

Strategic Plan - Creating Opportunities 2012-2015



In July 2012 Lentara UnitingCare (LUC) was formed by the union of UnitingCare Sunshine and Broadmeadows, and Orana UnitingCare with the principal objective of supporting parents, carers, families and communities to reach their full potential by providing programs for people in need, offering opportunities to learn new skills and come together to reduce social isolation, and to advocate for disadvantaged people and community groups. In September 2012, the new Board of LUC endorsed the strategic direction of the agency, titled Strategic Directions – Creating Opportunities 2012-2015.

The Board confirmed that the Mission of Lentara UnitingCare is a renewed mission of social change and social justice. In building the mission for the Agency's work in the community, the stories of the agencies that formed LUC were considered. Much of the Agency's work is guided by the history of the two organisations coming together with a shared vision, that everyone should be free from injustice, intergenerational poverty and abuse. If LUC can address these issues, it can create an opportunity for children and families to flourish, live with dignity and meaning, and be included in and belong to our community.

Our Mission

Creating opportunities for children, families and individuals to flourish in a fair and generous community.

Our Values

Respect, Integrity, Collaboration, Compassion

Strategic Directions

STRATEGY 1 PROGRAMS

Delivering sustainable programs linked to mission and facilitating community development

Lentara UnitingCare (LUC) will deliver sustainable programs that align with our mission and are consistent with our values. LUC will identify program outcomes and program priorities to ensure that it remains focused on the human outcomes intended while growing our turnover. LUC will assess how new approaches to old problems may be developed, piloted and promoted. Consideration will also be given to the underserved Brimbank/ Melton growth corridor.

STRATEGY 2 RESEARCH & ADVOCACY

Informing advocacy and improving outcomes for and the communities we serve

LUC will develop a research base to better inform and strengthen our advocacy efforts and improve outcomes for the communities we serve. Priority will be placed on innovative service models that can be translated into the organisation's early childhood and family services to prevent children and young people entering the child protection and juvenile justice systems. Implementing a research model will require consideration of potential partnerships with other agencies, peak bodies and institutions.

STRATEGY 3 PARTNERSHIPS

Building partnerships across Agencies, across the Uniting Church, Government, Community and Institutions

To deliver on its mission, LUC will create strong relationships with Port Phillip West Presbytery, UnitingCare Victoria & Tasmania (UCVT) and local congregations to provide opportunities for congregational investment into new projects and capital works and for individuals to engage through volunteer involvement.

LUC seeks to have robust relationships with other agencies to develop and promote its best practice service models, and to also have effective relationship with Government at all levels, seeking funding and building influence to create outcomes for our communities.

STRATEGY 4 CAPACITY BUILDING

Investing in our organisation, its people, assets and systems

It is essential that programs are measured by human outcomes and important that the data be captured to strengthen the organisation's community development capacity and to continuously improve. This will involve financial investment for new systems and infrastructure, and time and development for staff to effectively deliver and support the mission.

STRATEGY 5 GOVERNANCE

Providing transparency and accountability across and between the Board and programs

The Board will use the achievement of intended human outcomes as an indicator of organisational success. All LUC service and program reviews and discussions about new services will require the answer to the question: how does this fulfil our mission of creating opportunities for children, families and individuals to flourish in a fair and generous community?

All of LUC's operations will reflect transparency and accountability in both the delivery and reporting of service and program outcomes.