



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**30 October 2015**

### **UnitingCare West celebrating new disability services in Great Southern region**

UnitingCare West will host a number of activities this Sunday 1 November and Monday 2 November to celebrate the organisation entering the Great Southern region with a range of disability services coordinated from a new office in Albany.

UnitingCare West is a community service agency that has a mission to support, serve and empower those most in need. UnitingCare West operates over 35 community service programs from 17 sites across WA in the areas of community housing, accommodation, homelessness, family support, mental health and disability services.

UnitingCare West will formally celebrate the agency's establishment in the region, providing support to people living with a disability to maintain their independence and wellness through accommodation support and participation in community-based activities.

On Monday 2 November, a celebratory event will take place at the Albany Entertainment Centre, attended by clients, their carers and families. Representatives from government agencies and other not for profit community service providers will also join the festivities.

On Sunday 1 November UnitingCare West's Mission Development Leader, Rev Daniel Viljoen, will be speaking at the Lockyer Uniting Church and the Albany Uniting Church, followed by a morning tea for members of regional Uniting Church congregations including those in Denmark and Mt Barker.

UnitingCare West CEO Sue Ash AO says the expansion into Albany is an important part of the organisation's future plans.

"Our aim is to develop our service impact and connection with the community through the establishment of multiple service sites across WA. With the launch of the UnitingCare West



Great Southern Services, participants in the region will enjoy activities that increase independence skills, attend community activities and have opportunities to be part of the community across the Great Southern area,” Ms Ash said.

“Our staff have put in significant effort to make this new site in Albany a reality and I look forward to the numerous benefits it will provide to the community in the Great Southern region,” she said.

UnitingCare West’s range of services in the Great Southern Region include supporting people who are living with a disability in accommodation and creating opportunities for people to integrate and build social networks in the community.

Services also include the provision of respite for carers so people can have a break from their caring responsibilities.

## **Event Details**

### **Sunday 1 November**

8.30 - 9.30am – Church Service at Lockyer Uniting Church

10.00 - 11.00am – Church Service at Albany Uniting Church

11.30 - 12.30 – Morning Tea for all regional congregation members

### **Monday 2 November**

3.00-5.00pm – Celebration and official launch at the Albany Entertainment Centre

This event is by invitation only and if you wish to attend, please contact

[nicky.byrne@unitingcarewest.org.au](mailto:nicky.byrne@unitingcarewest.org.au) or 0428 910 423

## **Contact Details**

### **For quotes and comments please contact:**

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

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**About UnitingCare West**

UnitingCare West touches the lives of over 30,000 individuals and families each year. With 300 staff members and over 300 volunteers, UnitingCare West is a community service agency that has a mission to support, serve and empower those most in need. UCW operates over 35 community service programs from 17 sites across Perth, reaching as far North as Merriwa and as far South as Lower Great Southern, in the areas of community housing, accommodation, homelessness, family support, mental health and disability services. UnitingCare West's clients include those in the community experiencing financial hardship, domestic violence, child abuse trauma, mental health issues and disability to name a few.