



PLACEMENT PROFILE

SECTION 1 – BASIC INFORMATION

1.1 Placement Name(s): West Coast Tasmania

1.2 Please list congregations/agencies names below

- This Presbytery placement is a remote community / 'bush chaplaincy' role funded by Frontier Services and the Synod Mission Support Fund (formerly BOMAR), with no current Uniting Church congregations in the region.

- _____
- _____
- _____

1.3 Profile approved by Tas Pastoral Relations Committee 1 / 2 / 2022

1.4 Primary purpose of placement:

To provide community chaplaincy ('bush chaplaincy') to the remote communities of the West Coast of Tasmania, and to develop local leadership capacity for continued longer-term Uniting Church presence in the region.

Based in Queenstown but potentially reaching from Waratah in the north to Derwent Bridge in the south, the role will focus on connecting with communities and families building up resilience, networking and developing community connections.

This Presbytery placement is not to plant or (re)develop a worshipping congregation of the Uniting Church.

1.5 Suitable for (bold all that apply): **Minister of the Word / Deacon / Ordinand / Pastor**

1.6 Time fraction: 100 _____ %

1.7 Term:

Undefined up to 10 years (See Reg 2.7.3(a)) _____

Fixed Term: _____ 5 Years

Initial Term reviewed in: _____ 3 Years

This profile should be prepared by the Congregation(s)/ agency in consultation with Presbytery. It is specifically designed to assist in the placement process but it can also be used as a record of mission planning.

Please Note: Sections 1, 2 & 3 of this profile will be uploaded to the [VicTas](#) website.

Contents

Section 1: Basic Information

Section 2: Mission Direction

Section 3: Context

Section 4: People and Activities – to be completed by each congregation in the placement.

Section 5: Joint Congregations – to be completed if more than one congregation in the placement.

Section 6: Working Relationships

Section 7: New Minister – this section contains a list of mission and pastoral activities which are also listed on Minister's Personal profiles

Section 9: Presbytery – to be completed by Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee.

Section 10: Terms of Placement

Enclosures

Please mark all the documents attached to the profile:

- Floor plan of residence
- Financial information including a copy of last year's Financial Statement and financial projections
- Position descriptions of relevant ministers
- Others

SECTION 2 – MISSION DIRECTION

2.1 What is the Vision statement and or Mission priorities of the placement (or of the individual congregations)

Providing the communities of the West Coast of Tasmania with a Uniting Church ministry presence developing relationships to embody care, inclusion, and wholistic wellbeing, building resilient community connections and local leadership capabilities to provide a 'mantle of care' for this remote area.

2.2 Date adopted by Presbytery of Tasmania PRC 1/2 / 2022

2.3 Provide a short description of the placement/congregation(s)

This is a community that has a long-term grief around people entering and leaving due to the isolation of the region, so building up the resilience of the local leaders to ministry to their local community is vital for long-term sustainability.

The opportunities to meet needs in the region include building stronger community connections and capacity across the region, with a focus on individuals and groups whose needs are not currently met, in different age demographics including isolated and younger generations within these isolated rural communities. This role will work in partnership with those 'on the ground' with long-term connections to the region, and will always rely on support from beyond these communities themselves.

This is a Presbytery placement supported by grants from the VicTas Synod Mission Support Fund (MSF) and Frontier Services (FS).

2.4 What Church Style best describes the congregation(s)? (See [Church Style](#) document)

The West Coast region no longer has any Uniting Church congregations, and has been without a ministry placement for some years.

2.5 How has the placement/congregation(s) changed over the last 5 years?

This is no longer a congregation-based ministry. The former Queenstown UC congregation concluded some years ago, and the Uniting Church property in Queenstown was sold in 2020.

The Uniting Church building in Tullah is a dated (but not historic) A-frame infrequently used and with limited facilities (no toilets; public toilets are nearby).

The last Frontier Services patrol minister was Rev Gay Loftus who concluded in 2015.

2.6 What are the congregation(s)/placement's goals?

Providing the communities of the West Coast of Tasmania with a Uniting Church ministry presence developing relationships to embody care, inclusion, and wholistic wellbeing, building resilient community connections and local leadership capabilities to provide a 'mantle of care' for this remote area.

2.7 What are the next Strategic Steps to achieving those goals?

Appointment of a community builder / 'bush chaplain' to facilitate community development, to resource ministry relationships across the West Coast communities, and to provide leadership development and coaching / mentoring to any Uniting Church people in the area.

SECTION 3 - CONTEXT

3.1 Describe the communities in which this placement is located (Mission context).

The West Coast of Tasmania includes isolated communities with limited community services, and a range of social challenges and opportunities. It is the largest of the 29 Tasmanian councils by area, and the second least densely populated, after the Central Highlands. The region experiences relatively extreme weather conditions, notably high yearly rainfall totals due to frontal systems.

Population centres comprise Queenstown (1,975), Rosebery (922), Strahan (824), Zeehan (728), Tullah (192) (totalling 4,678 from Gazetted West Coast Local Government Area in ABS 2018 figures; ABS Estimated Resident Population in 2020 is 4,132).

Mining and tourism are key local industries, so fly-in-fly-out workers and transient tourism are part of the nature of the regional communities.

Other Christian traditions / communities do not offer the inclusive welcome that is characteristic of the Uniting Church.

3.2 How does your congregation reflect or vary from the age, and ethnic mix of your local community?

This placement aims to connect with the local community where they gather and where their needs are based, rather than to form a congregation based in a church building.

3.3 What are the opportunities and points of stress and pain in the wider community?

The community needs in regional and remote areas within Tasmania include both immediate and long-term responses to changing economic circumstances as industries close and communities evolve; social needs including ageing, mental health, unemployment; life-stage events (birth, death and in between) traffic accidents, drought, fire and flood; and isolation when social support services force a move to larger population centres.

3.4 List ways in which you connect with, serve, or partner with people in your wider community?

- Uniting Church people currently have connections with community groups in the region, but as a Church the UCA currently does not have a presence.

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3.5 What schools/agencies/institutions are in your local communities?

Community groups that are well-connected in the local communities include Queenstown Senior Citizens Club, Zeehan Neighbourhood Centre, and Rosebery Neighbourhood House.

Queenstown community hospital includes aged care and palliative care.

There are community health services and schools in the local communities.