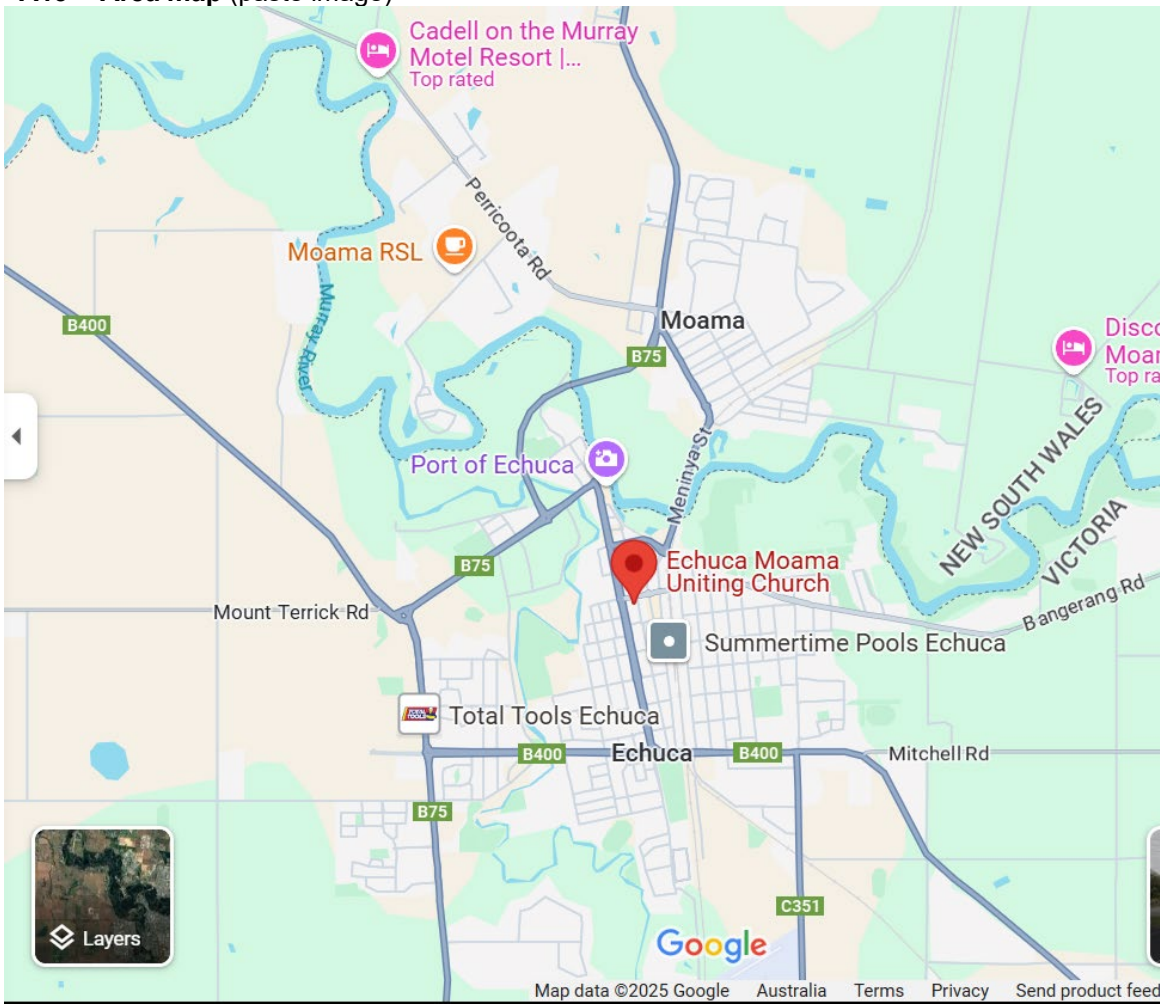




A Placement Profile

A1 Presbytery	North East Victoria Presbytery		
A2 Name of Placement	Echuca Moama Uniting Church		
A3 Placement city/suburb/town	Echuca		
A4 Church/Office location(s)	115-117 Hare St		
A5 Congregations and agencies associated with this placement			
A6 Ministry leadership being sought	Specific ministry role:	<input type="text"/>	
	Minister of the Word <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deacon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ministry of Pastor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Ordinand <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
A7 Specific details	Additional placement <input type="checkbox"/>	Replacement placement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Full Time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part Time <input type="checkbox"/>	Time fraction	<input type="text"/>
	Earliest Start Date:	1/07/2025	
A8 Placement term	Undefined <input type="checkbox"/>	Up to 10 years (see Reg 2.7.3(a))	
	Fixed Term	Required for non-congregational placements (see Reg 2.7.3(b))	Years <input type="text" value="5"/>
A9 To be completed by Presbytery, with reasons given on page Error! Bookmark not defined.:			
	Is permission sought to advertise?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Is a Priority Placement recommended?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
A10 Website	www.echucamoamauca.org.au		
A11 Social Media	Facebook: Echuca Moama Uniting Church		
A12 Google map link	https://www.google.com/maps/place/Echuca+Moama+Uniting+Church/@-36.1288059,144.7494,15z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x0:0xac1d945ea025dfb3?s a=X&ved=1t:2428&ictx=111		

A13 Area map (paste image)



B The Congregation

B1 Tell a potential minister about this placement and yourselves, in your own words and pictures, in no more than one page. Share something of your congregation's values, beliefs and ways in which you live out and share the gospel message.

Include comment about why you need a new minister. How will this placement be exciting, challenging, and attractive to a minister? How can God be served in new ways here? What do you want the Minister to do with you and for you?

This is your chance to 'be creative' and catch the attention of someone who is thinking of sharing their call, their gifts, their life with you.

