



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**18 July 2016**

### **UnitingCare West's Christmas in July gala for people most in need**

**The second UnitingCare West Christmas in July dinner dance gala will take place on Friday 22 July from 6pm onwards at the Government House ballroom, to raise much needed funds in support of those most in need in the WA community.**

This year the completely sold-out event has a Victorian Christmas theme and the stunningly decorated ballroom at Government House, Perth will be a welcome sight as guests celebrate during the winter months. The night will include an excellent menu of local, seasonal food as well as WA wines and beers. There will be a dazzling performance by Perth's popular 17-piece Metro Big Band, as well as spectacular dancing from Humphrey Dance Studio and entertainment from choirs, bagpipers and magicians!

Perth businessman Rick Hart and his partner Lesa Hinchliffe are the Master of Ceremonies for the event while the Governor of Western Australia, Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC will attend as the Patron for the event.

The live Grand Auction will be another highlight on the night, with unique prizes and money-can't-buy experiences including a premium Grand Prix experience in Singapore and private twilight sailing experience for 10 people.

As a community services organisation, UnitingCare West relies heavily on the generosity of the community and annual fundraising events such as this. UnitingCare West Chairperson, Peter Fitzpatrick AM says "With the downturn in the WA economy the number of people who are requesting emergency assistance and relief through our programs is on the rise and we can only effectively respond to these trends with the support of the local community."

Mr Fitzpatrick continues "Many people ask us what it is they can do to help others in need in our community. The reality is that we have fully qualified staff running a range of programs that are available to help people in very challenging circumstances; but we need the monetary support of the community to be able to do this. Through our Christmas in July event we raise



funds for our services and people see that by supporting our events they can make a real impact; every dollar makes a difference”.

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

**ENDS**

### **Contact Details**

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### **About UnitingCare West**

UnitingCare West touches the lives of over 30,000 individuals and families each year. With 360 staff members and over 650 volunteers, UnitingCare West is a community service agency that has a mission to support, serve and empower those most in need. UCW operates over 36 community service programs from 17 sites across WA, 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.