



## UnitingCare WA Forum

### Committee Members

<i>Chairperson (Elected annually)</i>	Robert Watson
<i>Member appointed by Agency</i>	Trent Bartlett (Chair Good Sammy Enterprises)
<i>Member appointed by Agency</i>	Melanie Kiely (CEO Good Sammy Enterprises)
<i>Member appointed by Agency</i>	Maree Arnason (Chair Juniper)
<i>Member appointed by Agency</i>	Chris Hall (CEO Juniper)
<i>Member appointed by Agency</i>	Erica Haddon (Chair UnitingWA)
<i>Member appointed by Agency</i>	Amanda Hunt (CEO UnitingWA)

Our three larger UnitingCare Agencies in WA and the Beananging Kwuurt Institute (BKI) report directly to Synod and I commend their reports to your reading.

### Welcomes

This year we welcomed Maree Arnason and Erica Haddon as new Chairs to the Boards of Juniper and Uniting WA respectively. We very much look forward to their ongoing contribution to be drawn from their broad experience and knowledge.

### Restructure and Additional Resources

During this year some very welcome additional resources have been focussed in this area. This resulted in the creation of the part-time position, Executive Officer Caring Services, which is filled by John Berger.

The primary focus has been on building relationships with the CEO's, Board Chairs and other key staff within the Agencies. It also ensures regular communication and exchange of information between Synod Office, the broader church and the agencies through both formal and informal channels.

The EO has also brought together an agencies and churches forum made up of key people who act in a liaison role within their agency and Alison Gilchrist, Presbytery Minister (Mission). The purpose has been to facilitate connections and communication between the agencies and the congregations. They are learning and exploring how they can work together on various opportunities and will agree on specific initiatives over the coming months. This group has provided a conduit for information between the agencies and wider church as they learn to engage with each other and learn to be 'church' together.

### Agency Forum and Networking Event 2020

It was the intention of the Forum to conduct such an event that would involve Agency Board Members, the Moderator, Moderator-Elect and the General Secretary and potentially Synod Standing Committee members. The purpose of the event was to build a greater understanding of the Uniting



Church, governance responsibilities and familiarity with other similar agencies. Unfortunately, COVID-19 put paid to this for the moment.

### **Royal Commission – Disability (Synod Task Group)**

Melanie Kiely is the WA representative on the National Task Group and chairs the Synod Task Group.

### **Leaders Forum**

UnitingCare Australia conducted a Leaders Forum which was held in Canberra in November 2019. The theme was *All of this is us – Leading in service together*. A number of people attended from Western Australia. This was a chance to express our national identity in the then current context.

### **UnitingCare Australia Levy and Synod Contribution**

Our three UnitingCare Agencies in WA make a contribution to UnitingCare Australia and the Uniting Church in WA totalling approximately \$236,000. This does not include other forms of support, both financial and in kind, provided during the year.

This year they agreed to the payment of the standard 0.12% as a levy on the individual agency's turnovers (this has been the standard percentage agreed to over the last few years.) Traditionally there has been a 50/50 split between the Synod and UnitingCare Australia. This year they decided that the split be .07% for UnitingCare Australia and .05% for WA. This meant that approximately \$138,000 will be sent to UnitingCare Australia and \$98,000 will be retained by the WA Synod

It is important to note that this whole process is being reviewed at a national level. After this the Forum will then bring forward any recommendations to the Synod Standing Committee.

### **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**  
**Chairperson**