

UNITINGCARE AUSTRALIA MANDATE

Agency/Committee	UnitingCare Australia
Responsible To	Assembly
Reporting Arrangements	To Assembly Standing Committee and the Assembly
Mission Statement	UnitingCare Australia's Mission is to express God's love for all people through the Uniting Church's commitment to supporting individuals, families and communities through advocacy and the enhancement of community service provision.
Mandate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To take up community service issues within the theological framework of the Uniting Church, particularly the Church's social justice perspectives.• To develop and reflect on the policies and practices of the Uniting Church in community services.• To pursue appropriate issues within the Uniting Church, with Government and the community sector, with the Australian community and with other parts of the church
Guiding principles and values	<p>Jesus' ministry challenges us to give more serious attention to the nature of service to one another. Engaging with the world through community services provides the opportunity to live out a Christian vision which is inclusive, all encompassing and which looks for equality of opportunity for individuals, communities and peoples. 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.</p> <p>UnitingCare Australia will work co-operatively and ecumenically, giving expression to the unity of God's love for the world, and the church as a loving agency.</p> <p>UnitingCare Australia will constantly seek to develop national best practice supporting and giving focus to its work in the areas of policy and practical outcomes.</p>
Key Responsibilities	<p>Therefore, acting within guidelines set by the Assembly or the Assembly Standing Committee, and grounded in the experience of UnitingCare service providers, UnitingCare Australia will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Encourage theological reflection on the Church's community services work.2. 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.3. Enable exchange of information across Synods and Uniting Church service providers.4. Seek to enhance the quality of community service provision by the Uniting Church.5. Represent the views of Uniting Church service providers to governments.6. Work as appropriate with other churches and peak organisations in the community services field.

	<p>7. Act on requests and referrals from Synods and the Assembly.</p> <p>The responsibilities include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Focusing the activities of the agency on the vision of the Assembly as a whole. 2. Advising the Assembly and/or the Assembly Standing Committee on policy matters within their areas of responsibility. 3. Making policy decisions where the Assembly or the Assembly Standing Committee has delegated authority, either through UnitingCare Australia's Mandate or by resolution.
Relation with other agencies	<p>UnitingCare Australia will maintain regular contact with other Assembly bodies, to ensure coordination of the Church's actions and advocacy in community service matters.</p>
Power to delegate	<p>UnitingCare Australia has the power to delegate responsibilities.</p>
Organisational Structure	<p>UnitingCare Australia will operate through the National Committee, its Executive, the National Office, and its national working groups and networks as determined by the National Committee and the UnitingCare network.</p>
National Committee	<p>The National Committee is the key governance body of UnitingCare Australia and is appointed by the Assembly Standing Committee.</p>
Role and Responsibilities	<p>The role and responsibilities of the National Committee as delegated by the Assembly are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop and ensure the implementation of strategic directions for UnitingCare Australia • discern and determine key priorities • give oversight to the work of UnitingCare Australia, including the National Office and national working groups and networks
Membership	<p>It comprises up to nine ex-officio members as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Chairperson, appointed by the Assembly • the National Director of UnitingCare Australia • the Assembly General Secretary or nominee • the Director of UnitingCare or equivalent in each Synod • five (5) additional persons appointed by the Assembly Standing Committee with advice provided by a nominating group comprised of the Chair, the National Director and the Assembly General Secretary or their nominee. These persons will be appointed so that the overall skills mix and composition of the Committee reflects the following experience/competencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - strategic thinking across the wide range of the Church's community services; - research and evaluation; - senior executive management experience; - policy development and advocacy; - business development; and - theological reflection. <p>Tenure of membership is for the Assembly triennium.</p>

Frequency of Meetings	The National Committee will meet at least four times each year.
Executive Role	The Executive of the National Committee shall be appointed by the National Committee and is empowered to act on its behalf between meetings of the National Committee in respect of any of the responsibilities of the National Committee except such as the National Committee may determine.
Membership	<p>The Executive comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Chair of the National Committee • the National Director of UnitingCare Australia • the Assembly General Secretary or their nominee • two (2) other members of the National Committee, one of whom shall not be in an ex-officio position
National Office	The National Office is the national staff team of UnitingCare Australia.
Role	<p>Its role is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide strategic leadership in the operations of UnitingCare Australia • to provide a range of executive, administrative and management services to the National Committee • to implement decisions made by the National Committee
Membership	<p>The National Office comprises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Director of UnitingCare Australia, appointed by the Assembly • Such other staff as determined by the National Director to be necessary or appropriate to further the work of UnitingCare Australia
Accountability	The National Director is accountable to the National Committee in respect of the responsibilities delegated to the National Committee by the Assembly and is accountable to the Assembly and General Secretary in all other matters.
Working Groups and Networks	The National Committee may establish or endorse such working groups and networks as required.
Role	<p>The role of working groups and networks is to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop, review and reflect upon the policies and practices of the Uniting Church in its community services ministry with people; • contribute to the advocacy of UnitingCare Australia; • assist in the development of national positions within the area of focus of the particular working group or network; and • provide a means at a national level through which the agencies that form the UnitingCare network can network, support, grow and develop their community services work.
Membership	The membership of working groups and networks shall be open to UnitingCare members with relevant expertise.
Nature of Agency	Permanent

Approved by Assembly Standing Committee July 2008