



That the Synod:

1. Acknowledges, in relation to the closure of the Blue Care residential aged care facility known as Winston House in Gympie:
 - a) the sense of marginalization and disassociation felt by the Gympie Congregation and Minister, and
 - b) the Presbytery's severe disapproval of, and outrage in, the processes engaged in the communication of such closure by Blue Care and the Uniting Care Queensland Board.
2. Urges the Synod, through the Moderator and General Secretary, to ensure that the UCQ Board, and its Executive Officers enter into open, transparent, compassionate and honest consultation at the local level (at least the Presbytery Minister and the Minister / Congregation) prior to any decision being promulgated, particularly where significant pastoral concerns are likely to be raised.

BlueCare Processes

The scope of Proposal

This proposal centres on the communication between the various Councils of the Church and its Agencies. Appropriate and effective local communication and consultation (two of Blue Care's stated goals) were non-existent in the case in question and are seen as critical at all times - particularly and especially when decisions made by any Council / Agency are likely to incur substantial pastoral issues for a local congregation.

Rationale

The March meeting of the Presbytery heard of the anger within many across the Gympie Congregation, other churches in Gympie and the community at large following the UCQ Board decision to close Winston House. Winston House is a Blue Care residential facility of long-standing in Gympie. Of particular concern was the lack of local consultation, the lack of due process in the closure procedure, and the lack of living up to Blue Care's own stated values. Unfortunately, we are also aware of significant pastoral pain caused in other areas for similar reasons.

It needs to be said that this proposal in no way focuses on the outcome – ie the actual closure of Winston House and the subsequent relocation of some 52 residents to 'other' services. This proposal is aimed at the lack of due process and communication / consultation at the local level prior to any announcement, which had it have happened may well have seen a number of other options become available.

The proposal conveys our disappointment and calls the Board and its officers to account and reminds them who it is they are serving when decisions are made.

Proposers

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