

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
Date of receipt: 2 May 2023



CONGREGATION PROFILE

Congregation(s) Casuarina UCA **Mar 2023**

Presbytery Pilgrim Presbytery of Northern Australia

In situations where congregations are clustered or linked in respect of a proposed placement, list the relevant congregations below: (When completing information electronically, please use the tab key to get to the next line).

1 CONGREGATION PROFILE

Pages 2-4) approved by the respective Church Council(s):

	Name of Congregation	Date
1	Casuarina Uniting Church	22/3/2023
2		
3		
4		
5		

Profile (pages 2-6) approved by Presbytery (PRC) _____
Approval to fill placement granted by Placements Committee _____

2 PURPOSE

This profile should be prepared by the Congregation(s) and Presbytery in consultation and can be used:

- as a record of mission planning; and
- as an evaluation of congregation programs

It is also specifically designed to assist the placement process. Congregations are encouraged to update their profile regularly.

3 CONTENTS

- Section 1: Congregation – to be completed for each congregation in the placement (please photocopy sufficient copies for your requirements).
- Section 2: Joint Congregations – to be completed if more than one congregation in the placement.
- Section 3: Description of ministry – to be completed for both single and joint congregations.
- Section 4: Priorities in Ministry – this section contains a list of mission and pastoral activities which are also listed on Minister’s Personal profiles. Please photocopy the page to complete this section for each congregation.
- Section 5: Presbytery – to be completed by Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee.

4 ENCLOSURES

List all the documents attached to the profile:

- Summary of key community data from the 2016 Census
- Floor plan of residence
- Copy of last year’s Financial Statement
- Living Out Our Dream, approved in 2019
- Report of the May 2022 Casuarina Uniting Consultation
- Welcoming leaflet for newcomers

SECTION 1

Congregation

Casuarina Uniting Church

Profile approved by Church Council on

5 NATURE OF COMMUNITY

5.1	Total population of the community in which the congregation worships/serves	– 2016 Census, Northern Suburbs postcodes 0810 and 0812
5.2	From the census: No. of UCA people	1571 – in postcodes 0810 and 0812, 2016 Census

While these data are for Darwin’s northern suburbs, Casuarina Uniting members come from the whole of the Darwin – Palmerston area (including the Darwin rural area).

5.3	The population of the community is:	Stable	Growing	Declining
	(please circle or bold as appropriate)	Changing in composition		Culturally mixed

6 STATISTICS (DURING THE LAST 2 YEARS)

Confirmed members	See	Baptisms	7
Baptised members	NOTE 1	Confirmations	0
Members in Association	below	Transfers in	16
Adherents	see NOTE 2 below	Transfers out	
No. of elders	8	Marriages	2
No. of Church Council Members	15 (including Elders)	Funerals	15 (see NOTE 3 below)
Frequency of Meetings	Monthly		

NOTES:

- (1) These statistics have not been kept for a number of years because many who attend Casuarina have come from interstate/overseas and are not members of the Uniting Church. However, the Elders regularly review and update the pastoral care list.
- (2) CUC has a number of new people who have not formally become members of the church but regularly attend and are included on the pastoral care list.
- (3) Casuarina Uniting has been the preferred location for funerals, especially those for Indigenous people.

6.1	The Congregation is:	Stable	Growing	Declining
	(please circle or bold as appropriate)	Changing in composition		Culturally mixed

7 MISSION CONTEXT

7.1 Please list the major characteristics of the particular community within which the congregation has its mission¹.

- 1 Diverse population in terms of ethnicity, religion, age; however, majority are Australian born most of whom 47% still consider themselves Christian (Catholic and Anglican churches had the largest number of adherent’s).

¹ These data are derived from the 2016 Census for the Darwin Suburbs region, this takes in the postcodes 0810 and 0812. No Community data is as yet available from the 2021 Census.

- 2 Majority of households are traditional – married couple with/without children, living in a detached house which they own outright or are buying. There is also a large percentage of single, never married residents living alone or in group-share households.
- 3 Mobile: 20% of the population in the area lived elsewhere 5 years ago

7.2 Please list any major institutions in which the congregation has specific ministry and mission (eg prisons, tertiary education, hospitals, aged care etc) and indicate the nature of the ministry.

