



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