appeal for Christmas 2018.

2. UNITINGCARE (WA) AGENCIES

Our three UnitingCare Agencies in WA report directly to Synod and I commend their reports to your reading. This year they will make a contribution to UnitingCare Australia and the Uniting Church in WA totalling approximately \$214,000. This does not include other forms of support, both financial and in kind, provided during the year.

2.1 Congregational Community Services

An ongoing area of focus has been how the larger agencies can support congregational activities to meet the required regulatory or governance obligations.

2.2 Acknowledgments and welcomes

Chris Hall

Welcome to Chris as the new Chief Executive Officer of Juniper. Most of us will know Chris from his time at Perth Wesley Mission and as the inaugural CEO of UnitingCare West. We very much look forward to his ongoing contribution both to Juniper and the Forum.

Vaughan Harding

We are very aware that Vaughan has, and will continue to be, recognised for the outstanding work he has done in aged care across Australia. We at the Forum wish to recognise the behind the scenes support he has provided to other CEO's and agencies of UnitingCare WA. His has been a colossal contribution. Thank you Vaughan.

2.3 Conclusion

In conclusion, the UnitingCare WA Forum wishes to acknowledge the significant work and commitment of our agency's boards, staff and many volunteers. We also acknowledge the many congregations throughout WA who provide facilities, financial and prayerful support for the work of our agencies. In all of this, together, we give expression to God's inclusive love.

Robert Watson

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