



## ***Crosslight* Editorial Policy**

### **1. Aims of *Crosslight***

*Crosslight* is a Christian magazine providing information and views about, and of interest to, members and adherents of the Vic/Tas Synod of the Uniting Church in Australia.

*Crosslight* aims include:

- examining contemporary social issues from a faith-based perspective
- encouraging Christian discipleship and mission through the sharing of stories;
- articulating the Christian faith and developing understanding of that faith in contemporary life;
- giving public expression to the Church's involvement in religious, cultural and social issues;
- providing a vehicle for information about the plans, programs and activities of the Church;
- providing a forum for the expression and exchange of a diversity of opinion as well as a voice for the poor, the oppressed and the marginalised;
- increasing readership to broader audience – readers who share the values and ethos of the UCA.

### **2. Professional Ethics**

In pursuing its aims, *Crosslight* is committed to the highest ethical and professional standards. Its Editor and staff, in always striving to reflect the ethos of the Uniting Church, shall:

- report and interpret news with scrupulous honesty, striving to present all relevant facts and not suppressing or distorting relevant available facts by wrong or improper emphasis;
- place no unnecessary emphasis on gender, race, sexual preference, religious belief, marital status or physical or mental ability;
- respect confidences received in the course of their work;
- use fair and honest means to obtain news, pictures, films, tapes and documents;
- identify themselves and the publication before obtaining an interview;
- respect private grief and personal privacy; and
- do their utmost to correct any published information found to be harmfully inaccurate.





### 3. Editorial Independence

The reputation and integrity of *Crosslight* depends to a degree on the perception of its editorial independence:

- Full editorial control is vested in the Executive Editor and the Managing Editor. They will determine editorial content and deploy and direct editorial staff.
- Editorial decisions will be based mainly on this editorial policy, the validity of the work and its importance to readers. The Editor shall be free to publish critical but responsible views about all aspects of the church, even if these views might at times conflict with the decisions and priorities of the Synod.
- The Editor retains the right to edit all material submitted for publication, with the exception of Synod policy and official statements.
- Representatives of Church agencies, though free to contribute and offer comment, shall not interfere in the evaluation, selection or editing of individual articles, either directly or by creating an environment in which editorial decisions are strongly influenced.