Echuca is the largest town in the Shire of Campaspe and the closest on the Murray River (Dungala) to Melbourne. We serve God with joy in this vibrant twin town community of Echuca – Moama and together we live out our values and beliefs. Echuca Moama is the centre for the surrounding area in education, healthcare, aged and disability services, agriculture, manufacturing, sport & recreation, arts and tourism. It is a popular destination for tourists from all over. We are "The Church In The Marketplace", located in the heart of Echuca and we often share our activities from our forecourt – our "veranda". Visiting tourists often join with people from the general community to check out our activities at the weekends. It's a great opportunity to share our mission and purpose. We often have visitors "drop in" to Sunday Worship. On weekdays they might call in to inspect the heritage listed building and the Craft Shop. The church is promoted by members through its mission activities and a range of media, including local newspaper, radio, Facebook and a Website is employed. Echuca Moama Congregation is also faithful to the wide community in volunteerism, supporting a wide variety of community groups. Echuca Moama Uniting Church is perceived as a welcoming and faithful church community. It is active, non-judgemental and supportive of organisations at large e.g. Frontier Services, Uniting and other appeals. The Walk of Witness on Good Friday starts and concludes at Echuca Moama Uniting Church with ecumenical fellowship and refreshments in the church hall with well over 100 people in attendance. The buildings are available to casual users and hirers. Community groups, small or large can be accommodated for meetings, markets and special events. The church office and the Market Place Craft Shop is open 5 days a week and we're open 7 days when the second Saturday of the month comes around, with a Pre-loved Book Sale, Repair (and Recycle) Café by St Mary's members and we're also open to makers who want to run a stall to market their goods. We no longer run the Annual Church Fair but we are now having two Mighty Cake Stalls a year. We are known in the community for Concert Performances, making use of the wonderful acoustics in the church worship space. In April '25 we hosted the Savoy Singers from Melbourne. We have three concerts scheduled which we will promote as "Sounds of Spring" and will include local choir Echuca Bella, Bendigo Chorale and Lyster Opera, Melbourne. People in the community often comment that the Uniting Church is always "doing something". In this way we share our time and what we have with the community, we let them know about our outreach and express gratitude for the support. People know where to find us and the fellowship any day of the week is always warm.

At our Tuesday Community Lunch we welcome people who are lonely and people who are experiencing tough times. Some Tuesdays we prepare and serve over 30 meals. Financially the program is helped along by any funds made from the above mentioned activities and topped up by church funds.

