



Privacy Policy

The Uniting Church in Australia, Western Australia (“**the Church**”) and its various congregations and bodies including Agencies, Committees and Commissions and working groups (“**we**”, “**us**”, “**our**”) recognise the importance of protecting the privacy and the rights of individuals in relation to their personal information. This document is our privacy policy and it tells you how we collect and manage both personal information collected from the website and by the officers of the Church and its various congregations and bodies as part of carrying out of operations, activities and the provision of services. We respect your rights to privacy under the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) (“**the Act**”) and we comply with all of the Act’s requirements in respect of the collection, management and disclosure of your personal information.

The Uniting Church in Australia is a national body, the Assembly, and six Synods which are the regional councils (largely geographically based on State boundaries). Each Synod is responsible for producing its own privacy policy in accordance with the Act.

1. What is your personal information?

When used in this privacy policy, the term “personal information” has the meaning given to it in the Act. In general terms, it is any information that can be used to personally identify you. This may include your name, address, telephone number, email address and profession or occupation. If the information we collect personally identifies you, or you are reasonably identifiable from it, the information will be considered personal information.

2. What personal information do we collect and hold?

We may collect the following types of personal information:

- name;
- mailing or street address;
- email address;
- telephone number;
- facsimile number;
- age or birth date;
- profession, occupation or job title;
- details of the services that we have provided to you or which you have enquired about, together with any additional information necessary to deliver those services and respond to your enquiries;
- any additional information relating to you that you provide to us directly through our websites or indirectly through use of our websites or online presence, through our representatives or otherwise;
- information you provide to us through our activities and services, surveys or visits by our representatives from time to time.

We may also collect some information that is not personal information because it does not identify you or anyone else. For example, we may collect anonymous answers to surveys or aggregated information about how users use our website.

We may also collect health information with your consent and where it is reasonably necessary for one or more of our functions or activities.

3. How do we collect your personal information?

We collect your personal information directly from you unless it is unreasonable or impracticable to do so. When collecting personal information from you, we may collect it in a variety of ways including:

- through your access and use of our website;
- during conversations and via correspondence between you and our representatives;
- when you complete an application or purchase order;
- when you register for our conferences or events and when you participate in UCA WA or Church activities;
- when you complete our forms for the provision of services or to volunteer your services and assistance to the UCA WA or its various bodies and congregations; or
- when you complete a survey or make a donation

We may also collect personal information from third parties including from third party companies such as credit reporting agencies, law enforcement agencies and other government entities and specialist agencies that assist us in achieving our objectives. This collection of information from third parties would occur in circumstances such as during recruitment when conducting a criminal record check or when verifying a Working with Children Check.

4. Anonymity

We will generally provide individuals with the option of not identifying themselves when contacting us or participating in activities or obtaining services or assistance from us unless we are authorised by law not to do so or it is impracticable for us to deal with individuals who have not identified themselves or have used a pseudonym (in such circumstances we will only obtain as much personal information as is necessary to provide you with the service or assistance you require). If we do not have your personal information then we may be limited in our ability to provide you with the services or assistance or advise you of information relating to our operations and the activities we carry out.

5. Cookies

In some cases we may also collect your personal information through the use of cookies. When you access our website, we may send a 'cookie' (which is a small summary text file containing a unique ID number) to your computer. This enables us to recognise your computer and greet you each time you visit our website without bothering you with a request to register. It also enables us to keep track of services and products you view so that, if you consent, we can send you news about those services and products.

In some cases we may use Google Analytics to measure traffic patterns to determine which areas of our website have been visited and to measure transactions patterns in the aggregate. We use this to research our user's habits so that we can improve our online presence, information and services. Our cookies do not collect personal information. If you do not wish to receive cookies, you can set your browser so that your computer does not accept them. Our use of Google Analytics will not involve the collection of personal information.

We may log IP addresses (that is, the electronic addresses of computers connected to the internet) to analyse trends, administer our website, track users movements, and gather broad demographic information and for security reasons. The logging of IP addresses are not used for identifying users.

6. What happens if we can't collect your personal information?

If you do not provide us with the personal information described above, some or all of the following may happen:

- we may not be able to provide the requested activities or services to you, either to the same standard or at all;
- we may not be able to provide you with information about activities and services that you may want;
- we may be unable to tailor the content of our websites to your preferences and your experience of our websites may not be as enjoyable or useful; or
- we may not be able to contact you in relation to the various activities we undertake and services we provide.

