



Position Description

Board – Director

Background

The Uniting Church in Australia (the **Church**) was formed on June 22, 1977, as a union of three churches: the Congregational Union of Australia, the Methodist Church of Australasia and the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

In December 2017 the Royal Commission into Institutional Response to Child Sexual Abuse (the **Commission**), published its report noting that there was significant evidence that institutions had not focussed enough on children's safety and had not responded appropriately to complaints. The Commission made a number of recommendations to institutions including the Church about improving its culture and practices in relation to the safety of children.

Previously, in its Redress and Civil Litigation Report (August 2015) the Royal Commission recommended to government the introduction of a national redress scheme for survivors of child abuse in institutions having regard to the elements of justice, transparency and healing.

The Commonwealth has legislated to create a National Redress Scheme (the Scheme) and the Uniting Church has published its intention to opt into the Scheme.

The Church is committed to conducting itself in a way that upholds the values of care and compassion, and to supporting the applicants of the Scheme. The Church will apologise to anyone who was sexually abused whilst in our care and is committed to actively contributing to the healing and justice process for survivors.

Our motivation in joining the National Redress Scheme is so that more survivors across all institutions might have equitable and consistent levels of support.... We will keep listening to survivors, and we will work constructively with the Federal Government and other Scheme members to try to make sure this Scheme works for survivors.

Stuart McMillan (Past President, UCA National Assembly, 5 June 2018)

The constitution and regulations of the Uniting Church in Australia provide:

- a. the Assembly with the authority (responsibility to oversight, direct, and administer) for the Church on a national basis; and
- b. the Synods with the authority (responsibility to oversight, direct, and administer) for the Church within their boundaries.

Working collaboratively the Assembly and the Synods have incorporated UCA Redress Ltd, a public company limited by guarantee to be the national body for the Uniting Church in Australia to respond and provide support for children and vulnerable persons who have suffered abuse at the hands of the Church, including by participation in a nationally consistent equitable redress scheme (rule 6.1 of constitution).



UCA Redress Ltd

ABN: 31 628 672 597

info@redress.uca.org.au



The Members of the company retain the capacity to direct key strategic and operational decisions of the company that:

- relate to Members strategy and mission;
- relate to Members Values and the polity of the Church;
- impact on the financial or other operational activities of Members so far as relevant to the redress Scheme.

The directors are responsible for managing and directing the activities of the company to achieve its purpose and may exercise all the powers of the company, subject to the powers that are specifically reserved to the Members. In summary, the role of directors of the company involve leadership, strategy, responsible financial management, monitoring, reporting, compliance and stakeholder engagement.

The board is accountable to and must report to the members of the company to satisfy the members that the company is meeting its purpose and is sustainable. They also have duties under the *Corporations Act* and if the company is a charity under the *Australian Charities Not-for-profit Act 2012* to the ACNC.

About the Board

The Board is comprised of:

- A chair
- A director nominated by the Assembly Member
- Two directors nominated by the Synod Members (Synod member directors)
- One person appointed by the Board (Board appointed director, independent from the Church)

Criteria

The board directors will provide strategic leadership in a complex political environment. The directors must demonstrate capacity to support the Church's commitment to the provision of appropriate redress under the scheme

Ideally, directors will:

- Have experience in the governance of a public company or other charitable or non-profit entity
- Exhibit exemplary behaviour
- Evidence commercial acumen
- Demonstrate an impeccable reputation
- Have relevant industry experience
- For Synod member directors, be able to represent the views of the members, while meeting their obligations as an individual board member
- For the board appointed member, be able to demonstrate independence from the Church



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- Be able to address the issues raised in the attached document “Board responsibilities, qualities and skills matrix”

Other requirements of the position

- A satisfactory National Criminal History Check.
- Working with Children Check.

Term of appointment

The initial term of appointment is 3 years with eligibility for reappointment in accordance with rule 27.2 of the Constitution.

Remuneration

To be determined by the board in consultation with the governing members of UCA Redress Ltd.

Review date: February 2021



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