

“We are the Uniting Church in Australia”

Series One: Our Story

“Ageing Well”

John Clarke

It's still intrinsic to who the Uniting Church is because it's caring for people who are vulnerable, it's meeting people at their point of need.

Uniting AgeWell is the Uniting church in Victoria and Tasmania's major aged care provider for senior services, so we work in the community, so helping people to live well at home, to age well at home. We have respite care so people that are just trying out or giving their carer some respite. People can come in for that.

And then we have the residential services, and they include the retirement living. And then there's the transition of many people into what we call residential aged care. We operate in many local government areas that are lower than the average socio-economically, so historically and now, we choose to operate in areas that people that are only operating for profit wouldn't be in-

Mark Butler

The beauty of working for an organisation like Eldercare is that what matters most at Eldercare is the well-being of the residents. Eldercare seeks to make sure that in the care they provide, they look after the whole person, mind, body and spirit. Providing care based on Christian principles and emphasising choice and dignity for those residents who call one of our facilities their home.

Kim Thoday

This is where people come to make their homes. And really, that ethos, that culture, is something we foster and it's important. This, in other words, it's not a hospital.

John Clarke

We have five values - respect, partnership, wisdom, fairness and stewardship. And we try to see that the staff day by day demonstrate those in everything they do, and that ties in with the ethos of the Uniting Church.

Lina Kioa

I've been working here in Carnsworth for over ten years and I've been in this field over 20 years. My role here is one of many personal carers and nurses who work to nurse and to look after and attend to the residents for their needs here.

I grew up in Tonga and we have a culture in Tonga that we respect and care for our elderly. We don't have a nursing home in Tonga, but we put them in the, under the umbrella of the huge extended family to be cared for. So the residents are part of the community, in which they are respected and cared for by all of us. I value and hold their dignity and at the same time I learn a lot and share a lot from their wisdom. Jesus is a carer like what I'm doing here but I'm trying hard to take and follow what he did.

Kim Thoday

They feel as though, and this is said to me in all sorts of different ways, they feel as though they are actually cared for as staff - an ethos here that they haven't really felt before, and it is that this is an accepting place. It is a welcoming place

Mark Butler

And I really enjoy working with a team of chaplains who are very professional and very dedicated, extremely keen to continue to grow and developing in the specialised area of ministry that aged care chaplaincy is.

Judy Angwin

And a lot of my work is with families, just being beside families who find it very difficult to see their loved ones linger, perhaps deteriorate. It is pastoral ministry which, which is very natural for me. It's something that I love. #00:00:57-7# It is being here with people. And I think that's a huge privilege, huge privilege, to share that journey and to hear life stories.

John Clarke

We've got over 600 volunteers across, doing all sorts of things, an incredible range of activities, many of them Uniting Church members, probably the majority, and it's my pleasure just to watch how they add the extra over and above which is fantastic, and just make a huge difference in our resident's lives.

And so, for us it doesn't matter what faith a person has, or none. Part of our role is just to deepen their spirituality, to walk with them spiritually wherever they're at and to discover ways that give life for them.

Kim Thoday

They are on a unique journey. They are at a stage that others of us are not at yet. We are to show respect. We are to listen and learn from these wonderful people.

John Clarke

Watching the people put into practice that care and love that Jesus came show.

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