



MEDIA RELEASE

Synod of New South Wales and the ACT

Uniting Church in Australia

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Uniting Church leader seeks support for Easter Sunday as public holiday

The Moderator of the Uniting Church in New South Wales and the ACT, the Rev. Niall Reid, is encouraging church members to support a postcard campaign to make Easter Sunday a public holiday.

The campaign was initiated by the Shop Assistants' Union so that Easter Sunday could be properly recognised as a significant community day and to make a difference for workers in industries with lots of weekend work.

While trading restrictions were granted following a campaign last year, because Easter Sunday is not a public holiday it remains possible for some employers to force staff to fund their Easter Sunday off from other forms of paid leave.

Similarly, in tourist areas where some shops are permitted to trade, employees who volunteer to work only receive ordinary Sunday rates rather than public holiday rates in recognition of its significance as a community day.

Mr Reid said, "At a time when many complain of being 'time poor', our legislated public holidays are important days of rest.

"We recognise these days are increasingly important for the growing numbers of people who work in so-called 24/7 industries; people for whom these opportunities to quarantine time to spend with families and loved ones are rare. That is why I am asking Uniting Church members to support the call to include Easter Sunday in our public holidays."

Mr Reid said, "Along with Christmas and New Year, Easter is a time for family gatherings and not just for the Christian community for whom the celebration of Christ's resurrection is the most important of the year."

He said the common perception that Easter Sunday was already a public holiday was recognition of its significance. "The anomalous situation that exists in the law should be fixed so that retail, hospitality and other workers on Sunday rosters can share the benefit of a public holiday on this important day.

"I encourage the church and wider community to support this campaign and I hope that those in the position to make this change will give it serious consideration."

To support the campaign online visit the [campaign page](#). For more information, call Stephen Webb, Media Officer, 0423 259 945.