



## UCSA Relief Fund Report

The Uniting Church SA Relief Fund exists to receive donations toward supporting people who are experiencing “financial hardship, poverty, marginalisation or exclusion from the community, suffering or distress”. Also to “assist persons with physical, social intellectual and mental health related disabilities or drug and alcohol dependency.” (These quotations are from the rules of the fund.)

There are funds available that relate to Prison Ministry, Mental Health Chaplaincy, Bushfire Relief and Refugees.

When I reported in 2019 I wrote “We have had another year where we have not had to draw funds from the Bushfire Fund, for which we are grateful”. Clearly the last months of 2019 and the beginning of 2020 were a different story. We supported an experienced minister to work with other ministers, leaders and congregations for an initial period on the Southern Yorke Peninsula, the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island. We have continued other support in both the hills and Kangaroo Island since. All these areas will continue to need support for recovery for some time yet.

Our previous Correctional Services Chaplain resigned in 2020. We postponed appointing a new chaplain because of the lockdown of the prisons during Covid 19. We are pleased to note that a new chaplain has been appointed to this ministry.

One of the goals for the first part of 2021 will be clarifying processes for applying for support from the Relief Fund and creating the structure and resources to undergird that. It is great to be able to oversee this fund to ensure that money is raised and used to strengthen the life and witness of the church.

**Rev Philip Gardner**  
Chairperson