



Missional Purpose Statement

This document is sponsored and approved by the **Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania Standing Committee** to express the Synod's commitment to, and relationship with, **Uniting Victoria and Tasmania** as a key expression of the UCA's community service, and advocacy in Victoria and Tasmania.

Uniting Victoria and Tasmania

Uniting Victoria and Tasmania (Uniting Vic.Tas) is a contemporary expression of the Uniting Church in Australia's (Uniting Church's) commitment to social justice and community care. As an agency of the Uniting Church Synod of Victoria & Tasmania (Synod), Uniting Vic.Tas is a partner with the rest of the Uniting Church in God's mission of reconciliation and renewal for all creation. Uniting Vic.Tas's particular role is to provide community services to reduce the impact of poverty, trauma and disadvantage; and to advocate for more just social arrangements.

Finding our identity in Christ's call

The Uniting Church's commitments to social justice and community care are natural outworkings of its identity in Christ.

It understands itself as coming into being in response to the call of Jesus Christ to participate in God's mission. Within the Christian tradition, mission is about God's life and love at work in the world.

Jesus Christ revealed God's life and love by proclaiming justice, serving those in need and living and dying in solidarity with the suffering of the world. In rising to new life Christ revealed the unending hope that sustains our ongoing participation in mission.

The whole church discovers more fully who it is as it follows Christ's example in each time and place. It is a witness to the inherent dignity and worth of all people and exists to serve the world for which Christ died.



Responding to a changing context

Facing changes in contemporary society, the Synod saw the need for greater effectiveness and sustainability in many of its community service offerings. After a Synod-wide strategic review, in 2017 it brought together UnitingCare agencies and Wesley Mission Victoria within the Synod to form Uniting Vic.Tas.



This integration of community services was aimed at making it easier for consumers¹ to access the services they want and need. It also created a unified platform for advocacy driven by the needs, preferences and voices of community service consumers. It also enabled the consolidation of governance and risk management under a single skills-based board.

Uniting's current and future place within the wider Uniting Church

The Synod remains committed to delivering a breadth of community services with the quality, capacity, sustainability and risk management required to serve consumers faithfully and responsibly. Uniting Vic.Tas exists to provide community services to reduce the impact of poverty, trauma and disadvantage. This role sits alongside the roles of other expressions of the Uniting Church in all their forms.

Uniting Vic.Tas's vision is for a more inclusive, connected and just future for all, paying particular attention to the needs and aspirations of First Peoples, people with visible and hidden disabilities, people who identify as part of diverse rainbow communities, and people who are culturally and racially marginalised. Uniting Vic.Tas's work is made possible by the contributions of people from diverse faith traditions and none.

The Synod anticipates that partnerships between Uniting Vic.Tas and the wider Uniting Church will enable fresh ways for the Church to participate in mission. Such partnerships are made possible through shared discernment of missional priorities, and are characterised by mutual encouragement, resource sharing and open and respectful communication.

Now and into the future, the Synod anticipates that Uniting Vic.Tas will do all it can to remain a unified, impactful and sustainable organisation (both financially and operationally) that provides a breadth of effective community services that are responsive to need.



¹ "Consumers" is the term used to refer to everyone who accesses the services Uniting Vic.Tas offers. This particular word was recommended to Uniting Vic.Tas by the people accessing its services as a way of highlighting their central place and a degree of autonomy in service delivery.