7. For what purposes do we collect, hold, use and disclose your personal information?

We collect personal information about you so that we can perform our activities and functions and to provide best possible quality of service.

We collect, hold, use and disclose your personal information for the following purposes:

- to provide services to you and to send communications requested by you;
- to arrange the various activities of UCA WA;
- to answer enquiries and provide information or advice about existing and new services;
- to provide you with access to protected areas of our website;
- to assess the performance of our website and to improve the operation of our website;
- to conduct service processing functions, which may include providing personal information to our various bodies, contractors, service providers or other third parties;
- for the administrative, marketing (including direct marketing), planning, product or service development, quality control and research purposes of the UCA WA, its various bodies, contractors or service providers;
- to update your personal information held by our related bodies, contractors or service providers;
- to update our records and keep your contact details up to date;
- to establish and maintain your involvement with UCA WA and the Church;
- to answer your enquiries;
- to register you for events, conferences and activities;
- for direct promotion of services and to keep you informed of new developments we believe may be of interest to you. If we contact you in this way without obtaining your prior consent, we will provide you with the opportunity to decline any further promotional communications;
- to third parties where we have retained those third parties to assist us to operate the Church and provide the services you have requested, such as religious education instructors, catering and event coordinators, promotions companies, transport providers, health care providers, website hosts and IT consultants, and our professional advisers such as consultants, lawyers and accountants. In some circumstances we may need to disclose sensitive information about you to third parties as part of the services you have requested;
- to different parts of the Church to enable the development and promotion of other activities and services and to improve our general ability to assist Church attendees and the wider community;
- to process and respond to any complaint made by you;
- to track clients' use of any services we offer; and
- to comply with any law, rule, regulation, lawful and binding determination, decision or direction of a regulator, or in co-operation with any governmental authority of any country (or political sub-division of a country).

Your personal information will not be shared, sold, rented or disclosed other than as described in this Privacy Policy.

8. To whom may we disclose your information?

We may disclose your personal information to:

- our employees, the various UCA WA and/or Church bodies, contractors or service providers for the purposes of operation of our website or our operations, fulfilling requests by you, and to otherwise provide services to you including, without limitation, web hosting providers, IT systems administrators, mailing houses, couriers, payment processors, data entry service providers, electronic network administrators, debt collectors, and professional advisors such as accountants, solicitors, business advisors and consultants;
- suppliers and other third parties with whom we have commercial relationships, for operations, marketing, and related purposes;
- any organisation for any authorised purpose with your express consent; and
- theological students studying the Uniting Church in Australia or Christian studies.

We may combine or share any information that we collect from you with information collected by any of our various bodies (within Australia).

9. Direct marketing materials

We may send you direct marketing communications and information about our activities and services that we consider may be of interest to you. These communications may be sent in various forms, including mail, SMS, fax and email, in accordance with applicable marketing laws, such as the *Spam Act 2003* (Cth). If you indicate a preference for a method of communication, we will endeavor to use that method whenever practical to do so. In addition, at any time you may opt-out of receiving marketing communications from us by contacting us (see the details below) or by using opt-out facilities provided in the marketing communications and we will then endeavor to ensure that your name is removed from our mailing list.

We do not provide your personal information to other organisations for the purposes of direct marketing.

10. Use of Commonwealth Government identifiers

We will not use Commonwealth government identifiers, such as Medicare numbers or your drivers' licence numbers, as its own identifier of individuals. We will only use or disclose such identifiers in the circumstances permitted by the Act.

11. How can you access and correct your personal information?

You may request access to any personal information we hold about you at any time by contacting us (see the details below). Where we hold information that you are entitled to access, we will try to provide you with suitable means of accessing it (for example, by mailing or emailing it to you). We may charge you a fee to cover our administrative and other reasonable costs (eg photocopying, faxing, etc) in providing the information to you and, if so, we may charge a reasonable fee for providing access. An administrative fee may be applied for pages scanned or photocopied where the total amount of pages requested is above 10 pages. Currently the charge will be \$0.20 per page photocopied or scanned. We will not charge for simply making the request and will not charge for making any corrections to your personal information. Depending on the nature of the request, we may ask you to verify your identity or to put your request in writing.

