



2001

Uniting Church Annual Report

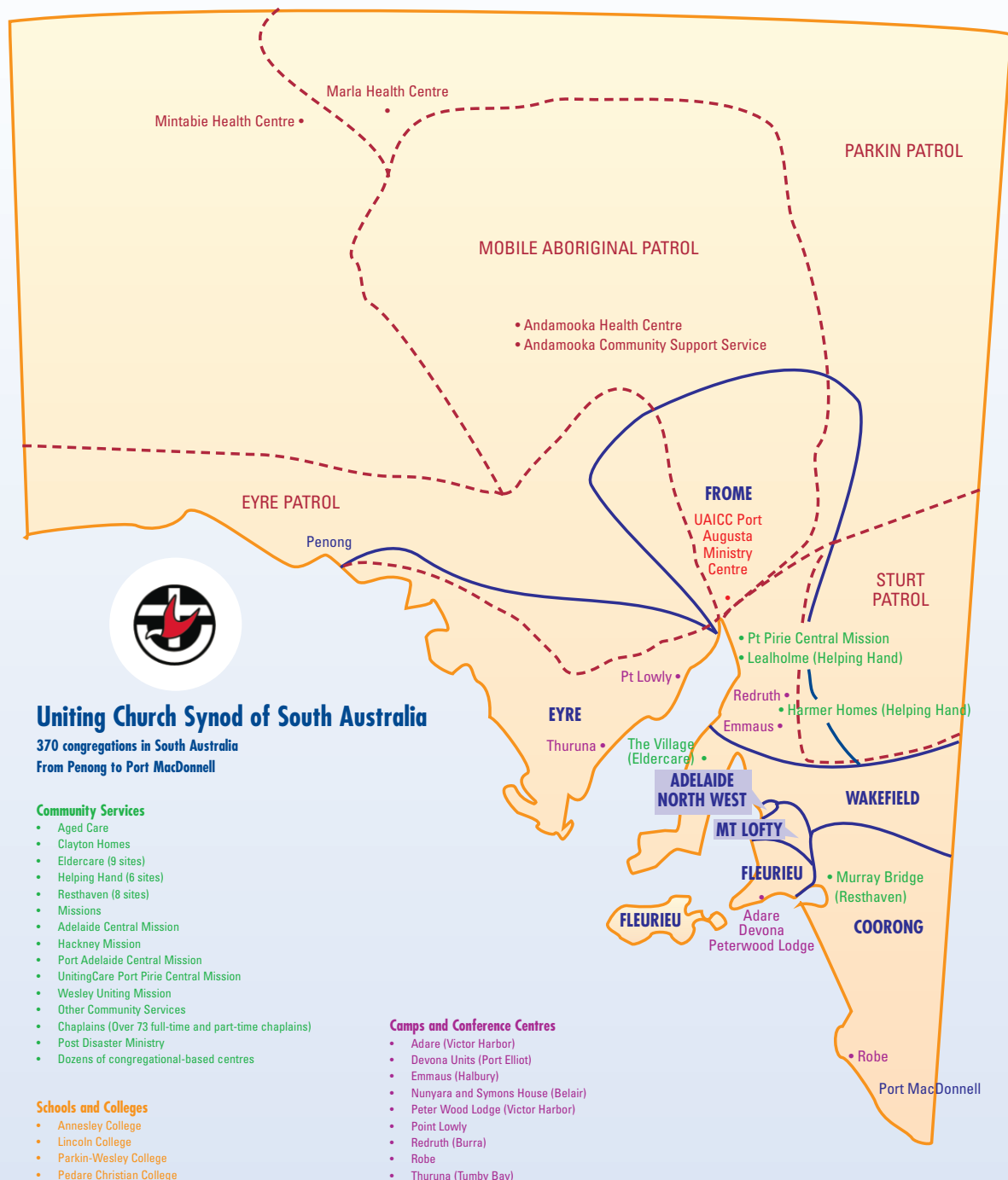
2001



Celebrating 25 years in 2002

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Illustration: The Editorial Works



Note: Map only depicts services outside of the metropolitan area.

COVER PICTURES**Clockwise from top right:**

Cummins Uniting Church. Last month it won the town's garden of the month award; Moderator, Jan Trengove and General Secretary, Stu Cameron share a milkshake; Children at KUCA (Kids in the Uniting Church in Australia) Camp Out at West Beach; Members of the SA Heads of Christian Churches visiting the Al-Khalil Mosque.



