

An Inclusive and Equal Society

VISION FOR A JUST AUSTRALIA



Uniting Church in Australia
ASSEMBLY

Our vision

“

We live together in a society where all are equal, safe and free to exercise our rights equally, regardless of faith, cultural background, race, ability, age, sexual orientation and gender identity. We defend those rights for all.

”

Our Key Asks

Ensure people with disabilities and older people have access to quality, well-funded services in their chosen location, with safeguards against abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Protect against discrimination and ensure the legal system supports all people. Address fraud in the NDIS and promote inclusion in communities. Prioritize preventing gender-based and domestic violence, with adequate funding for support services.

Implement the National Plans to End Violence Against Women and Children, including Indigenous-focused strategies. Guarantee universal access to quality early learning and care, and increase investment in prevention programs for vulnerable families.

Provide vital supports like social housing, health services, and family violence assistance. Ensure adequate social security for low-income and single-parent families.

DISADVANTAGE IN AUSTRALIA STARTS EARLY
1 in 6 children living in poverty



State of the Nation

Disadvantage in Australia starts early, with 1 in 6 children living in poverty and many experiencing developmental vulnerability, especially in disadvantaged areas. Children from such backgrounds are more likely to encounter the justice system.

Discrimination based on faith, race, gender, or disability compounds these issues, with marginalized groups facing greater barriers to participation and services. Abuse, homelessness, and poverty disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, including children, First Nations people, and people with disabilities.

Gender-based inequality also increases risks for women and girls with disabilities. Racial discrimination has risen, particularly against First Nations peoples, and LGBTIQ+ Australians face higher mental health challenges. People with disabilities require better choice and control in services, with issues in accessing support, especially in rural areas.

Family violence, particularly domestic violence, remains a leading cause of homelessness, affecting thousands each year, with women making up the majority of those seeking support.

Questions to ask

- What policies will ensure all children get the best start in life?
- How will older Australians receive dignified, quality care?
- What actions will you take for women's equality?
- How will you address domestic and family violence prevention and support?
- What is your response to discrimination based on identity?

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