Institution	Nature of Ministry
Royal Darwin Hospital	Minister and lay members of the congregation visit semi regularly, minister assists Chaplain
University Chaplain (AFES)	Financial support, small support team in the congregation provides assistance
Darwin Prison	Minister and lay members assist Chaplain, Casuarina Uniting also supports Christmas Gifts for Prisoners

7.3 Please provide details of schools in which the congregation exercises ministry – see Comments

	Primary	Secondary
Number of schools		
Total enrolments		
No. of religious education classes serviced by Congregation		
Classwork or seminar format		

Please provide any comments relating to these ministries.

Individual members of the congregation are involved in Christian Education provided in schools, in AFES at Charles Darwin University – but this is a personal response to the call to be God's servants. Schools ministry is organised by Scripture Union on behalf of the churches.

7.4 Please provide details of worship Service and Activities

	Average attendance	Time of service	Frequency	Style of Service
1	20 - 30	8.00 am	Weekly	Traditional
2	50 - 70	9.30 am	Weekly	Contemporary (includes children's Christian Education)
3	Ethnic based church services			
	Fijian: 50-60	7.30 pm	Monthly	
	Islander	1.00 pm	Weekly	
4	30 - 40	7.30 pm	Periodic	Youth

With COVID, two ethnic groups that used to meet periodically (Zimbabwean and Tamil) have moved to on-line services.

7.5 Please list groups, eg home fellowship, bible study, children’s groups etc.

	Name	Frequency	Average attendance	Leadership Minister/Other
1	8 home Groups	Weekly	Up to 60	Lay
2	Kids Club	Monthly	8 – 12	Lay
3	Sonseekers Play Group	Twice per week	20	Lay

8 MISSION DIRECTIONS

8.1 Please list significant achievements and/or events in the past three years.

- 1 CUC has continued to provide a place of worship and witness despite restrictions on meeting as required for COVID-19. Casuarina had an approved safety plan for meetings and implementation of this Plan was complemented by Health Inspectors for this plan.
Effective and respected Ministry Team (Church Council) and active Elders.
- 2 Mission support – CUC has a strong tradition of supporting wider church missions and missionaries including for Bible translation (work especially in Arnhemland), two multicultural fundraiser functions were held during 2022, to raise funds for the Fijian and PNG churches,
- 3 Prayer – CUC has a strong desire to be a church of prayer and has an active prayer chain.
- 4 Encouragement for growth in children and youth ministry. Outreach to community through playgroup; the Playgroup is known for welcoming new parents especially those new to Darwin.
Encouragement for small groups in the congregation.
6. The Church organised a trip to Elcho Island to meet with and support eh sister Church there.

8.2 Please list any goals which have been adopted by the congregation for the next three to five years.

In 2019, Ministry Team approved a vision and set of long-term goals, there were set out in a document “Living Out Our Vision” (attached):

CUC seeks to be a loving community through Jesus Christ; growing faith, offering hope and sharing God’s are for all people.

The main goals under this vision were:

Be a loving community through Jesus Christ, some of the strategies under this were:

- 1
 - Encouraging participation in worship for all ages
 - Welcoming newcomers
 - Draw on our different languages and cultures in worship and reflecting our cultural diversity in the leadership and all aspects of the life of our church, the CUC congregation includes families from PNG, Fijian, Samoan, Tongan Kiribati and Zimbabwe.
 - Sharing prayer concerns and circulating prayer requests through the prayer chain
- 2 Growing faith and offering hope as a vibrant, intergenerational and multicultural faith community that honours God and helps people begin and continue the journey of faith as disciples of Christ through:

-
- Providing services that cater for both traditional and contemporary styles of worship and quarterly combined services; encouraging creativity
 - Providing Bible based preaching that uses the lectionary or a series, theme or book of the Bible to stimulate interest and Bible knowledge
 - Encouraging giving, both financially and in gifts of service, to support ministry
 - Valuing our children and offering Christian education that is engaging and age-appropriate, nurturing the faith and Bible knowledge of our children
 - Supporting initiatives (CUC and wider church) to grow, consolidate and develop the faith and ministry of young adults
 - Encouraging people to participate in small groups, our monthly prayer gathering, other prayer events and our church camp.
-

Sharing in God's care for all people... serving God in the world and sharing God's mission through:

- Providing a Play Group and team of volunteers that support young children, and their families
 - Communicating church activities through the Chronicle, and raising the visibility of our church through good signage, our Christmas Nativity scene, an updated website and a new Facebook page
 - Building links and exploring joint mission and mission in cooperation with other local Christian churches and the wider Christian community in Darwin
-

3

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8.3 What are the distinctive characteristics of this congregation?

