

## KEY SPEAKERS



**Rev Dr Andy Calder**  
**Disability Inclusion Advocate**  
**Uniting Church in Australia,**  
**Synod of Victoria and**  
**Tasmania**

Andy has previously held roles as chaplain at Prahran Mission, and senior chaplain at Epworth HealthCare, Richmond.

Prior to ordination in 1995 as a Uniting Church Deacon, Andy worked in a range of community and government contexts in program delivery, policy development and advocacy with people with disabilities.

Andy is committed to ensuring people with disabilities are full and equal participants in all activities of the Synod.

Andy is also Director of Uniting CPE – the John Paver Centre, a Clinical Pastoral Education provider.



**Emma Kealy**  
**Shadow Minister for Mental**  
**Health**

Emma Kealy is the Member for Lowan in western Victoria, holding portfolios in the Opposition Shadow ministry for Women, for the Prevention of Family Violence, and Mental Health.

With a degree in Biomedical Science, Emma's career before State Parliament saw her work at health services across regional Victoria's western district and interstate. She held roles at senior levels in the local health sector including Western District Health Service in Hamilton and as the CEO of the Edenhope and District Memorial Hospital where she proudly led a team of people implementing initiatives that delivered better health outcomes for country people in rural and remote communities.

Emma's passion for shaping a better future for the regional communities she grew up in saw her stand for Victorian Parliament in 2014.

**UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA,**  
**SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA**

**Centre for Theology & Ministry**

**29 College Cres, Parkville, Victoria, 3052**

**Telephone: 9340 8800**

**General email: [info@ctm.uca.edu.au](mailto:info@ctm.uca.edu.au)**

**[www.victas.uca.org.au](http://www.victas.uca.org.au)**

SCAN TO REGISTER ONLINE



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2022**

# WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE:

**A Conference for Churches responding  
to people with disabilities and mental  
health challenges.**



**Uniting Church in Australia**  
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA



**Victorian**  
Council of Churches



**When** Saturday 8 October 2022, 9:15 am – 5 pm

**Where** Centre for Theology and Ministry,  
29 College Crescent, Parkville or Online

**Cost** \$40 for Metropolitan participants/  
\$25 concession and non-Metropolitan  
participants/ \$10 online participants.  
Catering provided

Both Federal and Victorian Governments have been part of significant reforms in relation to mental health and disability. Most significant has been the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. However, despite these reforms, too many people with disabilities and mental health needs still face abuse, neglect, exploitation and discrimination. These issues have been highlighted by numerous Parliamentary inquiries and the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.

Theological response to people with disabilities and mental health challenges have also shifted, becoming more aware of the impact of our theology and language on Christian perspectives and responses to disability. Many churches have also made efforts to be welcoming and inclusive. At the same time, people with disabilities and mental health challenges still struggle to find churches that make them feel welcome and fully included.

The conference will provide opportunities to explore the ways in which churches can be part of advocacy for further reforms by governments. Together we will also explore how congregations can be more welcoming and inclusive of people with disabilities and mental health challenges.

## Online registration

Go to <https://events.humanitix.com/mental-health-and-disabilities-conference>

Please register by **Tuesday 27 September**.

If you have particular access needs or need assistance to register contact:

**Alicia Torres**  
Centre for Theology and Ministry  
29 College Crescent,  
Parkville, Vic, 3052  
**P** (03) 9340 8815  
**E** [Alicia.Torres@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:Alicia.Torres@victas.uca.org.au)



## PROGRAM

**9 am**

### Gathering & Registration.

Tea and coffee will be provided on arrival

**9:15 am**

### Introduction.

Acknowledgement of country and opening reflection

**9:30 am**

### Keynote address.

Theological reflection on disability and mental health  
– Rev Dr Andy Calder

**10:30 am**

### Morning Tea

**11 am**

### Keynote Address

Ms Emma Kealy, Shadow Minister for Mental Health

**11:30 am**

### Panel Session

What reforms are needed from governments to ensure people with disabilities and mental health challenges can lead flourishing lives?

**12:30 pm**

### Lunch

**1:15 pm**

### Panel Session

What role should the Christian community be playing to welcome and include people with disabilities and mental health challenges?

**2:15 pm**

### Workshops

**3:15 pm**

### Afternoon tea

**3:45 pm**

### Reflection

Discussion on where to next and what participants will do as a result of the conference

**4:45 pm**

### Closing worship

**5 pm**

### Finish

After conference drinks and nibbles

## WORKSHOP OPTIONS

Please list your **top three workshop options** when registering online. Workshops will be run based on the number of participants, and will not run if not enough participants register interest. Each workshop will aim to look for a specific way forward in each area.

The workshop options are:

**1** Designing a protective systems that works for people with disabilities and mental health challenges

**2** What would it take to provide a society where people with disabilities and mental health challenges can flourish?

**3** Rethinking our theology on disability and mental health

**4** How can congregations be more inclusive and welcoming of people with disabilities and mental health challenges? – Including examples of congregations that have created welcoming environments

**5** Down to Ten Days Campaign – addressing housing needs for people with disabilities - Dr Di Winkler, CEO, The Summer Foundation

**6** Responding to mental health challenges in the criminal justice system

