



ALLORA EASTERN DOWNS PARISH UNITING CHURCH  
44 Warwick St, Allora QLD 4362

23<sup>RD</sup> – 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024

## Connect100+

Please pray for...

- New and Growing Connections for new Connect 100 Community Chaplain Toowoomba
- Recovery of people and areas impacted by recent whether events
- Rev Dona Spencer and her return to work after leave
- Ps Jennie Feldmeier

## Report

### Rev Dona Spencer's Report

Service of welcome with Blue Care Staff, welcome 'area' at Blue Care Roma This is in addition to Rev Dona's usual pastoral care support, site visits, and having the RAFS staff visit.

### Charleville Connections

Bush Chaplain Ps Jennie continues to meeting and visiting with UCQ FaDS and Bluecare staff, who are always welcoming of her visits and she is well received.

### Toowoomba UCQ & Lifeworks

I (Tanya) was inducted into the new Connect 100+ Community Ministry Leader role working out of Lifeworks Uniting Church on 21<sup>st</sup> January. Connections are starting to emerge with a wonderful welcome from Uniting Care Qld Families Out of Home Care Services in Ruthven St, attending a few meetings with the leadership team. In time connecting with 200 staff in the Toowoomba area. This role is developing as staff are getting used to having their own real-life Chaplain not someone based in Brisbane. On Shrove Tuesday we shared in Pancakes and time just getting to know each other.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> Feb I attended a Missional Hub Leadership workshop in Sydney, this is the start of regular coaching and training in the area of mission and community development. Which will continue for the year, with a reflection being written at the end.

Also building relationships with a number of local Uniting Churches and learning meeting congregations and hearing the hopes for future mission and connection with Uniting Care Qld. This part of the role is also being developed as we explore together the role of Community Ministry Leader and how I can support encourage and connect local churches in their communities through mission and serving, being the hands and feet of God. I'm looking forward to meeting you all over time and hearing your stories and passion to service Christ in your local community.

Thank you to Lifeworks congregation as you have dreamed with Uniting Care in creating this role and for your wonderful welcome and support in providing an office and space to learn and work with you. Thank you also you the Presbytery of The Downs for partnering with Lifeworks and Uniting Care to give space for dreaming to build connections between church and community.



## Recommendations

1. That this report be received.

Report Submitted by:

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*If you have questions, please email before the meeting.*



## Happy New Year & Welcome to 2024!

Although the new year has well and truly started, many of us (including myself!) are only just now finding our feet, adjusting to new rhythms and patterns and stepping into a flow. Our state has been gripped by dramatic weather events, disaster and tragedy, hope and recovery, as we connect together in communities throughout Qld, deepening our resilience and perhaps even, developing spiritual grit. Often in holistic care, we speak about the importance of Resilience and Wellbeing, in ministry I find myself drawing to the parallels of Grit and Grace. Digging into strength perhaps we don't even realise we have and resting in the presence of our loving God.

In John 15, Jesus speaks to His disciples about remaining in Him. Abiding so closely with Christ, in and through His love, connected as branches to the life of the vine (15:4). This connection sustains us, this connection gives life and it is through this, remaining in Christ, we bear much fruit (15:5), showing ourselves to be Jesus' disciples (15:8).

This year, our Connect100+ team is determined to abide in Christ, in turn bearing fruit, producing fruit that remains. FRUIT THAT LASTS (15:16). This is mandate our team has been given for 2024. In all our partnerships, through all our connections, amidst the missional innovation and gracious pastoral care, we are praying and trusting God that as we remain in Christ we will bear much fruit, and it will be fruit that remains. Lasting fruit, not a quick boost juice, not a punnet of strawberries that always runs out way too quickly, but the fruit of discipleship. God's story, the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, being shared and remaining in hearts, minds and communities, year after year after year.

May we be healthy branches this year, connected to the vine, and with grit and grace may we bear much fruit, fruit that remains.