The Litchfield family (left of picture) are serving in an overseas mission placement in Thailand. The Tretheway family are in West Papua.

God is indeed good!

As the Uniting Church prepares to celebrate its 25th anniversary this month, we have much to be thankful for. This annual report looks back at some of the highlights of the past 12 months. It has been an exciting journey for our church with many congregations undertaking new initiatives as together we seek to be an innovative, growing church. We are excited that our ministry extended in new ways overseas as we support the work of two South Australian families serving in mission placements — the

Litchfields in Thailand and the Tretheways in West Papua.

As Moderator and General Secretary it is our privilege to thank you for the part you have played in fulfilling the church's mission.

We are constantly encouraged by the heartfelt, creative service being offered by so many individuals and groups across our church. God is indeed good! May your 'heart and soul' be in good spirit as you seek to live the adventurous life God has called each of us to.

Stuart Cameron
General Secretary

Jan Trengrove
Moderator

This is the beginning of a new career

Getting a job isn't easy. Getting a job when you're an Indigenous person can be even harder.

As one of the largest employers in the State, the Uniting Church has a unique strategy aimed at increasing the numbers of Indigenous people it employs. The church's Indigenous Employment Strategy started in September 1999. By the end of 2001, 45 people had gained employment and traineeships in our agencies and congregations. The concept is now being taken up by other synods.

Wesley Uniting Mission has doubled its outside workforce, taking on four trainees in its property management section. Robert, Frank, Douglas and Brenton started in April 2002. Three of the men will undertake traineeships in civil construction and the other in horticulture. "This is something I've always wanted to do. It will be great to get a certificate," says Frank Wanganeen. "I want this to be the beginning of a new career."

The four men will receive on the job training in a variety of trades including carpentry, concreting, and brick laying. They will also undertake studies at TAFE. It is anticipated that, at the completion of their traineeships, they will be kept on as full-time employees.



Brenton, Douglas, Robert and Frank at Wesley Uniting Mission.



Uniting Church Synod of South Australia

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Vision Statement:

An innovative, growing church proclaiming Jesus Christ, empowered by the Spirit to transform God's world.

Such a church will be:

- Enthusiastic about celebrating God.
- Passionate about knowing God and making God known.
- Focused on empowering congregations and faith communities for effective ministry in diverse contexts.
- Committed to initiate and embrace change, freeing resources for new initiatives.
- Purposeful in identifying, developing and using people's gifts.
- Deliberate in identifying, equipping and releasing leaders for ministry.
- Compassionate and innovative in caring for people.
- Proactive in working with God for justice for all people.

Services:

The list below provides a brief overview of some of the services based at the Synod office at 212 Pirie Street:

Community Services Commission

Chaplaincy
Community Services
Post Disaster Pastoral Ministry

Mission Resourcing Network

Mission Change Agents
Mission Network Leader
People in Mission
International Mission

Our Centres for Mission Resourcing are based in a number of local congregations and networks.

Resources

Finance
Insurance Agency
Investment Fund
Occupational Health Safety and Welfare
Public Relations
Property

Secretariat

Administration
Communications Unit / New Times
Ecumenical Relations Group
Events Manager
General Secretary
Indigenous Employment Strategy
Moderator
Reception

Other Services

Uniting Church Adult Fellowships (UCAF)
Frontier Services
KUCA News
NCYC 2005 office
Senior Adult Ministries

Lay ministry teams are in the city, too

Lay ministry teams developed in rural areas — but now they're in the metropolitan area, too.

Rev Dr Rodger Bassham, Adelaide North West's presbytery minister, points out that there are three in his presbytery.

"There are now lay ministry teams at Ingle-Pooraka, Elizabeth North, and Elizabeth Grove," Rodger said. He believes the development of lay ministry teams in the metropolitan area is significant.

"They've looked at the situation carefully and they believe this is the only way they can maintain their life as a congregation," he said. "There was certainly some financial pressure on them. That was part of the decision. But at the same time there was a strong desire to maintain ministry in their local areas."

"They were willing to explore possibilities to see if they could do that in some way — and the lay ministry teams offered them an opportunity to do just that." Rodger said two other congregations in the presbytery are also looking at the possibility of forming lay ministry teams. "By the end of the year we could have five lay ministry led congregations out of a total of 41 congregations in Adelaide North-West Presbytery," he said.

BELOW: Some members of the St Stephens, Elizabeth North, lay ministry team are, from left, Joyce Chadwick, Ruby Lloyd, Ann Cameron, Archie Forrest, Clarrie Prew, Peter Garner and Colwyn Low.



