

Current Environmental Context

This policy **MUST** be read in conjunction *with Uniting Organisational Governance Policy*

Uniting (Victoria and Tasmania) Limited is the approved authority and holds provider approval and service approval for over 60 Uniting education and care services in Victoria and Tasmania.

Purpose

This document provides an introduction and overview of the creation of Uniting (Victoria and Tasmania) Limited as a significant provider of community services in Victoria and Tasmania, building on the legacy of founding agencies of the Uniting Care Network and Wesley Mission Victoria.

Background

In 2015, the Uniting Church of Australia Synod of Victoria and Tasmania undertook to consolidate its network of community service agencies to form a single organisation in recognition of the risks (including financial, operational, compliance, clinical and reputational) associated with community services including

- Complexity of such services;
- The changing nature of the sector;
- Standards of care required; and
- To enable strategic decisions regarding the location, nature and timing of service delivery.

Following a detailed review it was agreed that twenty-two (22) existing agencies and Wesley Mission Victoria would combine to form the new entity to be known as Uniting (Victoria and Tasmania) Limited ("Uniting").

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	31/05/2019	Revision Due Date	01/06/2020	

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The vision underpinning this decision was:

- To care and support people in need by providing a wide range of linked social and human services;
- To provide an effective voice to government and community on issues that affect the most vulnerable and disadvantaged;
- To strengthen relationships with clients, volunteers, donors, congregations and other providers;
- To build the new agency within the life values and practices of the Uniting Church;
- To keep and strengthen our connection with local communities;
- To stimulate and support research, innovation and effective practice within the community service sector;
- To value and further develop an expert, skilled and committed workforce; and
- To generate the resources necessary to implement and sustain our work.

Uniting is an incorporated body limited by guarantee under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth). It has two members: the Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Victoria) and the Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Tasmania). It was created by Wesley Mission Victoria (WMV) formally adopting the new Uniting constitution and legal name at its Extraordinary General Meeting Thursday 22 September 2016. Uniting retains the ABN, ACN, and charitable status of WMV (specifically DGR and PBI status).

Governance arrangements are underpinned by guiding principles and practices and cover:

- appropriate compliance with legislative and reporting requirements
- informal advisory, planning and decision making responsibilities
- developing practices, policies and procedures to provide strategic direction
- ensuring objectives and outcomes are achieved
- risk management
- appropriate use of resources
- accountability requirements.

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Early Learning Attachments

Attachment 29a: Our purpose, Our promise, Our values

Attachment 29b: Uniting Strategy plan 2018-2025-snapshot

Attachment 29c: Organisational chart

Attachment 29d: Uniting Early Learning structure

Early Learning Reference/Sources

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

Keeping Children Safe Policy of the Uniting Church in Australia Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, approved May 2017

- *Children's Services Act* 1996
- *Children's Services Regulations* 2009
- *Code of Conduct Policy*-L1
- *Complaints and Grievances Policy*
- *Education and Care Services National Law Act* 2010
- *Education and Care Services National Regulations* 2011: Regulation 168(2)(l)
- Justice Connect: <http://www.justiceconnect.org.au/>
- *National Quality Standard*, Quality Area 7: Leadership and Service Management
- Our Community: www.ourcommunity.com.au
- *Privacy and Confidentiality Policy*-L2
- *The Child Care Act* 2001 (Tas)

Authorisation

This policy was adopted by Uniting Early Learning on: 31 May, 2019

Review

This policy is to be reviewed by: 01 June, 2020

Policy Owner (Level 3): Early Learning Executive Officer

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