There may be instances where we cannot grant you access to the personal information we hold. For example, we may need to refuse access if granting access would interfere with the privacy of others or if it would result in a breach of confidentiality. If that happens, we will give you written reasons for any refusal.

If you believe that personal information we hold about you is incorrect, incomplete or inaccurate, then you may request us to amend it by contacting us via the contact details below. We will consider if the information requires amendment. If we do not agree that there are grounds for amendment then we will add a note to the personal information stating that you disagree with it.

12. What is the process for complaining about a breach of privacy?

If you believe that your privacy has been breached or you are not happy with the way your personal information has been handled by us, please contact our Privacy Officer using the contact information below and provide details of the incident (preferably in writing) so that we can investigate it.

We will attempt to confirm as appropriate with you your understanding of the conduct relevant to the complaint and what you expect as an outcome. We will inform you whether we will conduct an investigation, the name, title, and contact details of the investigating officer and the estimated completion date for the investigation process.

After we have completed our enquiries, we will contact you, usually in writing, to advise the outcome and invite a response to our conclusions about the complaint. If we receive a response from you, we will assess it and advise if we have changed our view. If you are unsatisfied with the outcome, we will advise you about further options including, if appropriate, review by the Privacy Commissioner within the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner.

13. Do we disclose your personal information to anyone outside Australia?

We do not disclose personal information to overseas recipients, except with your consent.

Your personal information will be disclosed to overseas recipients where necessary in the course of some processes, such as during the recruitment of volunteers for overseas placements. This will only occur where the applicant has consented by signing a document which explains this process.

The countries in which these recipients may be located will vary with the circumstances of the volunteer placement and application and may include but not limited to: India, Sri Lanka, China, Thailand, Taiwan, Philippines, PNG, Indonesia, Timor Leste, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Nauru, Samoa, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Fiji, Tonga, Niue, Cook Islands, New Caledonia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa or South Sudan.

Your consent does not in any way lessen our commitment and measures that we take to protect and secure your personal and sensitive information. However, you understand that by giving us this consent, Australian Privacy Principle 8.1 does not apply and we will not be accountable for any breaches of the Australian Privacy Principles (“**APPs**”). You will not be able to seek redress from us under the Act if the overseas recipient handles information in breach of the APPs. You may also not be able to seek redress in the overseas jurisdiction.

14. Security

We take reasonable steps to ensure your personal information is protected from misuse and loss and from unauthorised access, modification or disclosure. We may hold your information in either electronic or hard copy form. Personal information is destroyed or de-identified when no longer needed.

As our website is linked to the internet, and the internet is inherently insecure, we cannot provide any assurance regarding the security of transmission of information you communicate to us online. We also cannot guarantee that the information you supply will not be intercepted while being transmitted over

the internet. Accordingly, any personal information or other information which you transmit to us online is transmitted at your own risk.

15. Links

Our website may contain links to other websites operated by third parties. We make no representations or warranties in relation to the privacy practices of any third party website and we are not responsible for the privacy policies or the content of any third party website. Third party websites are responsible for informing you about their own privacy practices.

16. Contacting us

If you have any questions about this privacy policy, any concerns or a complaint regarding the treatment of your privacy or a possible breach of your privacy, please use the contact link on our website or contact our Synod Privacy Officer using the details set out below. We will treat your requests or complaints confidentially. Our representative will contact you within a reasonable time after receipt of your complaint to discuss your concerns and outline options regarding how they may be resolved. We will aim to ensure that your complaint is resolved in a timely and appropriate manner.

Please contact our Privacy Officer at:

Synod Privacy Officer
Uniting Church WA
85-89 Edward Street, Perth, WA, 6000
Tel: (08) 9260 9805
[Email: UCAWAPrivacyOfficer@wa.uca.org.au](mailto:UCAWAPrivacyOfficer@wa.uca.org.au)
By mail: GPO Box M952, Perth, WA 6843

17. Changes to our privacy policy

We may change this privacy policy from time to time. Any updated versions of this privacy policy will be posted on our website.

18. Privacy Statement

Personal information held by the WA Synod will not be released to any person outside of the Uniting Church in Australia unless the Synod is required to do so by law. All reasonable precautions are taken to ensure personal information collected and used is updated, accurate, complete and stored securely.

Version Control

Version #	Developed By	Approved By	Date	Review Date
1	WA Synod	Synod Standing Committee	12 June 2022	12 June 2022