



## UnitingCare WA Forum

<i>Chairperson</i>	Robert Watson
<i>Members</i>	Melanie Kiely (CEO- Good Samaritan Industries) Trent Bartlett (Chairperson Good Samaritan Industries) Amanda Hunt (CEO UnitingCare West) Ron Chalmers (Acting Chairperson UnitingCare West) Peter Fitzpatrick (Previous Chairperson UnitingCare West) Chris Hall (CEO Juniper) Fred Boshart (Chairperson Juniper)

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 50,000 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.)

### UNITINGCARE AUSTRALIA

#### New Board of Governance

The UnitingCare Australia National Committee met for the last time in November 2018. The Assembly has formed the UnitingCare Australia Board. This is a governance board and it 12 members – 6 of whom will be Synod representatives. Ms Amanda Hunt is the member from Western Australia.

#### Leaders Forum

A Leaders Forum was held in Canberra in November 2018. It will be held in Canberra. This was a chance to express our national self in the current context. It was also the opportunity for the blessing of the new UnitingCare Australia office.

#### UnitingCare/Target Christmas Appeal

The amount raised in the 2018 Appeal was again disappointing. A new model has been approved where Target will take over the promotion and collation of the gifts and funds.

### 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 \$216,000. This does not include other forms of support, both financial and in kind, provided during the year.

### **Congregational Community Services**

This is an ongoing area of focus has been how the larger agencies can support congregational activities to meet the required regulatory or governance obligations. With the restructure of the Presbytery, and the retirement of Ian Passmore, a resolution to this matter is essential.

### **Acknowledgments and Welcomes**

#### **Melanie Kiely**

Welcome to Melanie as the new Chief Executive Officer of Good Samaritan Industries. We very much look forward to her ongoing contribution both to GSI and the Forum.

#### **John Knowles**

Earlier this year John Knowles resigned after 10 years in the role of CEO for Good Samaritan Industries. We all have come to know John, his generous spirit and the outstanding work he has done in area of disability – particularly in employment. We at the Forum would wish to recognize the behind the scenes support he has provided to the Synod in the monetary support provided for certain roles and agencies. His has been a huge contribution. Thank you John.

#### **Peter Fitzpatrick**

After four years as the chair of UnitingCare West, Peter stepped down from the role. Peter has overseen some major changes as UCW. We are very thankful for his leadership and wish him well in the next phase of his career.

Ron Chalmers has agreed to be the Acting Chair

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion the 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 – Executive Chairperson**  
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