

Important change at UnitingCare Harrison

Since June 2015 our Board of Governance and staff have been working with the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania to unite with 20 other Uniting Church agencies and Wesley Mission Victoria to become one combined organisation, operating across Victoria and Tasmania.

"Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved". – Mattie Stepanek

UnitingCare Harrison has been operating since the 1960's in the eastern region of Melbourne and over the years has embraced change that promoted and supported improved outcomes and resources for the communities that we support.

This merger is an important decision and a proactive step to make sure UnitingCare Harrison can adapt to changes in the community sector and changing community needs. It provides our best opportunity to ensure our important work reaches the people in need and with access to increased resources we will continue to provide support to our youth, homelessness, housing and disabilities services, along with our Gifford Arts Program, Op Shops and Material Relief.

Uniting will mean a strength – one strong voice for advocacy, improved access and greater resources to draw on for client outcomes, program innovation and social research, improved quality in service delivery and housing, an increase in specialist services provided to our communities and increased funding opportunities.

The breadth of services to be delivered in the New Agency include:

- Emergency Relief
- Financial Counselling
- Homelessness and Housing Services
- Employment Services
- Early Childhood Services
- Child, Youth and Family Services
- Disability Services
- Mental Health Services
- Alcohol and Other Drugs Services
- Lifeline

Our residents, clients, volunteers and staff have been at the forefront as we have collaborated with UCVT Synod, UCVT UnitingCare agencies and Wesley on this journey.

We expect the new organisation to be in place in early October 2016. There will be no change to UnitingCare Harrison services at this time. You will see the same staff and volunteers at the same locations we work at now. In the new organisation there will be a new governance structure, this will mean that our UnitingCare Harrison Board of Governance will hand over their governance responsibilities to the New Agency board and the new Chief Executive Officer, Paul Linossier.

The 21 agencies to be directly governed by the New Agency are:

Connections UnitingCare	UnitingCare lifeAssist	Lentara UnitingCare
Kildonan UnitingCare	Wimmera UnitingCare	UnitingCare Tasmania
Prahran Mission UnitingCare	UnitingCare Geelong	East Burwood UnitingCare Centre
South Port UnitingCare	UnitingCare Goulburn North East	UnitingCare Wodonga
John Macrae Centre	UnitingCare Bendigo	UnitingCare Ballarat Parish Mission
UnitingCare Gippsland	UnitingCare ReGen	Wesley Mission Victoria
Wesley Centre for Life Enrichment UnitingCare	UnitingCare Werribee Support and Housing	UnitingCare Harrison

We will continue to keep you informed of important changes as they happen. We welcome any questions you may have. Please contact us if you want to:

- speak with a UnitingCare Harrison staff member on **03 9871 8700**
- visit www.unitingcareharrison.org.au for updates
- email enquiries@harrison.org.au with questions
- write to us at **PO Box 4503 Wantirna South VIC 3152.**

We are grateful for your ongoing support.



Sharon Wolstenholme
Acting CEO