For person power with the shopping, cooking, preparation and cleaning up we are very proud to say that most of our volunteers are recruited from members of other churches and the general community who respond to requests for help through the coverage we get from the local paper – The Riverine Herald. The willingness of our church to provide food to the needy continues on from a Breakfast Program started years ago. After the difficult days of the pandemic we actually went on to realize a great blessing. Unsure of resuming after "lockdowns" we called a meeting of other emergency food providers such as the two Neighbourhood Houses, Vinnies, Salvos, Epicentre Church Op Shop and STEPS. It was the beginning of the 'Food Relief Network Echuca Moama', which nowadays meets quarterly and shares the responsibility of helping people who experience food insecurity. We are really proud to have instigated this network. Our Tuesday Community Lunch is a small part but it is wonderful to see the mutual support in this network.

There has been a need to streamline bookstalls and markets to once a month and to limit the number of concerts because many of our willing members have had to change focus recently to the process of calling a new minister and to the organisation and practice of worship leadership. We realize worship cannot be left up to one or two members. While we know how to ask for help and support we really need the leadership of a minister in place to maintain the vitality of our church life, to lead us in faith, teaches us, encourages us in being open to new ideas and ways of worship and mission.

B2 List and explain any particular priorities which the congregation has identified and which it will address in the next two to five years?

Alternative styles/types of worship. Sharing worship leadership and accessing resources for worship. New ideas to increase and strengthen leadership, pastoral care, mission and community involvement.

B3 Does this placement relate to more than one congregation?

If so, provide details on page Error! Bookmark not defined..

Yes

No

B4 What ethnic and language groups are represented in the congregation? What proportion of the congregation does each represent?

Anglo (Australian)

B5 What languages are spoken in the life of your:

Congregation, by		Community, by	
Individuals	English	Groups	Sinhalesen 0.4%, Tagalog 0.3%, Italian 0.3% Punjab 0.2%, Mandarin 0.2%
Groups	English		

B7 Describe any involvement your congregation has in covenanting with first nations people.

We include Acknowledgement of Country at all services and major functions. We have a business relationship with group leaders from Njernda Co-Operation, a local indigenous company in the community. Their group leaders hire the church hall for special events and meetings during the year. We have a couple of First Nations People in our Congregation who attend Sunday Worship occasionally and one who is a volunteer on our Tuesday Lunch Roster.

B8 List any UCA Schools and/or agencies (Uniting VicTas, Uniting AgeWell) with which the congregation has an existing relationship.

When Uniting AgeWell first became established in Echuca it was operated for the first couple of years from part of the church building. Their services grew rapidly and there was a need to move to a larger site. Once a month one of the AgeWell managers sets up an information table at our Tuesday Community Lunch for the benefit of older community members. In this way we are still able to support and maintain contact.

Extra Information about the church building:

The church property is Heritage listed and is comprised of church worship space, accessed by stairs, ramp or lift. It has a sloping floor, narthex, apse, pipe organ, grand piano, and has excellent acoustics, enjoyed by musicians, choristers and audiences.

The Vestry is on a slightly higher level, with another office, large meeting room, toilet and kitchenette.

The Undercroft/Lower Hall is no longer suitable for use other than storage due to rising damp issue. Restoration was considered but has not been attempted because no specific method of repair has been identified despite many consultants being involved. It is estimated that the cost to restore this part of the building is prohibitive.

There is a church hall and chapel (Wesley Chapel) incorporated into the building as a whole and with direct access from the street. Included are storage areas, toilets, and a bathroom for people with disabilities. The Wesley Chapel is currently used by STEPS Hands on Health for 3 hours, 3 days a week. It may be used for assembling prior to funerals, and other uses e.g. Christmas Toy Drive. From the Pakenham St entrance the building has two ground floor offices, and a large room occupied by the Craft Shop. This section also has access to the toilet/bathroom facilities.



C Mission

C1 List three of your mission activities that your congregation does best?

- 1, **Tuesday Community Lunch:** volunteers from church and the general community supporting people who are lonely and experiencing difficult times
2. **Second Saturday of the month:** on the forecourt and in the church hall - Pre-loved Book Stall, Craft Shop and Repair Café (by St Mary's). Open and connecting with the community while raising funds for outreach mission.
3. **Ecumenical Connections:** Aged Care Services; Walk of Witness on Good Friday; Ministers' Association; Food Relief Network; Sunday Concerts for the community as arranged.

