

365 days of influence. 12 months of impact.

UnitingCare Australia gives voice to the Uniting Church's commitment to social justice through advocacy and by strengthening community service provision. Over the past 12 months, we worked tirelessly to deliver on the three advocacy priorities that we identified as part of our strategic plan for 2023-2025: Justice for First Peoples, Ageing to our Full Potential and Economic Equality and Inclusion.

And we're proud to say that, together, we delivered. So, let's celebrate the achievements of the past twelve months and continue to use our influence to make an impact.



22
Submissions



13
Media releases



34
Meetings
with
politicians



24
Active
network
groups



168
Network
group
meetings



87
External
stakeholder
meetings



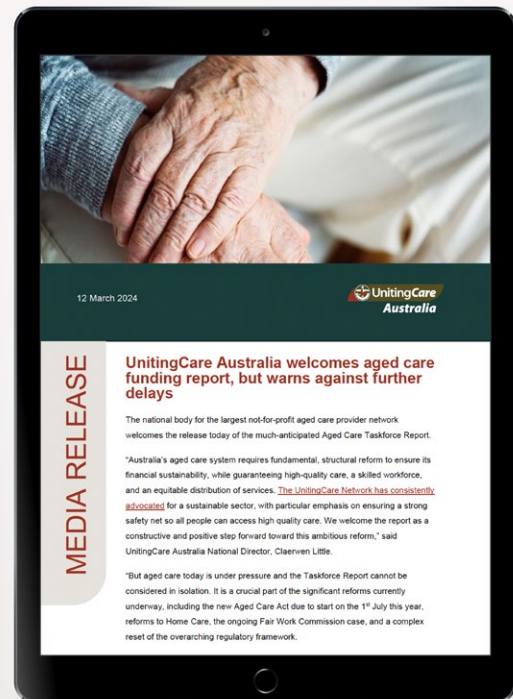
The Voice to Parliament

UnitingCare Australia stood with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress and the Uniting Church in Australia to support a constitutionally enriched Voice to Parliament in the 2023 Referendum.

Aged Care Sustainability

UnitingCare Australia believes that older Australians should be treated with dignity and respect and have access to high-quality aged care.

We have been instrumental in shaping the aged care reform agenda, leveraging the collective expertise of the UnitingCare Network and working alongside sector partners to achieve positive change. As a leading advocate for implementation of the new Aged Care Act and recommendations of the Aged Care Taskforce, we stand ready to work with the Government to implement the reform that is necessary to better support and protect older Australians and ensure the sustainability and accessibility of quality aged care for all.



Child Social Exclusion Research Report Launch

The Child Social Exclusion Index is a collaboration between UnitingCare Australia and a consortium of UnitingCare network organisations, together with the University of Canberra. The latest report launched in March 2024 found that children in almost 400 Australian communities are the most socially excluded in the nation.



Events

Parliamentary Launch of the Child Social Exclusion Index Report

March 2024



The new research was officially launched by Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP, Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury and Assistant Minister for Employment, at an event in Parliament House.

Leaders Forum Adelaide

September 2023



The 2023 Leaders Forum was held at UCity, home of Uniting Communities, to again bring together leaders from the UnitingCare Network and Uniting Church to discuss shared issues, celebrate achievements, and explore new ways to collaborate.

First Peoples Gathering Adelaide

April 2024



Over two days, First and Second Peoples from across the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC), the Uniting Church, and the UnitingCare Network gathered on Kurna Land in Adelaide for the First Peoples Gathering. Delegates considered the intentions of truth, treaty, and the relationship with the communities in which we live and work.

Justice for First Peoples is a core strategic priority for UnitingCare Australia. The Uniting Church in Australia has a deep and historical commitment to Covenanting, formally commencing with the recognition of the UAICC at the 4th Triennial Assembly in 1985.