**Pastor Sam McDonell**  
Connect100+ Community Partnerships Manager  
Mission Group, UnitingCare Qld  
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## Welcoming Connector

REV TANYA RICHARDS

### LOCATION

Lifeworks Uniting Church & Toowoomba region

### ON MY DAYS OFF

At present, my favourite thing to do is explore Toowoomba, moving from the Sunshine Coast everything is brand new here. I found the Chocolate Cottage, some wonderful parks & walks, although still looking for the perfect coffee shop.

### WHAT LED YOU TO MINISTRY IN THIS PLACE?

Growing up in north Brisbane & recently visiting Toowoomba, I found it to be a nice place. Circumstances led to my current placement ending, & upon discovering this new role, I felt it might be the next step. I have a deep passion for chaplaincy, feeling a true calling to serve God by connecting people & offering support to those seeking love & care. Although unexpected, it feels like a perfect fit, as if God has led me to this space to serve Him.

### HOW HAVE YOU SEEN GOD AT WORK RECENTLY?

In everything from the very first time I'd seen the role description, to the JNC, to visiting Toowoomba & finding a house, the welcome from Lifework congregation, to the welcome of the UCQ facilities here in Toowoomba, it's just all coming together. God has certainly gone before & made this path that I'm now on & I thank Him for the privilege of being here & the chance to love His people.



## Welcome

REV DR LINDA HAMILL

Linda joins the Connect100+ Team as Community Disaster & Recovery - Chaplaincy Lead. She brings a wealth of experience & compassion. In her role, she not only offers essential disaster recovery chaplaincy support to our UCQ staff, but also spearheads coordination efforts on the ground, leveraging both existing & new networks. Linda offers tailored disaster recover chaplaincy training upon request, ensuring our team is well equipped to address diverse needs. For inquiries or collaboration, reach out via [Linda.Hamill@ucareqld.com.au](mailto:Linda.Hamill@ucareqld.com.au)



# HIGHLIGHTS

In collaboration with Nadia Abraham (Mossman UCA) & Linda Hamill (C100+ Community Disaster & Recovery - Chaplaincy Lead), our C100+ team worked together to support communities in response to North Qld's severe weather events.

UCQ's Charleville RAFS & Roma/Mitchelle visited Dona Spencer (Roma) & Frontier Services chappy Jennie Feldmeier.

Additionally, there were Christmas Carols with Ueli Otumuli at Mt Isa Lifeline store, and we welcomed Tanya Richards as Lifeworks & Toowoomba region Community Ministry Leader.



2024. Mossman Community Recovery Hub team



2024. Mossman local volunteers



2024. Nadia Abraham with Port Douglas congregation



2024. Jennie Feldmeier & Dona Spencer



2023. Ueli Otumuli



2024. Mossman Disaster & Community Relief Team



2024. Taylor, Libby & Dan with Dona Spencer



2024. Peter Armstrong, Sam McDonell, Yvonne McRostie, Tanya Richards.



2024. Sam McDonell, Linda Hamill





## Available Training



### Free Circle of Security - Parenting Program

Seize the opportunity - a UnitingCare parenting program designed to understand & build secure parent-child relationships. 4 weeks 2hr sessions at Redcliffe Uniting Hub, 9.30-11.30am. For inquiries & registration [ieisadmin.metronorth@uccommunity.org.au](mailto:ieisadmin.metronorth@uccommunity.org.au)



### Fee Free TAFE Courses

Take advantage of great courses offered within the community space for free by [TAFE](#).



**LIVINGWORKS**  
ASIST

### Free LivingWorks ASIST - [Mackay](#)

This is UnitingCare funded Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training. Attend this award-winning workshop for FREE. Click [here](#) to register.

### Free LivingWorks ASIST - [Rockhampton](#)

Click Rockhampton to register

### Free LivingWorks ASIST - [Hervey Bay](#)

Click Hervey Bay to register

### Free LivingWorks ASIST - [Mount Isa](#)

Click Mount Isa to register



## Want to Connect?

Intrigued to tap into the pulse of your local community? Reach out! We're eager to engage in conversation & discover innovative ways to foster partnerships together. Let's chat & explore the endless possibilities!