

Share Unites

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Uniting?

Uniting is the new community services arm of the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania. Uniting is being formed from a network of 22 agencies and two Church business units – Early Childhood Services and Share.

On 1 July, when the 24 entities come together, Uniting will have 3,500 employees and 3,500 volunteers. They will be one of the largest community service organisations in Victoria and Tasmania.

Why is this change happening?

They are coming together as Uniting to ensure the best possible outcomes for the people they support now and into the future. They want to address the anticipated changes within the community services sector. They are Uniting for greater change. Uniting to do more.

Why is Share joining Uniting?

The Uniting Church's Standing Committee made the decision that Share would become part of Uniting. A number of factors influenced their decision. These include the fact that the majority of funds Share raise are distributed to UnitingCare agencies. Alongside that, a change of governance for Share is consistent with other changes to the Synod's governance arrangements.

Moving Share to Uniting maintains a consistency of branding and builds a fundraising profile between Uniting and the Church and broader community.

When is it happening?

1 July 2017.

What does this mean for Share?

This is an exciting chapter in Share's life as we come together with existing UnitingCare and Wesley Mission Victoria fundraising teams to form a united and cohesive fundraising program, using the Uniting name and logo.

Who is on the Uniting Board?

An experienced, skills-based Board will guide the new organisation, comprising nine members – Bronwyn Pike (Chair), Robyn Batten, Mark Heintz, Linda McCrorey, Phil Morris, Sue Norman, Peter Prasser, Allan Thompson, Heather Watson – and the Chief Executive Officer as an Executive Director.

Who is the CEO?

Paul Linossier is the Chief Executive Officer of Uniting in Victoria and Tasmania. Paul has more than three decades experience in leading organisational change and systems reform while maintaining a strong commitment to marginalised and vulnerable people.

A highly regarded public sector and community services professional, Paul's previous leadership roles have included CEO of Wesley Mission Victoria, CEO of Our Watch, CEO of Mackillop Family Services, Executive Director of Early Childhood Development with the Department of Education, and Early Childhood Development and Executive Director, Vulnerable Children's Strategy.

Paul has also held significant roles with the Uniting Church including Harrison Youth Services, Kildonan and Orana and the former Yarra Valley and Burke Presbyteries.

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Where does Uniting fit as part of the Uniting Church?

Uniting is a service and advocacy arm of the Uniting Church. Their foundations are in the congregations and former denominations of the Uniting Church which have, some for over 130 years, taken action to make a positive difference in people's lives.

Uniting's foundation statement, "Christ invites us to serve humanity by creating an inclusive, connected and just world" is derived from the Basis of Union and the Church's first statement to the nation in 1977 and is reflected in the Synod's vision and mission principles.

Uniting is deeply committed to continuing to strengthen their relationship with local congregations and communities to support people experiencing disadvantage.

Can I still earmark my donations to programs and services in my local community?

Yes. Uniting is committed to providing the same service to their clients. Your donations will be as important as ever to fund local programs in your community. The programs and services you care about – the services that make a difference.

What happens to any donations I give now, including my Winter Appeal gift?

There will be no change to the way your gifts are used, or receipted, until Share formally joins Uniting in July.

What will happen to donations I give after July?

Please be assured that your donations will continue to be gratefully received and will continue to support the programs and services in your local community.

We still need your generous support to continue to make a difference in people's lives. Together, with you, we will have a greater impact. With your help, we will continue to provide hope for those who have nowhere else to turn.

Can I give to Church Projects, Disaster Appeals and the Lenten Offering through Uniting?

Yes.

Who can I talk to about this?

We are here to answer your questions and hear your concerns.

If you are in Melbourne you can call us on 9251 5251. For regional areas and Tasmania freecall 1800 668 426.

You can also email us at shareunites@victas.uca.org.au or write to Share Unites, PO Box 24154, Melbourne, Victoria, 3001.



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restoring life, joy, hope

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