

MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 20th April 2012

Date: Friday 27th April **Time:** 11.30am – 2.30pm

Event: *Dining for Diversity*

Location: South West Institute of Technology, Epicure Training Centre and Function Room, Robertson Drive, Bunbury

Promoting Diversity, Uniqueness and Appreciating Difference

As part of National Youth Week 2012, youth led community event *Dining for Diversity* will show the presence of the many diverse people who are woven into the Bunbury community.

All members of the South West community are invited to attend this free event which includes a three course lunch.

Groups that will be represented at *Dining for Diversity* include those experiencing mental illness, people with disabilities, teen parents, same sex attracted, gender diverse, and people from other cultures and backgrounds.

Dining for Diversity is a lunch event run by *True Colours*, a UnitingCare West program that offers regional support for young people with diverse sexuality and gender, as well as their families. It also provides training workshops for allied service providers.

Operating in Bunbury, it is aimed at reducing the emotional and social isolation of young people who are identifying as gay, lesbian, bi or transsexual.

Sue Ash, Chief Executive Officer at UnitingCare West said the event allows local youth to develop their skills and talents.

“Young people aged 15-25 years from UnitingCare West’s *True Colours* program host and plan all aspects of the event. There are speakers from varying backgrounds who will share their life journey.

“To them it is their life, but to hear some of the stories is extraordinary. *Dining for Diversity* is all about giving marginalised groups a voice to share their experience. We want to appeal to the community to come along and support the event. It is important for young people’s voices to be heard,” Sue said.

The event aims to increase community understanding of social inclusion, especially from a youth perspective. Join us and share in this opportunity to appreciate the richness and diversity of the local community and celebrate the contribution of our youth.

For more information contact Sharon Waters Team Leader True Colours on 0400 972 482 or email: sharon.waters@unitingcarewest.org.au.

Feedback from 2011 Dining for Diversity: “Fantastic hearing from strong courageous young people who are great role models, well done.”

“The strength and hurdles that the speakers shared with us today truly moved me; I thank these speakers for sharing this with me.”

Contact Details: For further information please contact Sue Ash, Chief Executive Officer on 9355 9001 or email: sue.ash@unitingcarewest.org.au.