



What services do we provide?

1. Coffee Club Network – regional support and information network in your area.
2. Open and Affirming Congregations – We can provide a list of UCA congregations and organisations in NSW that meet UN's criteria and have formally indicated that their community wants to be listed as open and affirming.
3. UN NSW Update – The Network produces a regular newsletter of activities and reports, which are available to members and other interested people.
4. Information resources, such as the booklet "Coming Out Alive". Visit www.unitingnetworkaustralia.org.au
5. Speakers and workshop facilitators
6. Membership – for a small annual fee, membership provides an opportunity to be connected and to support what we believe is an important ministry within the church.

Regional contacts

For more information or a chat, here are a few contacts:

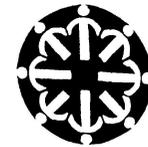
- **Sydney** – Bev Cameron 9957 5367 became@bigpond.net.au. Bev also refers any Queensland enquiries.
- **Newcastle/Hunter** Jodie Mills newie_UN@optusnet.com.au
- **Central Coast** – Gary Walker 4328 3232 gazza@cci.net.au
- **Lower Blue Mtns** – Leanne Hutcheson 4754 2828 LeanneH.au@bigpond.com
- **South Coast** – Ineke Bergsma 4446 1144

Other support contacts

- PFLAG – Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. <http://www.pflagaustralia.org/>
- Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service NSW (02) 8594 9596 or 1800 184527 5:30 pm to 10:30 pm 7 days <http://www.glcsnsw.org.au/>

“A place at the table...” Luke 13:29

Ministry from within the Church



Uniting Network NSW/ACT

Working for safety and equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people within the Uniting Church in Australia.

PO Box 98 Enmore NSW 2042

Ph: 0408 430 582

Email: uniting.network@gmail.com

Web: www.nsw.uca.org.au/boe/resources



UN NSW/ACT links to the Uniting Church in Australia through the NSW Board of Education



Who are we?

The Uniting Network (UN) refers to a network of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people (LGBT), our partners, friends, family, open congregations and other supporters within the Uniting Church in Australia. The Network has a national structure with groups in each Uniting Church Synod. In NSW and the ACT we link with and report to the Synod through the Board of Education.

We are a diverse people of faith, united in our commitment to God, one another and the church.

What is our vision?

As we are all one in Christ, we recognise our common humanity and common need for the love of God and community with each other. Gays and lesbians, like other people, want to worship God in a safe place, exercise our gifts and be valued members of the community.

The Uniting Network's vision is that the Uniting Church be a safe place where lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people, our family, partners and friends are affirmed, our gifts used at all levels, loving relationships valued and faith nurtured.

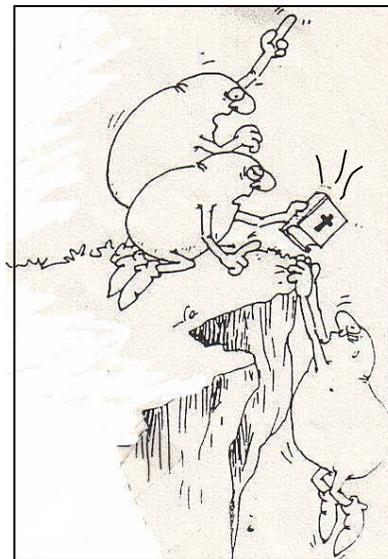
John Oldmeadow, Executive Director, NSW Board of Education says "The Board of Education celebrates the diversity within the Uniting Church in Australia and is proud to provide the contact point between Uniting Network and the NSW Synod".

Jesus ate with all

The Christian Church in every age has done its best to interpret God's word and God's will. But sometimes this has led to the misery of "others". Apartheid, slavery, and the oppression of women have in turn been justified by scripture.

Scripture continues to be used by some to discriminate against gays and lesbians, restrict the right to our humanity and use of gifts and talents. Some gays and lesbians are rejected by the church, rejected by families. Studies show a high rate of suicide among young gay males particularly in country areas.

This cannot be the heart of Christ: Jesus - the one who ate with all manner of people and sought to heal a fractured society.



What do we do?

As part of our ministry from within the church, we participate in outreach to sexual minorities providing educational resources, advocacy and pastoral support. We do our best to provide support not only to individuals but also to families and congregations. Recent activities are:

- UCA NSW Synod – an official table in the resource area and a lunchtime discussion
- Resources and Support – the Network gathers, produces and distributes resource materials including a NSW newsletter, and maintains a support network
- United Theological College lunch seminar – arranged through the Students Association, this is an opportunity to meet, share ideas and information with interested students
- “Daring” Gatherings – a UN National biennial event held in alternate capital cities. NSW was host in 1998 and 2004. The next one is June long weekend Adelaide 2008.
- Mardi Gras Fair Day – a resource table at this annual festival event
- Mardi Gras Parade – in the years 1998 to 2004, members of the Uniting Church from various States marched in the Parade in solidarity with LGBT people in the church
- UCA Discussion Groups – the Network has been invited to represent its concerns at various UCA discussion meetings.

