

Attachment 2

This attachment is an excerpt from the task group report to ASC in July 2022. We recommend that the changes below are accepted by ASC.

Terms of Reference

1. There are four main suggested changes:
 - (a) The Terms of Reference were approved in July 2019, and refer to a possible report to the 16th Assembly. This is updated to the 17th Assembly (2024).
 - (b) The Terms of Reference require the work of the TG to “embody an inclusive church where those of differing ability, age, gender, race, sexuality are welcomed”. The TG believes that we should add a reference to “gender identity” to this clause. We have become very aware during our work to date of the many different issues facing trans and other gender diverse (TGD) people, compared to the issues faced by lesbian, gay and bisexual people.
 - (c) The current membership of the TG is listed.
 - (d) The acronym LGBTIQ, and variations thereof, is an evolving way to speak of the amazing diversity of human sexualities, gender identities and physiological sex characteristics. Although not in universal use, LGBTIQ communities increasingly use something like “LGBTIQA+”. The TG believe this should be respected.

Appendix

Apology to LGBTIQ^{A+} Australians Task Group - Terms of Reference

Purpose	To develop the wording of an official apology from the Uniting Church in Australia to LGBTIQ ^{A+} Australians for the Church’s role in the silence, rejection, discrimination and stereotyping of LGBTIQ ^{A+} people, couples and families.
Reporting Arrangements:	Assembly Standing Committee (ASC)
Period:	This Terms of Reference is for the period of achieving the purpose of the task group
Membership:	As determined by the ASC on the recommendation of the Assembly / Assembly General Secretary / Assembly Resourcing Unit (ARU)

Task Required:

1. Consult widely with LGBTIQ^{A+} and other members of the Church in order to develop the wording of an official apology from the Uniting Church in Australia to LGBTIQ^{A+} Australians for the Church’s role in the silence, rejection, discrimination and stereotyping of LGBTIQ^{A+} people, couples and families. When considering this, the task group will engage in a respectful process in developing an apology, which will involve listening to all, honestly naming the past and respecting differences. An apology will hopefully contribute to healing and reconciliation within the Uniting Church, with the Australian LGBTIQ^{A+} communities and the wider society.

- ~~If timing is appropriate, b~~Bring a proposal regarding an apology to the 167th Assembly (mid 2024). The best apology might be a “living apology” though this does not preclude a formal statement by the Assembly.
- The apology might draw on, but not go beyond, existing statements, decisions and theological work that has been approved by either the Assembly or ASC in the past.

Expected Outcomes:

At the conclusion of its work the Task Group will:

- Present ~~a Draft~~progress Reports to the Assembly General Secretary outlining the directions the group is taking to the ASC ~~by March 2020~~at regular intervals.
- Present a Final Report including an executive summary and any proposals / recommendations for consideration at the 167th Assembly to the ASC by November 2020~~3~~

~~Note: Should additional time be required to complete this process and it is evident that this will not be ready for consideration at the 16th Assembly, then future expected outcomes and a revised timeframe should be determined at the November 2020 ASC meeting.~~

How the task group will work:

- Be grounded in the gospel and build upon the tradition of the Uniting Church in Australia.
- Live out our covenant as First and Second Peoples.
- Live out our commitment to being a multicultural church, oriented towards justice.
- Embody an inclusive church where those of differing ability, age, gender, race, ~~and~~ sexuality and gender identity are welcomed
- Ensure that the activities of the Task Group are consistent with the Basis of Union of the UCA, the Constitution and Regulations, and align with the current strategic priorities of the Assembly.
- Consider how the work of the Task Group relates to other councils, agencies and groups within the UCA, and work collaboratively wherever possible.
- Consider how the work of the Task Group relates to other bodies ecumenically and with other civil society organisation and work collaboratively wherever possible.
- Where appropriate, conduct its work on the basis of rigorous, contemporary research and analysis.

Membership as at July 2022:

Lin Hatfield Dodds (Convenor)
Wendy Hendry
Rev Elizabeth Raine
Rev Gordon Ramsay
Graeme Randall
Warren Talbot
Rev Apelu Tielu