

## **TEENAGE MUMS CELEBRATE 25 YEARS OF TLC**

Since UnitingCare West's Trinity Learning Centre opened its doors a quarter of a century ago, more than 400 young Perth mums have been given the opportunity to complete their secondary education.

The Centre, which was established in 1987, will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> birthday with a reunion on Sunday July 29, bringing together past and present students, staff, volunteers and teachers.

Former TLC student Amanda Lisser started the program five years ago, when her son was just 4 years old.

Amanda now works as a lecturer at TAFE alongside colleagues 20 years her senior and is also completing a degree in social work, and says her continued education has been vital to her success.

"When I look back now, I can see that TLC changed my life more than I would ever had known at the time," she says. "It taught me many valuable life skills as well as parenting skills. "Finishing my education was important and I wanted to make sure my son had a future and did not become a statistic."

The reunion will take place from 11am-2pm at Scotch College oval and pavilion in Swanbourne and celebrations will include a festive picnic with a sausage sizzle, a bouncy castle, face paint and activities for the kids.

An evaluative study on the benefits of supported education for teenage mothers is also currently being conducted by UnitingCare West in partnership with Edith Cowan University. The study is expected to provide a valuable insight into the long term benefits education has for teenage mothers and their families. In some cases, the research will cover three successive generations.

Past students are encouraged to get in contact with UnitingCare West to find out how to participate in the study and the celebrations. Call UnitingCare West on 1300 663 298 or email [tlc@unitingcarewest.org.au](mailto:tlc@unitingcarewest.org.au) for information on how you can get involved.

TLC provides an opportunity for young pregnant and parenting women to complete their secondary education. Originally a program offered by Trinity Uniting Church in Perth's CBD and pioneered by Dr Harry Cohen in 1987, TLC has given young mothers brighter opportunities for the future.

**For more information or photo opportunities please contact:**

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