Rev Glenn Barnett (in the wheelchair) and his wife Avriel with some of the congregation outside the new facilities at Wanilla Uniting Community Church.

Wanilla didn't close — it grew instead

A few years ago it looked as though the little church at Wanilla, near Port Lincoln, would close. People were leaving the district and the congregation was down to about 12. As Ruth Sheldon put it, "Our little church was very little."

Then a member, Diane Borlase, went to a seminar on prayer. The church started a prayer ministry. "It reached into other people's lives," Diane said. "God touched each one of us in different ways."

And Rev Glenn Barnett with his wife Avriel agreed to pastor the church.

Church attendance grew — from an average of 12 to 35. "Some families with children joined us," Diane said, "and we decided to minister to our children through a Sunday school."

"But the increased numbers brought a new problem — the outside toilet. It was a bucket with a wooden seat. And we're not on mains water." So the congregation applied for gift funding to put in a environmentally friendly "hybrid toilet" — one that doesn't use water.

They also built a new hall and kitchen.

They use them for Sunday school, Alpha courses, youth sleep overs and various courses. The total cost was \$20,000. The figure was kept down because members of the church did most of the work and some of the materials were donated. The gift funding grant was for \$8,000. Wanilla raised the rest. "We're proud of our church facilities at Wanilla," Ruth Sheldon said. "They'll help us to live out our mission — to seek to follow God's Spirit, caring and sharing in our community."



A real blessing

Louis Townsend, 90 (above), has just retired from the Whyalla church council and is its former treasurer. He has been a lay preacher for almost 70 years and has exercised ministry in Whyalla for 62 years. He still occasionally gives the message in the mid-week service and also visits local nursing homes. Pastor Dianne Grimm said: "He's a real blessing to the church and an encouragement to the older people." Lou himself says: "It keeps me young."

Caring for the elderly

If you have never cared for a loved one with dementia, it is almost impossible to comprehend how demanding and tiring it can be.

The Warradale Club is a new initiative designed to give respite to carers.

After 18 months of prayer, visioning, visits to other organisations, funding applications — and plenty of setbacks along the way — the Warradale Club opened in July 2001.

The club, held at the Wesley-Warradale congregation, is a joint project with Resthaven, the first partnership of its kind. Resthaven provides the professional expertise, referrals and staff. The congregation provides the

venue and a keen team of volunteers to prepare meals and assist with the program.

"The bottom line is that we're filling a very important need in our community," says Isobel David, convenor of the community programs committee. "This has given our congregation a new lease of life. As we move towards being a community church the challenge will be to expand our ministry to younger people as well. But for now, we're touching lives through our commitment to caring for older people." Isobel is already asking the question: who cares for the carers? She hopes the next step in the congregation's journey will be a support group for carers.



Pianist James and singer May at the Warradale Club

'Christ was already present'

Deacon, Rev Dr Murray Muirhead, is patrol padre for MAP — the Mobile Aboriginal Patrol. MAP is a joint venture between Frontier Services and the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress. It covers a huge area — almost all the north of South Australia, except the Pitjantjatjara Lands.

"There are about eight different language groups within the patrol," Murray said. He speaks "just a little" Adnyamathanha and Pitjantjatjara.

"That's significant to the community," he said. "The majority of the missionaries who went to the area tried to stop them from speaking their language. So they see this as symbolic and important. They see it as a reversal of that denigration of language and culture." One Aboriginal group has asked Murray to be part of its cross-cultural education program. "It's powerful when someone from the church can say that the approach these days is very different," he said. "Our approach now encourages and respects the people, their culture and their spirituality."

"The spreading of the gospel is a dialogue. It's not imposed. There's a mutual respect there, and the acknowledgement that wisdom already resides in the community. In fact, Christ was already present in those communities long before the missionaries arrived."



Enjoying a meal at the Lighthouse Worship Café

Café worship breaks down barriers

Worship is different at the Lighthouse Worship Café. The vision for the cafe came from a small bible study group led by Diane Holmes.

"None of the people who came to that group were attending a church," explains Diane. "They reached a point where they felt they needed more. We tried channelling them into our congregation, but it just didn't work. So we asked the question 'What would church look like for you?' and set about trying to create it. "It took a while to emerge. I spent lots of time in prayer and testing the vision with my mentor, Pastor Anne Selth. She set me a-sail."

