

### Fundraising for Homeless Families

On 10 May, 2013 UnitingCare West will hold its annual Fundraising Golf Day at Royal Perth Golf Club to raise \$70,000 towards a new Family Homelessness Service - the first in Perth.

There are an alarming number of children that have no permanent address and live with their parents and siblings in a car, on a friend's couch, or even the street. According to the 2011 Census, this is a reality for 1,493 WA children under the age of 12 and 932 children between 12 and 18 years old.

*"On average, we see 10 families seeking assistance each month from UnitingCare West's homeless services centre in East Perth. In some circumstances we are only able to provide emergency accommodation – the family will have a place to stay for two nights, but then they'll be back on the street again" says David Cain, Executive Manager, Independent Living and Accommodation Services, UnitingCare West.*

Families often seek help from UnitingCare West after they have been rejected from private rentals due to unemployment or low income; however, existing homeless facilities throughout Perth are not suitable for children for safety reasons, leaving these families with fewer support options.

The family homelessness service will give parents a place to cook a proper dinner and bath their kids. It will be a place where their children can safely play and do their homework. The proposed new service will also support parents to link to other services and information.

*"The biggest priority for any parent is the wellbeing of their children. They want a safe life for their kids and for them to have access to education. This is almost impossible without a permanent home. Unfortunately, wait lists for a home can be anywhere between one and nine years. It is because of this that we are currently unable to help the large majority of the families coming to us for help" says Sue Ash, CEO, UnitingCare West.*

UnitingCare West aims to raise over \$70,000 at the Golf Day in order to begin to make a difference for Perth families. There are a variety of sponsorship packages available as well as the opportunity to play with a corporate team. Participating companies will play 18 holes followed by lunch and a charity auction.

Companies and individuals that are interested in getting behind this important cause are encouraged to contact UnitingCare West directly on 08 9355 9023. Alternatively, to make an online donation, or for more information about UnitingCare West, please visit [www.unitingcarewest.org.au](http://www.unitingcarewest.org.au).

UnitingCare West is a community services agency that supports thousands of people each year. UCW's clients include those in the community experiencing financial hardship, domestic violence, child abuse, mental health issues and disability to name a few.

UnitingCare West is part of a network of 400 agencies that make up UnitingCare Australia.

**--End of Media Release--**

For more information contact or to find out about photo opportunities please contact:

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**Event Details**

What: UnitingCare West Fundraising Golf Day Friday 10 May 2013

Venue: Royal Perth Golf Club, Labouchere Road South Perth WA 6151

Time: 8.00am tee off, 12.30pm lunch, 3.00pm finish.