



Toorak Uniting Church Newsletter

Update 14 August 2022

office@toorakuc.org.au

Phone 9829 0300

www.toorakuc.org.au

Sunday services 9:00 & 10:15am

The deadline for Update submissions is 3pm on the Tuesday prior

Social Justice Issues

At the Synod meeting there were a number social justice issues put forward by the Ministry and Mission Committee that were discussed and proposals agreed to.

The first one I am reporting on is:

Improving the lives of people with disabilities

The Synod resolved:

(a) To support the full implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Australia;

(b) To call on the Victorian Government to:

Amend the Victorian *Disability Act* to:

a. recognise the right of people with disabilities to spiritual expression and that this be referenced in all Victorian State Disability Action Plans;

b. ensure that the Victorian Government will provide essential supports to people with disabilities where the National Disability Insurance Scheme fails to deliver such supports;

c. establish a Victorian Commissioner for Disability Inclusion who:

I. oversees compliance with the state disability plan and disability action plans;

II. has a duty to support, advocate for, and promote the rights and wellbeing of people with disability across Victoria, like the functions of the Commissioner for Children and Young People and the Victorian Commissioner for LGBTIQ+ Communities; and

III. upholds the rights of all people with disability in Victoria, in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

d. require all organisations that receive funding from the Victorian Government above a reasonable threshold to be required to have a meaningful disability action plan;

e. ensure that any use of restrictive practices be a last resort in response to risk of harm to the person with disability or others. The use of restrictive practices should also comply with the human rights principles contained within the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;

f. create an offence to hinder, obstruct, intimidate or threaten a Community Visitor carrying out their functions; and

g. allow designated people on the Community Visitors program to be able to visit all forms of accommodation that the National Disability Insurance Agency has

introduced, accommodation provided by the Transport Accident Commission and all accommodation that is connected or managed by, or on behalf of, a disability service provider.

(ii) Develop Minimum Accessibility Standards for mainstream services with guidance to Victorian businesses on how to improve their inclusivity. The Standards should be backed by a complaint mechanism. An education program should be conducted in the Victorian community on accessibility;

(iii) Establish a central register of disability residential properties that Community Visitors are able to inspect;

(iv) Establish a Disability Deaths Registrar modelled on the State Coroner's Victorian Suicide Register and accompanying review; and

(v) Ensure people with disabilities leaving prison are provided with appropriate transitional planning for post-release, including direct referrals to disability services, housing and other funded in-community supports.

(c) To write to the Victorian Premier, the Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers, the Leader of the Opposition and the Shadow Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers to inform them of this resolution.

Chris Begg

A call to bakers

Following the whole church family service August 28th we will be having a special morning tea. If you would like to help with baking please contact Jaki 0499442347 or the church office.



August Diary Dates

Sun	14 Aug	9:00am	Family Church Service	Rev. Wal Baker
Sun	14 Aug	10:15am	Morning Worship	Rev. Wal baker
Tue	16 Aug	7:30pm	Discussion Group	Zoom
Wed	17 Aug	6:30pm	Handbell Rehearsal	Wettenhall Room
Sun	21 Aug	9:00am	Family Church Service	Rev. Peter Whitaker
Sun	21 Aug	10:15am	Morning Worship	Rev. Peter Whitaker
Tue	23 Aug	7:30pm	Discussion Group	Zoom
Wed	24 Aug	6:30pm	Handbell Rehearsal	Wettenhall Room
Thu	25 Aug	10:00am	Prayers for Christian Unity	Swedish Church
Thu	25 Aug	7:30pm	Church Council	Faichney Room
Sun	28 Aug	10:15am	Whole Church Family Service	Rev. John Edwards
Tue	30 Aug	7:30pm	Discussion Group	Zoom
Wed	31 Aug	6:30pm	Handbell Rehearsal	Wettenhall Room

**Scan here for the Zoom link to the
7:30pm Tuesday evening Discussion Group**