The café church, which opened in May 2001, is an outreach of the Echunga Uniting Church. They begin with a café meal at 6pm, followed by worship at 7pm.

"We regularly have 70 people attending. Around half of those who come have no church connection or have fallen away from the church years ago. Our service is jargon free, non-threatening, interactive and low key." "It hasn't been hard at all. When we've invited people to come, they've said 'yes.' We now have five small groups meeting weekly — two Alpha groups, two bible study groups and a prayer group."



Rev Darren Lovell, of Sturt Patrol, with deacon, Rev Dr Murray Muirhead, of the Mobile Aboriginal Patrol.



Publican Wayne Davies. His Sunday night patrons are intrigued by the service.

Turn left for worship, right for pokies and the bar

If you walk in the front door of the Port Victoria Hotel-Motel on the first Sunday of the month, you turn left for the ecumenical service, right for the pokies and the front bar. Publicans Wayne and Diane Davies have made the hotel's dining room available for the monthly service.

"It was John Lawrie's idea," Wayne said. "We just provide the facilities." Although it is an ecumenical venture, Uniting Church minister, Rev John Lawrie, of Maitland, usually leads the service.

"Wayne and Diane are very generous," John said. "They provide everything — except the tea and biscuits. They wanted to provide them, too, but we thought that would be a bit too much."

The Uniting Church at Point Victoria closed in 1996 and was sold. Only a handful of people had been attending services. The ecumenical services have an average attendance of about 50 people. Once, when the local Lutheran school was involved, the number got up to 140.

Wayne Davies said the hotel's patrons are intrigued by the Sunday evening service.

"They often crowd up the end of the bar nearest the front door so they can hear what's going on," he said.

"And, if things get too noisy in the bar, I just shut the door.

"People in the bar who want to go to the toilet have to walk through the dining room and past the preacher. It happens every time. They probably get a blessing as they go past."

About our church

Congregations and Presbyteries

The Uniting Church in Australia is made up of four primary inter-related councils: Congregations (Local); Presbyteries (Regional); Synod (State) and Assembly (National).

In South Australia we have around 25,000 worshippers in 370 congregations in 7 presbyteries.

Our 7 presbyteries are:

- Adelaide North West
- Eyre
- Fleurieu
- Frome
- Mount Lofty
- The Coorong
- Wakefield

Uniting Church Facts and figures

78%	attend church services weekly or more.
31%	attend study or prayer groups.
52%	attend social groups.
85%	believe their faith has grown in the past year.
81%	have a growing or stable sense of belonging to their congregation.
59%	feel at ease talking about their faith.
37%	have invited someone to church in the past 12 months.
64%	believe their congregation is always ready to try something new.

Uniting Church Age profile

15 – 19	3%
20 – 29	5%
30 – 39	8%
40 – 49	12%
50 – 59	16%
60 – 69	20%
70 +	36%

Source: 2001 National Church Life Survey (National figures).



Music helps to break down barriers

Some people at Keith see the Uniting Church building as a place of worship. But a lot of the town's unchurched kids see it as somewhere where they go to have fun.

One morning a week small kids go to *Jump 'n' Jive* at the church. In the afternoon older children go to *Move 'n' Groove* after school.

Lyn Howland said that, in some ways, the little ones at *Jump 'n' Jive* don't participate as much as the older ones at *Move 'n' Groove* — but only because they're enjoying themselves so much.

"They're little," Lyn said. "They do their own thing. They love all of it. At the end of the program they go out for their prayer time and the mums have coffee.

"The older kids are different because they have their own opinions and ideas. They pick songs — and they certainly let you know what they like."

Move 'n' Groove averages about 20 children each week, *Jump 'n' Jive* about 30. Lyn said: "Mums will tell you that, when they drive past the church the kids will say, 'There's *Move 'n' Groove*,' or 'There's *Jump 'n' Jive*'. They don't see the church as just for 'those people'. It's for anybody and everybody."

Thomas and Luke cut the cake for the first birthday of "Move 'n' Groove".



Ann Blackeby outside
the Amity Youth
Shelter.

Ann Blackeby is a social worker with *UnitingCare* Port Pirie Central Mission and a member of the Port Pirie congregation.

Ann coordinates the mission's Community Support Program — one of 22 programs run by the mid-north agency. The Mission has 70 staff, 190 volunteers, many of whom are foster parents, and a turnover of \$3.2 million in 2001.

Ann spends much of her time on the road. Her 40 clients live at a range of rural centres including Peterborough, Wirrabara, Snowtown, Clare, Kadina, Yorketown and Warooka. Many are socially isolated with no car or telephone.

