



**Uniting Church in Australia
Synod of Victoria and Tasmania
Presbytery of Yarra Yarra**

PO Box 4308
Balwyn East VIC 3103

October 2015

Support for Uniting Church Community Mental Health Initiatives

Dear Congregational Secretary,

The Presbytery of Yarra Yarra continues to support three ministries in the broad area of Mental Health. These are:

The Boroondara Community Outreach ministry based at Kew under the oversight of Rev. (Deacon) Natalie Dixon-Monu.

***hope springs* based at Heidelberg Heights, part of the Banyule Network, and co-ordinated by Mr Jon Rumble.**

The outer eastern mental health ministry in association with Eastern Area Community Health (EACH) exercised by Rev. (Deacon) Dr James Godfrey

The needs to which these ministries respond continue to grow. With the changes and uncertainties associated with the forthcoming “roll-out” of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, this increasing demand is not expected to change; rather, there are strong indications that it may well accelerate.

As you may be aware there are some variations in the priorities of each of our mental health ministries, however common elements include: direct pastoral support, a variety of activities that enable social inclusion and the articulation of the role spirituality has in assisting individuals to manage mental health issues.

A sense of the nature of these ministries can be gleaned from the video prepared by the Synod about the ministry at Kew entitled “What’s happening at Kew?” (This can be found on the Synod website on the page that can be reached by the following link, and we encourage you to share this with your congregations

<https://www.victas.uca.org.au/communityservices/Pages/Disability-Inclusion.aspx>)

Chairperson:	Beth Horsfield –	9457 6251	beth.horsfield@bigpond.com
Presbytery Ministers:	Paul Stephens –	04 1715 2009	paul.stephens@victas.uca.org.au
	Robert Elkhuisen –	04 1112 6454	robert.elkhuisen@victas.uca.org.au
	Morag Logan –	04 3270 0669	morag.logan@victas.uca.org.au
Secretary:	Bethany Broadstock -	Secretary.yy@victas.uca.org.au	

Each of the mental health ministries is funded in the main from within the resources of the Uniting Church itself. At present, our financial support comes principally from congregations, BOMAR, and a small number of community grants. We are also in the process of exploring other sources of support.

The Presbytery is writing to seek your congregation's ongoing financial support in order to assist us maintain these critical and strategic ministries.

In making this request, we are mindful of the generous support of many congregations in the past, and how this ministry has been owned as an integral part of the Presbytery's work. In order to ensure this ministry is on-going, it would be very helpful if your congregation would consider creating a specific line item in your annual budget for mental health ministry. This action would enable the Presbytery to plan for the continuity of support and ministry for this vital work.

We note that the Banyule Network has developed an ongoing funding model to support *hope springs*; and that congregations formerly part of the 'old' Maroondah Presbytery have for many years committed a proportion of each year's budget to support the ministry associated with EACH. We also recognise the support being given by congregations in the Kew/Hawthorn area to the Boroondara Community Outreach. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

Should there be members of your congregation who feel strongly called to work on mental health matters, the Presbytery would appreciate hearing of their interest, and seek to find appropriate avenues for their skills and experience.

If you are interested in receiving regular updates about our progress in mental health matters, or would like a Presbytery representative to meet with members of your congregation to exchange information and ideas, please do not hesitate to contact the Presbytery Office on 9857 1000.

Kindly forward any financial expressions of support to the Presbytery Treasurer via the Presbytery Office.

Grace and peace

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Beth Horsfield". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Beth Horsfield

Chairperson of Presbytery