

Bush Chaplaincy Bottle Tree.

The Uniting Church and Frontier Services are seeking a Ministry Agent to minister across Roma, Mungallala, Injune, Taroom, Wandoan, Tara, Surat, Dunkeld, while at based at Roma with country hospitality, Big Rig Oil and bottle trees. A Bush Chaplain is tasked with caring for and nurturing local communities and individuals within their region. The Downs Presbytery in partnership with Frontier Services is looking for someone to provide practical, pastoral and spiritual care to those who live and work within remote Australia, through worship, mission and service of the Uniting Church.

We are looking for a Minister with a passion to live and work in a rural area, who is able to work in an ecumenical community, able to work alongside all people, able to build healthy pastoral relationships, as they lead worship, preaching and celebration of the sacraments, while caring for members of our community and witnessing in practical ways within the community of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Please submit an expression of interest to the Secretary of Placements Committee [placements@ucagld.com.au](mailto:placements@ucagld.com.au)

For any further information please email Rev John Case at [chair@downspresbytery.org.au](mailto:chair@downspresbytery.org.au)

You can find the **Position Description** below.



# Placement Description

<b>Placement Title:</b>	Bush Chaplain – Bottle Tree Remote Area Ministry
<b>Service Area:</b>	Remote Area Ministry (RAM), including, but not limited to, Mungallala, Injune, Taroom, Wandoan, Tara, Surat, Dunkeld, St George, Mitchell
<b>Placement Status:</b>	Full Time
<b>Location:</b>	Based in Roma, Queensland
<b>Stipend Details:</b>	Refer to the Ministry Agent Payments Notice on the <a href="#">Queensland Synod website</a> , updated 1 <sup>st</sup> July each year
<b>Next Review Date:</b>	Position available from January 2026, it is a 3-year placement with review after one year

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## The Church:

The Uniting Church in Australia (the Church) is a large uniquely Australian Christian denomination in Australia with heritage from historical reformed evangelical denominations. In Queensland, the Uniting Church has around 250 congregations and has schools, colleges and large community services (such as UnitingCare Queensland and Wesley Mission Queensland).

The Uniting Church is multicultural, committed to reconciliation with first peoples, calls for reconciliation across its communities and aims to use its people and property resources wisely and in the furtherance of God's mission in the world.

Within the ministry of the whole Church, Jesus Christ calls men and women to proclamation of the gospel in word and deed through a call to ministry. This calling is exercised by preaching and presiding at the celebration of the sacraments and witnessing in the community of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Presbytery of The Downs is a geographical area of the Uniting Church in Queensland which encompasses South West regional towns from Crows Nest in the North, Toowoomba, the Granite Belt, Warwick, Roma, Charleville, Cunnamulla and Birdsville and all the small rural towns along the way. The Presbytery exercises oversight of congregations, ministry agents (lay and ordained), people who offer spiritual and pastoral care to their local communities. We work closely with Frontier Services to provide practical, pastoral and spiritual support in rural and remote Queensland.

This position is funded by Frontier Services. Frontier Services is an agency of the Uniting Church in Australia called to offer service and ministry in the name of Christ to the people of remote Australia through compassionate care, justice, and nurture of the spirit. Frontier Services' vision is that all people in remote areas of Australia are connected to the support and services they need and able to lead fulfilled lives.

Frontier Services has two programs:

**Bush Chaplaincy:** A network of Chaplains across Australia who provide practical, pastoral and spiritual care to people in need.

**Outback Links:** A volunteer program that connects people in the bush who are in need with volunteers willing to travel and lend a listening ear and a helping hand.

### **Placement Purpose:**

A Bush Chaplain is placed in specific geographic locations across rural and remote Australia, tasked with caring for and nurturing local communities and individuals within their region. . A Bush Chaplain does this by providing practical, pastoral, and spiritual care to those who live and work within remote Australia. This position is funded by Frontier Services and overseen by the Presbytery of The Downs.