The Community Support Program helps people who are facing personal barriers, including problems related to drugs, alcohol, mental illness or having a criminal record. "I help people gain self-confidence, access to training opportunities and other community services and, hopefully, employment," she said.

Ann is contracted to work with each person for two years. "In rural areas, where staff change so frequently, it is a real bonus to have that continuity. While I will only see people once a month, I try to phone or write letters in between. Of course, if they have literacy problems or aren't on the phone that can be difficult. It's really rewarding to see people's lives changed."



Nurturing young Aboriginal people in their faith is just one of the aims of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress. In January 2001, nine young people and five leaders from Congress attended the National Christian Youth Convention (NCYC) in Brisbane. "Being with so many other Christians was a top experience," 20 year-old Bruce Carter (pictured) said. "The slogan for the convention was 'Now is the time' — and that's so true. We have to make the most of our lives," he said. "I was encouraged to be who I am and not to hide that I am a Christian. The fact that people wanted to listen to my story — well, that blew me away!"

A young delegate from Papua New Guinea made a big impact on Bruce.

"It was great to exchange cultures and share language. He made me realise how lucky we are in this country. Over here people get down over nothing — perhaps because they are late because they got a flat tyre — but that's nothing compared to being shot at or going down to the shop and not coming back.

"NCYC helped me to understand that being black isn't a problem in this country. We've got to move as one, to respect each other, and get on with it."

Education: A real buzz around the synod

More members of the Uniting Church are doing courses at Parkin-Wesley than ever before, according to principal, Rev Dr Andrew Dutney. "Most people are just doing one course, or a couple of courses," he said. "Some are doing whole programs. Individual members of the church are making a real effort to foster their education and development for the ministry. What strikes me is their enthusiasm. It's impressive stuff."

Some congregations, both large and small, are sponsoring seminars and workshops. "It's a real trend," Andrew said. "And as well as all this, more ministers are enrolled in post-graduate courses than ever before.

There's been a strong response to the Master of Ministry program. And ministers are developing some very interesting projects that are closely related to their ministry.

"So there's a real buzz around the synod, with people finding courses or research projects or study programs to help them with their ministry.

"This isn't anything to be complacent about. It's the start of something that we need to build on." Andrew said this must have positive effects on the life of the church. "And it becomes even more important as we rely more and more on lay ministry," he said.

Community Services Commission

Every day of the year, our chaplains and agencies make a difference in the lives of South Australians.

In addition to the outreach services provided by congregations, the Uniting Church has 10 community agencies:

Aged Care:	Clayton Homes	Eldercare
	Helping Hand	Resthaven
Hospital:	St Andrews	
Missions:	Adelaide Central	Hackney
	Port Adelaide	UnitingCare Port Pirie
	Wesley Uniting	

Highlights of 2001

- In South Australia, our community services had a combined budget of well over \$300 million.
- A number of new chaplains began during 2001 including:
 - Rev Trevor Whitney — Disability Ministries Chaplain. His work is centred at Minda Home at Brighton.
 - Peter Riggs — Youth Minister, Prince Alfred College. Peter also coordinates the tertiary ministry network.
 - Gayle McClimont — Helping Hand Aged Care.
- The Post Disaster Ministry team were involved in helping in a number of crisis situations including the fires near Port Lincoln and the Whyalla plane crash.

Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress

The Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) shares the gospel story and gives practical support to Aboriginal people and others in South Australia.

Highlights of 2001

2001 was a difficult and challenging year for the Congress, but there were a number of highlights:

- Pastor Norm Baxter and Kingsley A'Hang retired from the staff after many years of significant leadership in the UAICC.
- Pastor Ken Sumner continued to have a significant funeral ministry — at one point leading or attending 17 funerals in just 18 weeks.
- Rev Murray Muirhead was appointed to the Mobile Aboriginal Patrol, a vital ministry to isolated communities in South Australia.
- Mrs Denise Champion and others continued pastoral care work and preparations for a full-time Minister in Pt Augusta.

Educational Ministries Commission

The Uniting Church is committed to providing:

- theological education for lay people and candidates for ministry;
- continuing education for our ministers; and
- quality education for children and young adults.

Highlights of 2001

- 5,183 students in our seven primary and secondary schools.
- 248 tertiary students boarding at Lincoln College.
- 241 students at Parkin-Wesley College, including 25 Candidates for Ministry.



