



# GLEN WAVERLEY UNITING CHURCH

## CONGREGATIONAL OUTREACH PROJECTS

### 2024 RECOMMENDATIONS

Early in 2024, the newly formed Outreach and Social Justice Mission Group (formerly the Outreach Mission Group) was asked by Church Council to oversee the 2024 COP process and to appoint three members to become the COP Selection Panel.

Following five years of disruptions due to Covid, the COP procedures needed updating and the congregation needed to be encouraged to become involved in the process once again.

Applications for five eligible projects were received. These were thoroughly checked and further researched. Applicants were then offered the opportunity for discussions with the Selection Panel.

COP selections required careful comparison of the assessment criteria, projected outcomes, alignment to UC mission and ethos, long- and short-term benefits, numbers of people to benefit, the needs to be met and GWUC's connection with each project.

All five projects were considered worthy and deserving of funding from the proceeds of our Annual Fete. We thank the applicants for their efforts and commitment to these projects.

We are pleased to present the projects we recommend to receive 2024 COP funding – see the chart on back page. Our hope is that our Annual Fete will be a great success and that the named organisations will receive very generous funding.

Yours in Christ,

*2024 COP Selection Panel*

*Margaret Fraser, Annette Wojak, David Morgan*

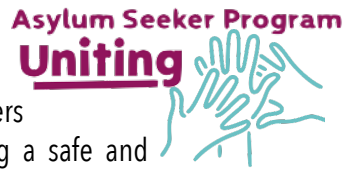
*July 2024*

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## Asylum Seeker Program (Uniting VICTAS), Education Support (Inclusion) Program

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*Congregation Applicant:*  
*Robin Pope*



Asylum Seeker Program caters for the needs of asylum seekers in Melbourne, by organising specific projects and providing a safe and welcoming space for them at the Welcome Centre in Brunswick. There they can be assisted with food and essential items, housing, access to legal advice, referrals to employment, education, health and counselling services.

Funds would assist families to cover the 'additional' costs of education in the public school system which they are unable to meet, such as uniforms, shoes, books, laptops, lunch food, school excursions, school holiday programs and out-of-school camp. The aim of the program is not just to address the financial hardship that the families experience, but also to improve their emotional and social wellbeing, and enable them and their children to make community connections.



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### Choir of Hope

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*Congregation Applicant:*  
*Noelle Gibson*

The Choir of Hope is a singing group for women in the Monash community and surrounding areas. Deb Leigh conducts the choir which meets weekly at GWUC for practice and morning tea together. It is a place of connection for women who understand the experience of family violence or abuse, isolation or disadvantaged background. The choir offers a place of fellowship, healing, restoration of relationship and trust.

Funds would assist in the purchase of sheet music, music folders, t-shirts for performances and hospitality costs. The choir enables members to grow in self-confidence and feelings of self-worth, through shared music and togetherness.

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### Kids Under Cover, Scholarship Program

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*Congregation Applicant:*  
*Susan Karoly*



Kids Under Cover is dedicated to preventing and ending youth homelessness, through their Studio and Scholarship programs. They support vulnerable young people aged 12-25, who may be homeless or living in an overcrowded home. Studios provide medium-term accommodation, when installed in a family or carers backyard to help ease tensions in the home. The Scholarship Program

encourages young people to stay engaged with education and job training by providing financial assistance for essential items.

Funds would support young people with education related items such as IT equipment, books, public transport tickets, excursions and school camps. This support helps put them on the same playing field as their peers and gives them a greater connection to their education and school community.

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## **Uniting World, Fiji - Disaster Readiness Climate Change (Pacific Region) Program**

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**UnitingWorld**  
connecting communities for life

*Congregation Applicant:  
Russell Crawford*

UnitingWorld, through the Disaster Readiness Climate Change Program, is supporting partner churches to prepare vulnerable communities for, and reduce the impacts of, climate change and related natural disasters. Training is provided to support local church leaders and their community to map out disaster and climate risks and develop action plans to increase preparedness and resilience to disasters like rising water levels, floods and cyclones.

Funds would assist to expand the scope of this project in Fiji and help prepare additional vulnerable communities. The project comprises community-based risk assessment and contingency planning, training networks of disaster response chaplains and resourcing partner churches with Christian theology that gives hope and inspires faith-filled action.

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## **GWUC Welfare**

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*Congregation Applicant: Remoun(Ray) Abdou*

GWUC Welfare provides welfare assistance to people in our local community in the form of food and groceries to those facing food insecurity, supermarket and pharmacy vouchers to assist with essential items, and support with education-related expenses.

Clients include people who are disadvantaged, homeless, suffering from mental and physical illness, asylum seekers and refugees.

Funds would enable purchase of additional groceries and vouchers to reach more individuals in need, and to ensure ongoing support for students. Welfare aims to make a meaningful impact on the lives of those they serve and to address pressing needs in the community.



**GWUC Welfare**  
providing practical assistance

<b>Project</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>People to be assisted</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>For \$20,000 total funds</b>	<b>For \$22,000 total funds</b>	<b>For \$24,000 total funds</b>
Asylum Seeker Project, Education Support (Inclusion) Program	Melbourne	Families	\$6,000	\$4,500	\$5,000	\$5,500
Choir of Hope	Local	Individual women	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$2,500
Kids under Cover Scholarship Program	Victoria	Youth, 12-25yrs	\$5,000	\$4,000	\$4,500	\$5,000
UnitingWorld, Disaster Readiness Climate Change	International, Fiji	Communities	\$6,000	\$4,500	\$5,000	\$6,000
GWUC Welfare	Local	Families or individuals	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>25K</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$22,000</b>	<b>\$24,000</b>