

MEDIA RELEASE

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The Hon. Colin Barnett MLA Premier of Western Australia to open new building and Western Australia's first Integrated Service Response to Homelessness

UnitingCare West will be joined by the Hon Colin Barnett MLA Premier of Western Australia to celebrate the official opening of UnitingCare West's new multi-million dollar centre and Western Australia's first integrated service response to homelessness.

The centre in Aberdeen Street Perth will act as a hub and provide services for the people of Western Australia in areas of homelessness and accommodation support, financial counselling, emergency relief, mental health support, and a major drop in service for people who are homeless.

The centre has been established on the basis of bringing together under one roof a suite of specialist services and programs to provide a 'one stop' location from which individuals and families can access a range of support services.

"UnitingCare West is seeing more and more people who are struggling to make ends meet, and with the rise in the costs of living, in food and essential services such as electricity, demand for our services will continue to increase," said Mr Chris Hall, Chief Executive Officer of UnitingCare West.

"This centre is essentially a one stop shop; we aim to provide people with a range of support services at one location so they do not have to navigate a maze of services in different locations'.

"People may visit the centre needing help with a short term crisis, but our aim is to work with clients using an integrated holistic approach. We provide ongoing guidance with a focus on long-term strategies that ensure established patterns are addressed" said Mr Hall.

UnitingCare West supports and empowers disadvantaged and vulnerable families and individuals by encouraging them to access services relevant to their need.

The buildings were purchased by UnitingCare West, the Uniting Church's primary welfare agency in Western Australia. The services housed in the Inner City Centre received additional government funding and corporate support this year. Lotterywest also contributed around \$2 million to refurbish the building.

CONTACT DETAILS

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