Andrew Dutney, right, with Parkin-Wesley student, David Wallace

Financial Report

Each week through your offering, you contribute directly to the wider mission and ministry of the Uniting Church.

Many of the stories shared in this Annual Report are possible because your congregation gives to the Mission and Service Fund.

The Mission and Service Fund is exactly what its name suggests — a fund which supports the mission and service activities of the Uniting Church.

Your generosity has touched the lives of thousands of South Australians. Thank you.

How much do we spend?

In 2001, the Uniting Church (Synod of SA) had a \$4.3 million budget.

This figure does not include the additional expenditure of our 370 congregations. Nor does it include the budgets of our agencies (eg aged care services, missions and schools).

Where does the money come from?

Our income comes from three main sources:

- Contributions from congregations
Congregations donated \$1.2 million in 2001.
- Income from other sources
The Synod also generates income from investments, bequests and grants from Uniting Church bodies. In 2001, the total raised was \$1.9 million.
- Income raised by Synod Bodies (Commissions etc)
The Synod relies on income from various sources to supplement income from the Mission and Service Fund. For example: the Secretariat generates income from the sale of advertising in *New Times*; Parkin-Wesley College raises revenue through course fees and grants from Flinders University; some of our chaplains receive funding from the institutions who employ them.

Where does the money go?

The Mission and Service Fund gives us the opportunity to support God's work outside the bounds of our local congregation.

The Income and Expenditure chart is a numerical summary of the Uniting Church's activities in 2001. The real story is not about numbers... it is about local ministry that has been nurtured... mission activities undertaken... and lives changed by sharing the message of Christ.

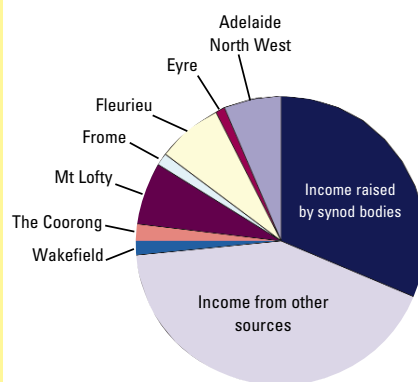
RYM (Riverland Youth Ministries, pronounced "rhyme") is an ecumenical venture based in the Uniting Church facilities at Berri. It coordinates youth activities, leadership training and school chaplaincy. Rev Kevin Hull (Baptist) is one of the school chaplains at Berri. He is pictured here with Olivia, Lauren, and Lachlan Sully and Callum Trifonoff. Lachlan, 9, said of Kevin: "He has a calming effect at school. He helps makes us feel safe and secure. He solves problems without punishing people."

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

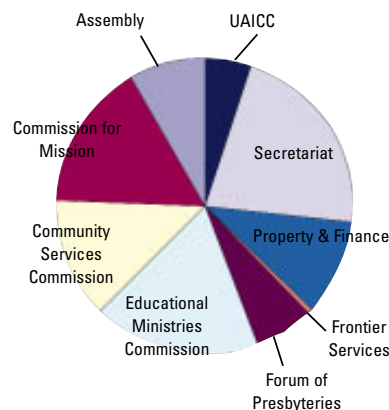
INCOME	2001
Mission and Service Fund - Contributions from congregations	
Adelaide North West	283,421
Eyre	48,396
Fleurieu	332,956
Frome	64,271
Mt Lofty	310,275
The Coorong	78,523
Wakefield	82,471
	1,200,313
Income from other sources	
Epworth Building	142,000
Institutional Levies	76,763
Investments, donations and sundry income	579,886
Parkin Mission	480,000
Uniting Church Insurance Agency	320,000
Uniting Church Investment Fund	280,000
	1,878,649
Income raised by Synod bodies	
Commission for Mission	132,850
Community Services Commission	203,105
Educational Ministries Commission	529,018
Forum of Presbyteries	342
Property and Finance	182,712
Secretariat	291,687
Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC)	76,302
	1,416,016
TOTAL INCOME	4,494,978
EXPENDITURE	
Assembly	350,000
Commission for Mission	694,400
Community Services Commission	552,903
Educational Ministries Commission	779,117
Forum of Presbyteries	272,870
Frontier Services grant	20,000
Property & Finance	452,349
Secretariat	926,921
Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC)	209,599
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	(4,258,159)
OPERATING SURPLUS	236,819

NOTE: This financial report is a summary only. Detailed audited reports are available upon request.

INCOME



EXPENDITURE



Churches combine for youth work

