



ST STEPHENS UNITING CHURCH  
51 Neil Street, Toowoomba

3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> November 2023

## Connect100+

Please pray for...

- New Toowoomba C100+ Ministry agent
- Qld Disaster Relief Chaplains including C100 Staff and volunteers
- C100+ team and Connectors across the state

## Report

Connect100 partnerships are alive and well in the Downs Presbytery. Since the last Presbytery meeting we have shared with ministry agents, chaplains and UCQ staff BlueCare 70<sup>th</sup> Celebrations in various locations, sharing the history, mission and ministry of the UCA with staff, clients, residents, friends and community members.

Rev Dona Spencer continues to deepen relationships and provide pastoral care to Roma BlueCare staff and our UCQ families team at Injune. There is huge appreciation for her support, and she has established a wonderful presence in the Maranoa Region. Currently we are looking to assist families in this area following the recent fires, and will work in partnership with Dona and Disaster relief chaplains to do so.

In August our annual Connectors gathering was held at Redcliffe, with a variety of different sessions for training, discernment, fellowship and peer collaboration. This was a time of strengthening, team building and personal development. It was also identified in Aug/Sept that Connect100 passed its initial goal of 100 partnerships between congregations and agency services. This is a wonderful achievement, and the fruit can be seen in stronger relationships and connections in so many places around Qld. Connect100 is now officially known as Connect100+, as we continue to commit to serving all congregations and agency locations to establish enhanced pastoral care, shared partnerships and missional innovation.

As part of the broader UCQ Mission Team, Connect100+ recently celebrating the Induction of Rev Dr Peter Armstrong as the UCQ Director of Mission. Other staff changes include my role expanding to Community Partnership lead across Qld and being the Mission Partner for UCQ Family and Disability

Services. Our Reconciliation Action Team has also been hosting Fish Trap consultations, including in Toowoomba as they work on the next phase of UCQ Reconciliation plan. This is a wonderful opportunity to share together ideas, partnerships and hopes of reconciliation for now and the future. Our mission team had a stall at the recent Qld Synod in Session where we were able to share on the ministry work of the Mission Team and how we can partner together in serving our communities.

Recently a professional research evaluation was completed for Connect100, with recommendations sent to the team. We will be working through this evaluation, including presenting results to the UCQ CEO/Board and providing feedback to key stakeholders. Thank you to all those members of Presbytery who participated in online surveys and focus groups earlier in the year to assist with this evaluation.

Currently we are looking to fill a C100 ministry placement in partnership with Lifeworks. This full time role will be an important missional leadership role in the life of Toowoomba UCA churches, with the ministry agent based at Lifeworks and liaising with all other Toowoomba congregations to develop partnerships and shared ministry and mission with UCQ. In Toowoomba there are over 200 UCQ staff with many different services and programs supporting the community. We look forward to calling someone to this role and JNC conversations are underway. Please join us in prayer as we journey through this discernment process.

## Recommendations

1. That this report be received.

Report Submitted by:

Name: Ps Sam McDonell

Mobile: 0488 488 833

Email: sam.mcdonell@ucareqld.com.au

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