C2 What are three mission activities your congregation would like to develop?

1. Alternative Worship Services with fellowship and sharing meals. Varying styles of worship to encourage and provide intergenerational content and participation.
2. Strengthen involvement with First Nations people.
3. Encouragement and further development of inter - church activity with other Uniting Churches in the district and other local church denominations, eg. Services, Outreach activities.

C3 How has the congregation changed in the past two years?

Use of Technology to enable people to participate in Worship and - Zoom; Younger members, when contacted, have been prepared to contribute in aspects of Sunday Worship. The fifth Sunday was set aside to include an appropriate, relatable theme.

We have increased ecumenical and community activity. Members attend events at other churches when the opportunity arises. We find people wanting to work together on community needs. We host the Echuca Moama Community Projects' Christmas Toy Distribution and the Christmas Day Lunch and provide volunteer help. We work with EpiCentre Church, Salvos and Neighbourhood Houses through the Food Relief Network and our weekly food basket.

C4 What changes and developments are anticipated in the next three to five years?

Aging members will mean the face of the congregation will change with a smaller congregation but also new members from different age groups and ethnicities.

There will be more responsibility and increased learning for members of the worship team and increased participation by congregation members.

This includes learning to use the different worship resources that are available 'on line'.

New worship styles and times to be developed to appeal to a wider group of people in the community. The idea of informal worship and a shared meal may be part of this.

Working towards more ecumenical activities and working together on community needs

D1 Describe the wider community in which your ministry is located.

Echuca Moama is a border community serving a combined population of approximately 35,000.

well set up with amenities for families, all age groups, e.g. Schools, Health services, Recreation interests; Arts; Agriculture, Manufacturing. See B1.

Has busy times with festivals and many events. Is a popular tourist area and destination with a large variety of dining experiences. It has an Historical Port area with many attractions and river vessels.

Large tourist area with good retail areas, as well as 4 large Clubs

D2 What makes this an enjoyable place to live?

Echuca Moama is a friendly region with amenities suited to all ages; It enables access to Melbourne and Bendigo easily through public transport as well as driving within a day. It has a pleasant climate, diverse environments, and opportunities to experience personal growth, employment and enjoyment. Echuca Moama is in the top 10 places in Australia for retirees to visit and live.

D3 What are the points of stress and pain in the wider community?

Accommodation- lack of rental and home ownership. Lack of emergency accommodation. Homelessness has increased. This is witnessed through the Food Relief agencies such as our Tuesday Community Lunch. Assistance available can seem so minimal with nowhere for some people to go except to have a warm meal or receive packaged food items from the food relief agencies. Domestic violence, mental health and drug and alcohol addiction issues are common. Access to General Practitioners can be difficult. Seasonal difficulties for farmers cause mental and economic stress. Extreme weather events like floods mean that many in the district are still experiencing grief and economic difficulties from 2022 & 2023.

D4 How closely does your congregation reflect the demographics of your local area?

The congregation is mainly Caucasian with an aging demographic although we have active members of other ethnic backgrounds. Echuca Moama is fast becoming a multicultural community. There are increasing new community members - Indians, Filipinos, Pacific Islanders - employed in this area. ABS statistics 2021 for 'Country of Birth' show : Australia 85.3%, Indigenous Australia 4.4%, New Zealand 0.9%, Philippines 0.7%, India 0.6%. Scotland 0.3%. Religious Affiliation - Uniting Church 6.2% We are fortunate to welcome visitors to worship on a regular basis.

D5 What community facilities are present in the local area?

See also B1

Echuca Regional Health has a Cancer Wellness Centre; many Medical Consultants are available monthly.

Educational facilities are wide ranging with Public and Private options. Bendigo TAFE has an Outreach Centre in Echuca.

Many Disability Services - Early Intervention through to Adult, including residential and individual options.

There are a range of Sport facilities available - both individual and team.

The community has a wide range of resources for people of all ages: eg. Pre-schools, Primary, Secondary schools - public and Private; Agriculture; Manufacturing; Tourism; Excellent Health and Disability Services; Aged Care communities and Nursing Homes; Retail; Hospitality related businesses; Sports; Arts