



Uniting Church in Australia  
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

## **Apology to the Australians who experienced harm in institutional or out of home care as children**

On behalf of the Uniting Church and our agencies, we apologise unreservedly for any physical, psychological or social harm that might have occurred.

We deeply regret that some children were let down while in the care of the Uniting Church and former Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational Churches.

The recent Senate Inquiry into children in Institutional Care highlighted a number of cases where children suffered at the hands of caregivers.

The inquiry painted a disturbing picture of life for many young people who lived in Institutional Care. The Uniting Church through its agencies managed a number of these facilities and we accept that sadly some did not provide the love, nurturing and care that the children in them so rightly deserved.

The Inquiry highlighted the flaws in institutional care models and the need to ensure they are never repeated.

The Uniting Church, through our family and community services networks, has developed new models for providing care and services to children. The Church is committed to ensuring that children and families receive the best facilities and care possible and we are constantly working to improve them.

We are committed to ensuring that everybody involved in delivering service and care to children will work together so that the mistakes of the past are not repeated.

The Uniting Church welcomes the Inquiry and its recommendations that provide a basis on which Governments at all levels and care providers may move forward together by acknowledging past wrongs and addressing them appropriately. We are committed to working with government to respond to the issues raised during the Inquiry.

Rev Sue Gormann  
Moderator



**Uniting Church in Australia**  
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

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### **Apology to the Australians who experienced harm through the forced adoption of their children**

On behalf of the Uniting Church and our agencies, we apologise unreservedly for any physical, psychological or social harm that might have occurred through the past adoption policies and processes of the Church.

We deeply regret that some parents and children were let down while in the care of the Uniting Church and former Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational Churches.

The Senate Inquiry into Forced Adoptions highlights so many experiences of mothers, especially young mothers, and the adoptees who have been deeply affected by former adoption practices. The inquiry submissions paint a disturbing picture of the removal of babies from vulnerable young women who were not able to participate meaningfully in the decisions. The Uniting Church through its agencies managed some of the Babies Homes and Hostels. We are saddened that we were a part of a service system and practices which have caused such long lasting pain and trauma to people.

We are committed to ensuring that everybody involved in delivering service and care in the adoption process will work together so that the mistakes of the past are not repeated. We are also committed to provide the support we can to those previously involved with our services and to advocate for the strengthening of specific support services for those who have been so deeply affected.

The Uniting Church welcomes the Inquiry. This report will provide a basis on which Governments at all levels and providers of adoption services may move forward together by acknowledging past wrongs and addressing them appropriately. We are committed to working with government to respond to the issues raised during the Inquiry.

For those who were involved with the Uniting Church facilities and wish to follow up, the appropriate contact is Connections UnitingCare: Tel: 9521 5666

**Ms Isabel Thomas Dobson**  
**Moderator**  
**27 February 2012**