These characteristics come from the report of the consultation carried out in Casuarina in May 2022:

- Sunday worship each week at 8am and 9.30am with quite different styles
- A Christian learning program for Tiny Tots to middle-school aged children during the 9.30am service in term time
- Eight Home/Small groups for Bible study and pastoral care
- Prayer gatherings and prayer chain
- Sonseekers Playgroup meets twice a week
- An annual church camp
- A commitment to Covenanting
- Relationship with sister church in Galiwin'ku
- Mission focused
- Kids' Club
- Welcoming, inclusive, caring, diverse, and multicultural

SECTION 2

9 JOINT CONGREGATIONS

Please complete if linked or clustered congregations relate to a proposed placement.

9.1 Congregations

1	4
2	5
3	6

9.2 In what ways do the congregations interact?

9.3 Please list any interactive groups (other than those included on congregation profiles).

- 1
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- 2
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- 3
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9.4 Please provide details of any agreements entered into for ministry “shared” across congregations.

9.5 Do the congregations have separate Church Councils or a joint Church Council? Please provide details:

9.6 What are the three principal characteristics of the grouped congregations?

- 1
.....
- 2
.....
- 3
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9.7 Are any major changes or developments anticipated within the grouped congregations in the next three to five years, eg. sudden growth, amalgamations, sale of property, new buildings or other?

9.8 Please list any mission goals that have been adopted by the grouped congregations for the next three to five years.

- 1
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- 2
.....
- 3
.....

SECTION 3

10 DESCRIPTION OF MINISTRY

10.1 Please list names and designations of ministerial team – specified ministries (Minister of the Word, Deacon, Deaconess, Lay Pastor, Youth Worker)

1 Minister of the Word – currently vacant

2

3

10.2 Please provide the names and designations of other employed persons.

Name	Designation

10.3 Are job descriptions of the above positions (other employed persons) available?

10.4 What is the location of the Church office?

Resource Centre building on church property – 47 Vanderlin Drive, Wanguri

Postcode 0810

10.5 What is the location of the Minister's study/office? (residence, church, other – please specify).

There can be a study in the manse however the office is in the Resource Centre.

10.6 The congregation(s) is /are seeking ~~*additional~~ / replacement placement (*please delete one).

10.7 If a replacement is indicated, who is being replaced?

Minister of the Word

10.8 The congregation(s) is /are seeking “full-time / ~~part-time~~ placement” (*please delete one).

10.9 What are the principal responsibilities which the proposed minister might be expected to exercise?

1 Assisted by the Elders to provide overall leadership, Preaching, Bible teaching, Pastoral Care and mentoring and equipping of lay leaders.

2 Assisting the Ministry Team (Church Council) and the congregation to implement the ministry goals of the congregation and continue to develop a shared sense of vision and mission

3 Provide Bible based teaching to those attending CUC, to encourage and challenge them in their Christian lives.

10.10 Please provide the date at which the current placement becomes vacant or an addition/new placement may commence.

Currently vacant

SECTION 4

11 PRIORITY IN MINISTRY CONGREGATION(S)

As your congregation(s) contemplate future ministry, please consider the priorities that have been adopted and the gifts and skills you will be seeking.

Below are 21 ministry, mission and pastoral activities which are also listed on Personal Profiles with space for you to list up to three additional “skills”.

Please list the level of priority (H=high, M = medium and L = low) that your congregation seeks from a minister. Please limit high priority (H) to no more than five activities.

