

# PLACEMENT PROFILE

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date of receipt: 4 December 2020



Uniting Church in Australia  
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

## SECTION 1 – BASIC INFORMATION

**1.1 Placement Name(s): Lowan Parish Uniting Church**

**1.2 Please list congregations/agencies names below**

Nhill

Jeparit

**Profile approved by Church Council/Governing Body 30 / 11 / 2020**

**Primary purpose of placement:**

**1.3** To offer leadership of worship, preaching and teaching

To empower and encourage people to develop their gifts

**1.4** To be beside people in their time of pastoral needs

To explore  
and develop

.....  
new ways of being a vibrant church in the community

**1.5 Suitable for (bold all that apply): Minister of the Word / Deacon / Ordinand/**

**Pastor**

**1.6 Time fraction:** 60 % (.6)

**1.7 Term:**

Undefined up to 10 years (See Reg 2.7.3(a))



Fixed Term:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Years

Initial Term reviewed in:

\_\_\_\_\_  
3 Years

This profile should be prepared by the Congregation(s)/ agency in consultation with Presbytery. It is specifically designed to assist in the placement process but it can also be used as a record of mission planning.

Contents

Section 1: Basic Information

Section 2: Mission Direction

Section 3: Context

Section 4: People and Activities – to be completed by each congregation in the placement.

Section 5: Joint Congregations – to be completed if more than one congregation in the placement.

Section 6: Working Relationships

Section 7: New Minister – this section contains a list of mission and pastoral activities which are also listed on Minister's Personal profiles

Section 9: Presbytery Section 10: Terms of Placement – to be completed by Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee.

ENCLOSURES

Please mark all the documents attached to the profile:

- Floor plan of residence
- Financial information including a copy of last year's Financial Statement and financial projections
- Position descriptions of relevant ministers
- Others

**SECTION 2 – MISSION DIRECTION**

**2.1 What is the Vision statement and or Mission priorities of the placement (or of the individual congregations)**

We believe that God invites us, in Jesus Christ, to receive and to share God's love, to grow in faith and to be an accepting worshipping community.

Our mission is:

- to bring people to a personal faith in Jesus Christ - sharing our faith in God and Christian commitment
- to deepen and enrich our spiritual lives and to build our Christian faith-by teaching the Word of God and by meaningful worship for all people. We will encourage growth in faith and discipleship through various groups
- to show care and concern for people in the wider community, offering friendship, care and support - helping people cope with their everyday life at home, in the workplace and in their communities
- to encourage strong ministerial and lay leadership, sharing of gifts to be more effective in our roles in the church, encouraging one another in our roles as Christians in the community and in our daily lives.

**2.2 Date adopted 30/11/2020**

**2.3 Provide a short description of the placement/congregation(s)**

Nhill congregation averages approximately 65 in attendance at a Sunday service . Jeparit congregation has between 8 and 10 attending. Both congregations are ageing with the average age being approximately 75.  
 (NB these figures were prior to church closures due to Covid regulations )

**2.4 How has the placement/congregation(s) changed over the last 5 years?**

The Yanac congregation has closed leaving only 2 congregations in the parish. Numbers in the remaining congregations have declined slightly over the 5 years.

The Nhill Karen Baptist congregation now use the Nhill Uniting Church building, and for the past few years a combined monthly UC/Baptist service has been held.

**2.5 What are the congregation(s)/placement's goals?**

- To deliver strong biblical teaching
- To continue to strengthen our relationships with the Karen Baptist congregation
- To engage others who are on the fringes of the church community
- To foster opportunities for Ecumenical services and other gatherings
- To make links with the sporting community to identify ways to offer a pastoral presence there.

## 2.6 What are the next Strategic Steps to achieving those goals?

To engage a Spirit-filled, strongly bible-based teaching pastor,  
To continue monthly shared services with the Karen community.  
To identify and develop opportunities for people on the fringes of the church community  
To identify opportunities and develop relationships with key leaders in other churches  
To identify and develop point(s) of engagement with sporting clubs in community.

## SECTION 3 - CONTEXT

### 3.1 Describe the communities in which this placement is located (Mission context).

The Nhill and Jeparit district is primarily a farming community; grain crops and livestock.  
The towns are a mixed community of retirees and young families; increasingly multi-cultural especially in Nhill with up to 30 different cultural group backgrounds being a significant presence in the local community. 10% of the Nhill population is Karen.

Nhill is a major service centre for surrounding area: poultry industry; manufacturing; services, including Shire offices, three schools, hospital, dentist and aged-care facilities Jeparit has a primary school, aged care hostel and nursing home.

Sport is a major focus for the community across the district.

There are some significant disparities in wealth and social need both in and between the communities of Nhill and Jeparit, with significant unemployment and fluctuations in rural economics  
Demographic information needed: Hindmarsh Shire 0-14yo = 15.5%; 15-64 = 56.8%; 65+ = 27% (2016 Census)

### 3.2 How does your congregation reflect or vary from the age, and ethnic mix of your local community?

Zimbabwean, Karen and Philippines people are members in the Nhill congregation. There are no young families or young adults.

### 3.3 What are the opportunities and points of stress and pain in the wider community?

The fluctuations of the market and climate are significant stressors for our farming community

Decline/closing of businesses

Grief in the loss of loved ones. Suicides, and especially the death of young people, affect the whole community.

As in many communities the more hidden aspects of family violence are becoming evident.

**3.4 List ways in which you connect with, serve, or partner with people in your wider community?**

- Meals on Wheels deliveries to the community
- Regular worship and visitations in Aged care facilities
- Funerals services, support and catering
- The church facilities are used by many different community groups
- Membership of many service and sporting groups in the community

**3.5 What schools/agencies/institutions are in your local communities?**

Schools: Nhill: Nhill College P-12, Nhill Lutheran School P-6, St Patricks College, P-6,  
Jeparit: Jeparit Primary School

Health:

Nhill: West Wimmera Health Services including Nhill Hospital, Dental services, Iona – Digby Harris Aged Care Centre, Avonlea Aged Care and Rural Doctors with currently 3 doctors

Jeparit: Hospital (with Emergency and 4 acute care beds) and Nursing Home; shares doctor with Rainbow

Hindmarsh Shire Council headquarters in Nhill & an office in Jeparit

Sporting Clubs including football, hockey, netball, golf, bowls, squash, badminton, and more!

Service and Community Groups including Lions, Rotary, CWA, Save the Children, A&P Society, Nhill Men’s Shed, Vintage Club, Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre, Fire Brigades, SES, and many more

<sup>1</sup> To be completed by each congregation in the placement.