### **Key Responsibilities:**

1. Provide within a broad ecumenical context the support and challenges of pastoral care for people in your remote area.
2. Gather the people of your remote area at appropriate times and places to celebrate, mourn and express their communal life, to discover God's Word and to celebrate the Sacraments as part of Worship.
3. Model, encourage and generate reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people within your remote area, finding ways to work intentionally towards a "Shared Future".
4. Have an openness to facilitate appropriate resourcing of local Christian leadership in the region.
5. Find ways to proactively work in co-operation with other service providers within your remote area and actively refer people to other appropriate services for them.
6. Be an active part of the community in order to create resilience and build capacity.
7. It is a ministry which by its practice and theological understanding engages those who live and work in remote areas with the gospel of Jesus Christ, within their unique cultural contexts.
8. Work within the policies and procedures of the Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod including the policy, and the provisions of the Workplace Health and Safety and other relevant legislation including reporting hazards/incidents, support for injured workers and full participation in return to work plans.
9. Identify ways to connect the Outback Links volunteer program into the ministry.
10. Undertake other ministry duties as and when directed within the capabilities of the incumbent.

### **Reporting Relationships:**

This placement reports to:

- The Presbytery of The Downs for matters of faith and discipline
- Frontier Services National Office reporting to comply with Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) requirements

### **Placement Selection Criteria:**

1. Qualifications:
  - 1.1. Preference will be given to an ordained minister of the word or deacon in the Uniting Church in Australia; however, a Lay Person may be considered.
  - 1.2. Minimum Certificate level qualifications in a relevant field, with a preference for studies in theology, mission and pastoral care.
2. Experience and Skills:
  - 2.1. Self-starters, capable of planning, initiating and developing their work without close supervision.
  - 2.2. Capable of sustaining themselves beyond the normal structural supports for ministry found in congregational ministry.
  - 2.3. Able to reflect biblically and theologically within the rural and remote context.
  - 2.4. Good listeners who can help others to reflect upon the issues impacting on their lives.
  - 2.5. Able to see themselves as part of a wider team and make appropriate referrals.

- 2.6. As far as practical, work collegially with other ministers and staff of Frontier Services.
- 2.7. Able to take a stance in divided communities that will further both justice and reconciliation.
- 2.8. Be open to understanding and working with the context of the local culture as far as possible.
- 2.9. Work alongside Aboriginal people appropriately.
- 2.10. Work with other mainline denominations in a manner that enhances the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- 2.11. Service: personable with a commitment to building strong relationships with key stakeholders/customers across the Church and its agencies, boards and committees of the Synod.
- 2.12. Responsibility: demonstrated attention to detail, timeliness, analytical and focussed on outcomes.
- 2.13. Respect: demonstrated ability to clearly communicate orally and in writing with others and manage competing views.
- 2.14. Integrity: demonstrated ability to act with impartiality and honesty.
- 2.15. Commitment to working within the purpose and values of the Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod and adhering to the policies, organisational requirements and processes.

**Additional Requirements:**

- Current Divers Licence
- Produce evidence of having completed a basic 4WD driver's course.
- Working with Children Clearance Card (BCB - Blue Card) - All adults who work with people under 18 years in QLD in regulated employment are required to undergo a "Working with Children Check" under the screening provisions of the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act. While not in an employment relationship, for the purposes of legislative compliance, presentation of a current Suitability Card must be made before the placement can be confirmed.
- National Criminal History Check to be provided and assessed every 3 years. Presentation of a current National Criminal History Check must be made before appointment to the position can be confirmed.
- This position is for the exercise of the duties of ordained ministry of the Uniting Church in Australia. Preference will in the first case be given to appropriately qualified Ministers of the Word or Deacons. A lay person may be appointed to the role subject to successful completion of [core competency](#) requirements for the ministry of pastor in the Uniting Church in Australia. The successful applicant will be required to comply with the [Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice](#), and access regular professional supervision.
- This is an approved placement of the Uniting Church in Australia and the ministerial stipend and allowance provisions will apply.
- Occasional attendance at events outside of the regional area for purposes of reporting and sharing good news stories. Attendance at the Annual Bush Chaplains Conference and Ministry Agents Retreat, Presbytery and Synod meetings.
- The successful applicant must be eligible to legally work in Australia. Proof of eligibility may be requested.

**Authorised by:**

*Tanya Richards*

Signature

Rev Tanya Richards

Chair of Pastoral Relations Committee

Date: 05/08/2025