

UNITINGCARE AUSTRALIA MANDATE

Agency/Committee	UnitingCare Australia
Responsible To	Assembly
Reporting Arrangements	To Assembly Standing Committee and the Assembly
Mission Statement	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.
Mandate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To take up community service issues within the theological framework of the Uniting Church, particularly the Church's social justice perspectives.• To develop and reflect on the policies and practices of the Uniting Church in community services.• To pursue appropriate issues within the Uniting Church, with Government and the community sector, with the Australian community and with other parts of the church.
Guiding principles and values	<p>Jesus' ministry challenges us to give more serious attention to the nature of service to one another. Engaging with the world through community services provides the opportunity to live out a Christian vision which is inclusive, all encompassing and which looks for equality of opportunity for individuals, communities and peoples. UnitingCare Australia will bring to all aspects of its work and ministry the theological framework that God's love is extended to all people, with no discrimination on the grounds of age, gender, sexuality, ability, class colour, creed or cultural origin.</p> <p>UnitingCare Australia will work co-operatively and ecumenically, giving expression to the unity of God's love for the world, and the church as a loving agency.</p> <p>UnitingCare Australia will constantly seek to develop national best practice supporting and giving focus to its work in the areas of policy and practical outcomes.</p>
Key Responsibilities	<p>Therefore, acting within guidelines set by the Assembly or the Assembly Standing Committee, and grounded in the experience of UnitingCare service providers, UnitingCare Australia will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Encourage theological reflection on the Church's community services work.2. Advocate to Government and within the Church and community those policies and practices which enhance the dignity of people, especially those who are most disadvantaged and marginalised.3. Enable exchange of information across Synods and Uniting Church service providers.4. Seek to enhance the quality of community service provision by the Uniting Church.5. Represent the views of Uniting Church service providers to governments.6. Work as appropriate with other churches and peak organisations in the community services field.

7. Act on requests and referrals from Synods and the Assembly.

The responsibilities include:

1. Focusing the activities of the agency on the vision of the Assembly as a whole.
2. Advising the Assembly and/or the Assembly Standing Committee on policy matters within their areas of responsibility.
3. Making policy decisions where the Assembly or the Assembly Standing Committee has delegated authority, either through UnitingCare Australia's Mandate or by resolution.

Relation with other agencies

UnitingCare Australia will maintain regular contact with other Assembly bodies, to ensure coordination of the Church's actions and advocacy in community service matters.

Power to delegate

UnitingCare Australia has the power to delegate responsibilities.

Organisational Structure

UnitingCare Australia will operate through the National Committee, its Executive, the National Office, and Advisory Committees as determined by the National Committee and the UnitingCare network.

National Committee

The National Committee is the key governance body of UnitingCare Australia and is appointed by the Assembly Standing Committee.

Role and Responsibilities

The role and responsibilities of the National Committee as delegated by the Assembly are to:

- develop and ensure the implementation of the strategic plan for UnitingCare Australia
- discern and determine key priorities
- give oversight to the work of UnitingCare Australia, including the National Office and Advisory Committees

Membership

It comprises:

- the Chairperson, elected by the Assembly
- the National Director of UnitingCare Australia
- the Assembly General Secretary or nominee
- the Director of UnitingCare in each Synod
- the Chair of each UnitingCare Australia Advisory Committee, appointed by the Assembly Standing Committee on the nomination of the National Committee
- National Director of Frontier Services or nominee
- one (1) additional person from each Synod appointed by the Assembly Standing Committee from nominations provided by the Synods, based on their expertise in relation to UnitingCare Australia's strategic directions.

Frequency of Meetings

In addition, the National Committee has the option to co-opt up to two (2) additional members.

Tenure of membership is for the Assembly triennium.

The National Committee will meet face to face at least twice each year.

Executive Role

The Executive of the National Committee shall be appointed by the National Committee and is empowered to act on its behalf between meetings of the National Committee in

respect of any of the responsibilities of the National Committee except such as the National Committee may determine.

Membership

The Executive comprises:

- the Chair of the National Committee
- the National Director of UnitingCare Australia
- the Assembly Associate General Secretary
- the Director of UnitingCare from one Synod
- two (2) other members of the National committee

National Office

The National Office is the national staff team body of UnitingCare Australia.

Role

Its role is to:

- provide strategic leadership in the operations of UnitingCare Australia
- to provide a range of executive, administrative and management services to the National Committee and Advisory Committees
- to implement decisions made by the National Committee

Membership

The National Office comprises

- The National Director of UnitingCare Australia, appointed by the Assembly
- Such other staff as determined by the National Director to be necessary or appropriate to further the work of UnitingCare Australia

Accountability

To the National Committee in respect of the responsibilities delegated to the National Committee by the Assembly.
To the Assembly and General Secretary in all other matters.

Advisory Committees

Role

The National Committee may establish such working groups and Advisory Committees as required and appoint such persons as it considers appropriate in relation to one or more areas of its work.

The role of the Advisory Committees is to

- develop, review and reflect upon the policies and practices of the Uniting Church in its community services ministry with people
- contribute to the advocacy of UnitingCare Australia; and
- assist the National Committee in the development of national positions within the area of responsibility of that Advisory Committee

Membership

The membership of each Advisory Committee shall be determined by the National Committee.

Tenure of membership is for the Assembly triennium.

Nature of Agency

Permanent

ORIGINAL APPROVED BY COMMUNITY SERVICES AUSTRALIA NOVEMBER 1992

Submitted to and approved by the Assembly Standing Committee September 1993

**Amended and approved by UnitingCare Australia
March 2000**

Approved by Ninth Assembly July 2000

**Amended and approved by UnitingCare Australia
February 2005**

Submitted and approved by the Assembly Standing Committee March 2005