

WA STATE ELECTION RESOURCES



The Social Justice Commission have identified a number of areas of state government responsibility which has concerned the Uniting Church Synod of Western Australia in recent years. They may also be areas in which the Synod has a particular work focus or an Agency which is engaged in the care or provision of services to those in need. We are also informed by the resolutions of the Uniting Church in Australia National Assembly, wherever they impact on state government responsibilities.

The Commission has prepared resource sheets to download on each of the following seven topics:

JUSTICE REINVESTMENT

As Christians, we believe that all people are made in God's image, and that all lives are precious. The Gospel of Jesus also speaks of liberation for captives and the inclusion of people otherwise excluded from society (Luke 4:18-21). We want a change in approach that prioritises cultural, social, and emotional wellbeing among the most vulnerable people in our society, who are those most at risk of incarceration.

DISABILITY

The Uniting Church in Australia *Statement of Access and Welcome* affirms that all people are created in the image of God, including people with disability. The faith, gifts, hopes and dreams of people with disability are to be valued and honoured, and God is a God of justice and peace, who seeks reconciliation amongst all people. As a community of reconciliation, the Uniting Church seeks to advocate for justice and equality for people with disability in the wider community."

LONELINESS & SOCIAL ISOLATION

Jesus told us that he came to bring us life in abundance (John 10:10). The Uniting Church in Australia believes that "the fullness of our humanity is not found in wealth but in relationship with each other and the world around us." (*An Economy of Life*) We want to see a Western Australian community where all people are connected, supported and feel a sense of belonging.

MENTAL HEALTH

"I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly." (John 10:10). These words of Jesus remind us that life is more than simply existing. Abundant life means being able to move beyond survival needs to growth of the soul and human potential. However, increasing numbers of Australians have simply been surviving. This struggle for survival has affected the mental health of many in our community.



Uniting Church in Australia
Western Australia



A WELCOMING
CHRISTIAN
COMMUNITY

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Summary of election topics - continued from previous page.

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

As Christians, we are called to love our neighbour, protect the vulnerable in our community and challenge unjust systems. Having safe, secure and affordable shelter is a basic human right. Everyone has a right to a place they can call home.

CLIMATE JUSTICE

“When we talk about climate justice, we are not merely asking for reduced emissions or stricter regulations. We are calling for a transformation of values—a movement from exploitation to care, from indifference to love. Climate justice is a theological imperative that demands we address the inequities that place the heaviest burdens on the poorest and most vulnerable.” (Rev Charissa Suli, President of the Uniting Church in Australia)

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

In the time that Jesus lived, it was normal for men in society to not speak to women who were not related. Women could not be disciples, and their legal testimony was only worth half of a man’s. Like children, they were considered to be the patriarch’s property. Despite this, Jesus welcomed women, taught them, spent time with them, and even disciplined them. He valued women and children in a way that was radical for his day. Today, while women have more rights, it is also important to acknowledge that people who are victim-survivors of family and domestic violence are all too frequently considered by the perpetrator as ‘property’.

The Commission’s hope for these resources is to assist our Uniting Church WA community to:

- Be informed
- Be inspired to find out more
- Follow the topics up with candidates standing for election
- Share and discuss with others in your church and community.

Find the resources on the Uniting Church WA website -
<https://unitingchurchwa.org.au/news/state-election-resources/>



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