		H	M	L
1	Pastoral visitation of hospitals and other institutions		X	
2	Systematic visitation, along with elders, of the congregation		X	
3	Counselling, based on specific training			X
4	Working with the Elders to provide Bible based worship and Preaching	X		
5	Sharing faith in Christ and assisting others also to share faith in Christ		X	
6	Working within the community as well as the Church on social justice analysis and advocacy issues			X
7	Nurturing the faith and discipleship of children and young people	X		
8	Relating to the needs of young people (incorporated in 7)			
9	Working with community and church members in establishing local outreach/mission.	X	X	
10	Caring for marginalised people – including pastoral care, advocacy and liaison with relevant agencies		X	
11	An involvement in ecumenical activities and programs of mission education and social justice from a local and global perspective			X
12	Developing covenantal understanding and relationships with indigenous people		X	
13	Developing multicultural understandings, relationships and ministry		X	
14	Engaging in new service and mission initiatives beyond traditional structures			X
15	Nurturing people in their Christian faith and spiritual development.	X		
16	Developing outreach with young people in schools and institutions			X
17	Fostering Religious Education (RE) in schools			X
18	Fostering congregational mission and development		X	
19	Helping people in communication and problem solving within groups and personal relationships – critical pastoral care		X	
20	Knowledge of church finance and administrative procedures			X
PLEASE ADD ANY OTHER RELEVANT GIFTS AND SKILLS				
21	Working with and encouraging lay members to use their gifts within the church		X	
22	Working to communicate fluently and effectively in a multi cultural and multi lingual congregation	X		
23	Nuture candidates for baptism and confirmation		X	

11.1 Which category(ies) of specified ministry is sought for this placement? Please insert an “X” in the appropriate box.

Minister of the Word	X	Youth Worker	
Deacon		Lay Pastor	

11.2 What are the reasons for this choice?

The priority goals of the congregation relate to the nurturing of all people who are seeking a Spiritual home through the Casuarina Congregation, in their Christian faith and spiritual development.

SECTION 5

Congregation(s) Casuarina Uniting Church

Presbytery Pilgrim presbytery of Northern Australia

- 11.3 **Does the Presbytery support the mission directions identified by the congregation(s) for the next 3 to 5 years? Yes. (Please delete Yes or No).**

Presbytery comment:

The Congregation has identified priorities that suit their skill set and their desire to engage deeply with Scriptures and a life of faith.

- 11.4 **What does the Presbytery consider to be the mission opportunities for the congregation(s) in the next 3 to 5 years?**

The congregation could expand its youth engagement, particularly given the high participation in children's ministry.

There is also great opportunity to further develop multicultural ministry and leadership

- 11.5 **Does Presbytery comment on the above differ at any point from the congregation(s) comment in this profile? NO (Please delete Yes or No). If yes, please elaborate:**

- 11.6 **Does the Presbytery consider that the congregation(s) should proceed to a new placement at this time? Yes. (Please delete Yes or No).**

Presbytery comment:

Yes, The Congregation has stable finances and an engaged congregation

- 11.7 **For which of the following ministries does the Presbytery consider that the position is suitable? (Please insert an "X" in the appropriate box).**

Minister of the Word	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Youth Worker	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deacon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pastor	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide reasons for this choice:

Focus of the congregation is on the nurturing of the people of God for mission in the world. Preaching and pastoral care are highly valued.

11.8 Is this position suitable for the placement of an Ordinand? Yes. No. (Please delete Yes or No).

Please provide reasons for this choice:

This could be suitable for an ordinand if they have extensive experience in multicultural settings and have an established and robust preaching style. Any ordinand in the Pilgrim Presbytery will be required to participate in the NSW/ACT phase 3 formation program.

11.9 Is Priority Placement recommended? No. (Please delete Yes or No).

Please provide reasons for this choice:

While it is important for this congregation to have a stable leadership team it has the ability to maintain worship and pastoral care

11.10 Does the Presbytery consider that any changes to placement responsibilities or relationships are required at this time? No. (Please delete Yes or No).

If yes, please elaborate:

11.11 Please provide the date of the most recent Presbytery inspection of the residence

Currently the manse is rented and normal inspections are carried out.

11.12 Is the Presbytery satisfied that adequate and appropriate accommodation will be available, having regard to the Synod requirements for ministers' residences? Yes. . (Please delete Yes or No).

If no, what steps are being taken to remedy the situation?

11.13 Is the Presbytery satisfied that adequate financial support for the placement and other congregation expenses will be available:

From the congregation(s) alone? Yes (Please delete Yes or No).

~~With help from Presbytery and/or Synod? Yes. No. (Please delete Yes or No).~~

11.14 Please list any grants applied for or approved:

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____