



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**30 May 2016**

### **UnitingCare West 2016 Winter Appeal highlights alarming number of women using homelessness services in WA**

UnitingCare West is preparing to launch its 2016 Winter Appeal, with the aim of raising \$100,000 to help reduce the number of women who are homeless across WA.

The homeless population of Perth is approaching 10,000 people, with around 61% of people accessing homelessness services in WA being women.

Family and domestic violence is the main reason that women seek assistance, followed by financial crisis and a lack of affordable housing. UnitingCare West is also seeing record number of women over 55 years accessing the support of its homelessness services.

The official launch of the UnitingCare West Winter Appeal is being held at UCW's Inner City Service Centre on Tuesday 7 June and will be attended by over 70 VIPs including The Hon. Andrea Mitchell MLA, Minister for Mental Health and Child Protection.

The evening will also feature a speech from a former client of UnitingCare West's homelessness services who will be sharing her experience of being homeless in Perth.

UnitingCare West CEO, Sue Ash AO, says the organisation relies on the generous support of the WA community to help run its homelessness services and every dollar makes a difference.

"Our mission is to work with people and communities so those most in need can belong and thrive. We provide many services that assist women, and many other vulnerable groups of people. However, we cannot do this alone and need your help to run our homelessness services," Ms Ash said.



“Your support makes an impact in a number of different ways and enables us to work with this vulnerable group in society to empower them and change their lives for the better. We are seeing people with more complex needs than ever seeking our support and we urge all West Australians to give generously this Winter to help those most in need in our community,” Ms Ash added.

The UnitingCare West Winter Appeal runs throughout June, July and August 2016 to raise much needed funds to support those sleeping rough on the streets of Perth during the coldest months of the year. Just \$25 pays for a person’s breakfast for five days at Tranby Day Centre. We also collect items such as sleeping bags, sturdy blankets and jeans.

Anyone wishing to donate to UnitingCare West’s 2015 Winter Appeal can call 1300 663 298 or visit [www.unitingcarewest.org.au](http://www.unitingcarewest.org.au).

#### **Event Details**

**Date:** Tuesday 7 June 2016

**Time:** 5:30pm to 8:00pm, program starts at 6:00pm

**Venue:** UnitingCare West Inner City Service Centre, 5 / 5 Aberdeen Street, Perth

#### **Contact Details**

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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 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.