

Media Release

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Delivering meaningful jobs through values-based employment

UnitingCare Australia and Uniting Vic.Tas today celebrated the latest group of graduates to have successfully gained employment through UnitingCare's values-based employment model.

The model adopts a strengths-based approach to support job seekers into work through a comprehensive program of training, mentoring, work experience and wrap-around support.

Today's event celebrated the achievements of 15 job seekers who successfully completed a six-week pre-employment project with Uniting Vic.Tas. Delivered with financial support from the Australian Government's *Launch into Work* program, the project has transitioned job seekers into Disability Support Worker roles with Uniting services across Melbourne.

National Director of UnitingCare Australia, Claerwen Little, said "it's wonderful to recognise the achievements of the job seekers that have been supported to overcome the employment barriers that they've faced through delivery of this program".

"It is well known that employment is a social determinant of health, and that undertaking meaningful work can provide people with not only financial security, but also allow them to overcome social exclusion and promote their wellbeing".

"This model is advocacy in action and an approach that is delivering genuine outcomes – for both job seekers and for the agencies in our network in their capacity as employers."

Uniting Vic.Tas CEO Paul Linossier said, "As a provider of disability and aged care services, we know there aren't enough professionals to meet the demand. This program focuses on who people are and what matters to them, not just what they can do. That caring, compassionate dimension is fundamental to providing a quality service to some of the most vulnerable people in our communities".

UnitingCare organisations have been working in partnership with the Australian Government since 2015 to deliver innovative employment projects using the values-based model.

The model was developed with the aim of delivering real employment outcomes for individuals facing employment barriers, and to also respond to the increasing workforce demands of the community services sector.

Ms Little said, "we look forward to continuing the roll-out of the values-based model with other organisations across our network, and to promoting the benefits of the approach to Government, sector partners and beyond".

UnitingCare Australia is the national body for the Uniting Church's community services network in Australia, supporting 1.4 million people each year across urban, rural and remote communities

Uniting Vic.Tas is the community services organisation of the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania.

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