**8 x face-to-face
Network Group
meetings**



**Online workshop
facilitated by the
LGBTIQ+ Community
of Practice**



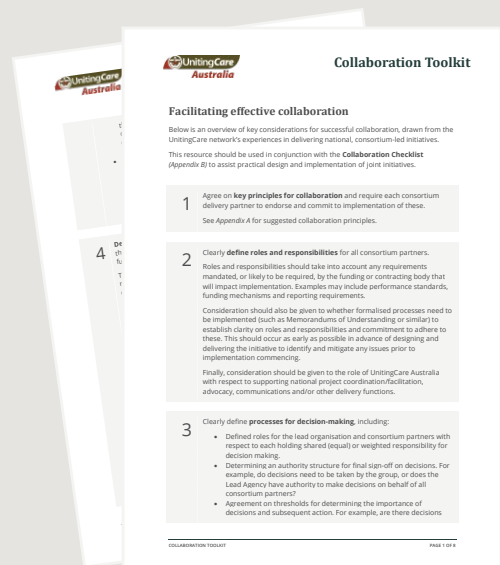
Escaping Violence Payment pilot

The UnitingCare Consortium, led by Uniting Vic.Tas, has delivered the Escaping Violence Payment (EVP) pilot since October 2021, supporting almost 60,000 individuals over that time. Of the people supported, over 95% are women and 80% are self-referred. The new and permanent Leaving Violence Payment Program, representing a \$925 million investment by the Albanese Government over five years, is critical to enhancing the safety and wellbeing of thousands of Australians.

**\$925m
investment
over 5 years**

Collaborating for greater impact

UnitingCare Australia has created a collaboration toolkit to establish a foundation for ongoing success in national, consortium-led projects. This toolkit incorporates key principles focused on clear roles, responsibilities, streamlined decision-making, well-defined performance standards, and effective resource management. It provides a robust framework to maximise our network's potential, enabling us to achieve greater impact and outcomes across our diverse service footprint.



365 days of leading
the change.



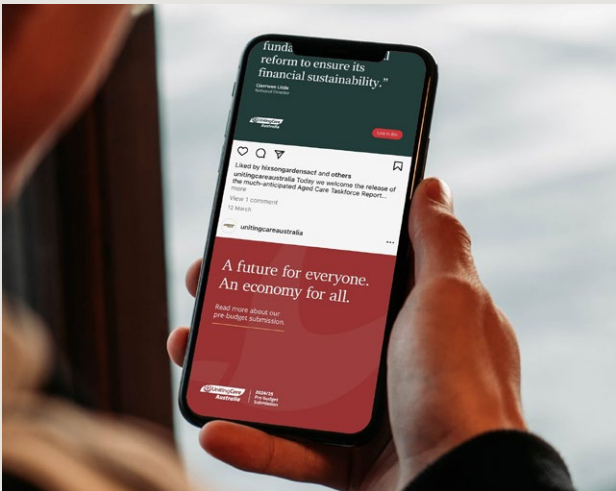
1 Voice.
22 Submissions.

- Aged care reform
- National care and support economy
- Social service funding and grant delivery
- Employment program and wage reform
- Disability service and NDIS reform
- Cost of living and financial wellbeing and support
- Charity and community sector reform

Thought leadership. Practical outcomes.

Pre-Budget Submission

UnitingCare Australia's 2024-25 Federal Budget submission put forward three high-impact proposals to deliver immediate relief and long-term wellbeing improvements for Australians, including: delivering equitable and sustainable aged care for older Australians; enabling more Australians to find safety through the Escaping Violence Payment Program, and; sustainably meeting Australians' care and support needs.



Policy priority	Policy ask	Budget funding	Adequacy of funding
Aged Care	1. Ensure aged care funding is sustainable	●	●
	2. Fully fund the aged care wage increase	●	●
	3. More Home Care Packages	●	●
	4. Respond to the Taskforce and release the new Act	●	●
Escaping Violence Payment (EVP)	1. Establish EVP as a permanent program	●	●
	2. Extend and fully fund the pilot beyond January 2025	●	●
	3. Increase the \$5,000 amount	●	●
Supporting community services	1. Reshape Stage 3 tax cuts	●	●
	2. Increase funding for Emergency Relief	●	●
	3. Increase indexation for providers	●	●
	4. Cost of living relief and income support	●	●