



# QDCN Disaster Chaplaincy - UCA Qld Ministers and Pastors

The Uniting Church in Australia Queensland (UCA Qld) takes its commitment to pastoral and spiritual care seriously, especially in times of disaster and crisis events. One approach to this commitment is UCA Qld's active support of UCA Qld Ministers and Pastors in obtaining disaster chaplaincy certification and supporting opportunities for deployment facilitated through the Queensland Disaster Chaplaincy Network (QDCN).

## Purpose

To articulate UCA Qld's commitment to the QDCN and its support for accreditation, certification, and deployment opportunities for UCA Qld Ministers and Pastors to be deployed as disaster chaplains within government disaster recovery services.

## Scope

This policy applies to:

- all ministry agents in placement engaged in ministry and related activities of the Uniting Church in Australia within the bounds of the Queensland Synod, Trinity College Queensland, and the other service agencies across the Church; and
- seeking deployment opportunities as disaster chaplains within government disaster recovery services.

Compliance is achieved through adherence to the principles of this policy and relevant regulations and by-laws.

## Policy

### 1. About QDCN

The QDCN is an ecumenical body and is the preferred provider for Chaplaincy Services as part of the Disaster Recovery: Human and Social Services Unit with the Queensland State Government, Department of Communities, Community Recovery. It has also established formal relationships with several Queensland Local Government Areas (Councils) to support communities during the immediate evacuation phase of disasters.

### 2. UCA Qld relationship with QDCN

As an active committee member of the QDCN, the UCA Qld recognises, supports, and actively promotes UCA Qld Ministers and Pastors in the role of providing holistic, person-centred, and person-led pastoral and spiritual care in communities and centres affected by disaster and crisis events.

### 3. Training and Deployment Opportunities

Through training and deployment opportunities conducted in conjunction with the QDCN, UCA Qld ensures that its Ministers and Pastors are prepared to respond compassionately and effectively during times of disaster and crisis events. This effort not only enhances the capability of UCA Qld's spiritual leaders but also strengthens community resilience in the face of adversity.

### 4. QDCN Oversight

The QDCN committee is made up of representatives from various denominations which includes The Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod and is a member of the Australian Volunteer Emergency



Chaplaincy Alliance (AVECA) who provides oversight, guidelines, and standards under which disaster chaplaincy agencies need to operate.

Whilst on deployment, chaplains receive disaster recovery oversight from QDCN for day-to-day practical matters whilst concurrently continuing as UCA Qld Ministry Agents; retaining their reporting relationships with UCA Qld.

## 5. QDCN Certification

The QDCN has established formal arrangements for disaster recovery chaplain deployments with government departments. To meet QDCN obligations under these arrangements, certification requirements have been agreed to and need to be met for all government contracted deployments.

### 5.1. Certification Requirements

Ministers and Pastors seeking QDCN disaster recovery chaplain certification require:

5.1.1. Evidence of UCA Qld accreditation as approved by the Associate General Secretary which includes:

5.1.1.1. experience as a Minister or Pastor and completion of a Pastoral Care unit or equivalent,

5.1.1.2. having a calling to walk alongside those impacted by disasters and crisis events, and

5.1.1.3. having a willingness and availability to undergo disaster chaplaincy training and be deployed into disaster areas or crisis events across Queensland,

5.1.2. Completion of mandatory QDCN training as required, and

5.1.3. Application to and its subsequent confirmation of certification by QDCN.

## Related documents

1. Disaster Recovery Framework – Supporting Presbyteries and Communities and associated documents
2. Moderator’s Disaster Relief Appeal – Donations & Grants Policy

## Definitions

Term	Meaning
Australian Volunteer Emergency Management Alliance (AVECA)	AVECA’s purpose is to connect the leaders of state and territory disaster recovery chaplaincy networks and connect with governments, ecumenical councils, and other groups to extend the work of disaster and emergency chaplaincy response in Australia.  It is the peak body and point of reference in relation to the commonwealth government, funding bodies and emergency volunteer forums. <a href="#">Australian Volunteer Emergency Chaplaincy Alliance – National Council of Churches in Australia</a>
Disaster	A <b>disaster</b> is a serious disruption in a community, caused by the impact of an event, that requires a significant coordinated response by the State and other entities to help the community recover from the disruption. <a href="#">Disaster Management Act 2003 - Queensland Legislation - Queensland Government</a>



Term	Meaning
Disaster Event	<p>An event means any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a cyclone, earthquake, flood, storm, storm tide, tornado, tsunami, volcanic eruption, or other natural happening</li><li>• an explosion or fire, a chemical, fuel or oil spill, or a gas leak</li><li>• an infestation, plague, or epidemic</li><li>• a failure or, or disruption to, an essential service or infrastructure</li><li>• an attack against the state</li><li>• another event similar to an event mentioned above</li><li>• an event may be natural or caused by human acts or omissions.</li></ul> <p><a href="#">Disaster Management Act 2003 - Queensland Legislation - Queensland Government</a></p>
Queensland Disaster Chaplaincy Network (QDCN)	<p>The QDCN was established in 2022 in response to the 2022 South-East Queensland flood event, recognizing the need for a coordinated chaplaincy response to disasters across Queensland. QDCN is an ecumenical network of chaplains dedicated to assisting individuals and communities in Queensland affected by disasters and crisis events.</p>
Queensland Synod	<p>Means the work and activities of the Uniting Church in Australia performed within the bounds of the Queensland Synod office including the Trinity College Queensland, Raymont Residential College, the Alexandra Park Conference Centre, Uniting Education and Learning, congregations, presbyteries, and service agencies of the Church.</p>

## Revisions

Document number					
Version	Approval date	Approved by	Effective date	Policy owner	Policy contact
V1.0	07.09.2025	Synod Standing Committee	23.11.2025	Assoc. General Secretary	Disaster Recovery Officer
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