

Media Release

May 19, 2016

For immediate release

UA receives LGBTI award

Uniting AgeWell has received a prestigious Dorothies Award in recognition of its work in providing LGBTI-inclusive aged care services.

The annual Tasmanian award was presented to Uniting AgeWell at a ceremony in Launceston on May 17.

The event coincided with the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHO).

UA's Strathdevon MIS Vicki Pollock received the "2016 Award acknowledging Inclusive Practice for LGBTI elders in a Faith Based Care Service" from Susan Ditter, the Executive Officer of award organisers Working It Out (WIO).

WIO is Tasmania's gender, sexuality and intersex status support and education service.

UA Director of Mission John Clarke said it was wonderful and worthy recognition of the work UA was doing to incorporate LGBTI inclusive practice into its residential and community services.

This includes establishing a senior executive LGBTI Working Group, developing an LGBTI policy and practice standard and offering LGBTI training to staff, he said.

Staff have also been surveyed about their attitudes to LGBTI inclusiveness – more than two thirds agreed it was important UA was an LGBTI inclusive service – and standard administration forms and procedures are being updated to ensure they are LGBTI inclusive.

John said UA was working towards Rainbow Tick accreditation, which recognised an organisation's commitment to safe and inclusive service delivery for LGBTI people in our community.

"This signifies that we have worked to make our services welcoming of the LGBTI community and able to meet their needs," he said.

For more information please contact Marketing and Communications Manager Charisse Ede on: 9276 5702, or email CEde@unitingagewell.org

About Uniting AgeWell

Uniting AgeWell is an organisation of the Uniting Church in Australia with a long tradition of providing quality aged care services for older Australians. With services available throughout metropolitan and regional Victoria and Tasmania, Uniting AgeWell offers a range of specialised options to support health and wellbeing including independent and assisted living, home care, social support and therapy programs, respite and residential care communities. For further information visit www.unitingagewell.org

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