



Uniting Church in Australia
ASSEMBLY
Assembly Standing Committee

27-29 August 2021

DOCUMENT 8D

Title	UnitingCare Australia Board
Type of Paper (Information/Decision)	For information
Assembly or ASC Minute	Not applicable
Consultation	Not applicable
Purpose	To provide information on the Mandate of UnitingCare Australia, and the members of the UnitingCare Australia Board
Rationale & Findings Summary	
Attachments	
Proposal/s	That the Assembly Standing Committee: 1. Note the UnitingCare Australia Mandate, and the membership of the UnitingCare Australia Board
Submitted by	Claerwen Little National Director, UnitingCare Australia

UNITINGCARE AUSTRALIA MANDATE

Revised October 2018

Approved Assembly Standing Committee 10/11/2018

Responsible to: The Assembly

Reporting Arrangements: The Assembly, the Assembly Standing Committee

Mission: To give voice to the Uniting Church's commitment to social justice through advocacy and by strengthening community service provision.

Mandate:

UnitingCare Australia will:

- Take up community service issues within the theological framework of the Uniting Church, particularly the Church's social justice imperatives.
- Develop and reflect on the policies and practices of the Uniting Church in community services.
- Pursue appropriate issues within the Uniting Church, with Government and the community sector, with the Australian community and with other parts of the church.

In particular,

- Encourage theological reflection on the Church's community services work.
- 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.
- Enable exchange of information across Synods and Uniting Church service providers.
- Seek to enhance the quality of community service provision by the Uniting Church.
- Represent the views of the Uniting Church and its service providers to governments.
- Work as appropriate with other churches and peak organisations in the community services field.
- Act on requests and referrals from Synods and the Assembly.

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.

The work of UnitingCare Australia will be guided by its strategic priority areas as articulated from time to time.

As an Agency of the National Assembly, UnitingCare Australia will also:

1. Ensure that the activities of the Agency are consistent with the vision and current strategic priorities of the Assembly.
2. Advise the Assembly/Assembly Standing Committee on policy matters within its area of responsibility and expertise.
3. Make decisions where the Assembly/Assembly Standing Committee has delegated authority for certain policy areas, either through the Mandate, or by resolution.
4. Implement policies determined by the Assembly/Assembly Standing Committee when relevant to its mandate and operations.
5. Manage its finances, risk and reporting in an effective, transparent and timely manner.
6. Work collaboratively with other Assembly agencies.

National Director:

The National Director will be appointed by the Assembly Standing Committee, guided by a selection panel that will include both the General Secretary of the Assembly and the Chairperson of the Board.

The selection process will consider the skills and expertise required to undertake the work of the Agency. The National Director will participate in annual performance management that involves the Assembly General Secretary and the Chairperson of the Board.

Governance of UnitingCare Australia:

To maintain good governance of UnitingCare Australia the Assembly/Assembly Standing Committee will appoint a Board for UnitingCare Australia and delegate to that Board responsibility for the oversight of UnitingCare Australia.

The governance of UnitingCare Australia is outlined in the Charter adopted by Assembly Standing Committee on 10/11/018

UnitingCare Australia Board

Board Member	Board Role	Nomination	Appointed	End Date	Details
Geoff Batkin	Chair	Assembly	November 2020	November 2023	
Colleen Geyer	Board Member	N/A	N/A	N/A	Ex Officio
Claerwen Little	Board Member	N/A	N/A	N/A	Ex Officio
Bronwyn Pike	Board Member	Vic Tas Synod	March 2020	March 2022	
Tracey Burton	Board Member	NSW ACT Synod	March 2019	March 2022	
Craig Barke	Board Member	Queensland Synod	March 2019	March 2022	
Tim Hodgson	Board Member	SA Synod	March 2019	March 2022	
Amanda Hunt	Board Member	WA Synod	March 2019	March 2022	
Lawson Broad	Board Member	Northern Synod	March 2019	March 2022	
Alison Overeem	Board Member	Board	February 2021	February 2024	• External appointment supported by ASC
Mark Dingle	Board Member	Board	May 2021	May 2024	• External appointment supported by ASC
Adam Connolly	Board Member	Board	August 2021	August 2024	• External appointment supported by ASC

The Board of UNITINGCARE AUSTRALIA comprises:

- a. the Chair appointed by Assembly Standing Committee;
- b. the National Director of UNITINGCARE AUSTRALIA appointed by Assembly Standing Committee (ASC);
- c. the General Secretary of the Assembly;
- d. one board member appointed by each Synod of the Uniting Church using such process as each Synod may determine; and
- e. up to three board members, to be appointed by the board upon such terms and conditions as the Board determines.

Other than the National Director, no other board member will be an employee of UnitingCare Australia.