

10 July 2017

MEDIA RELEASE

First in Perth: UnitingCare West opens homeless shelter on Saturdays

With no sheltered Saturday morning services available in Perth for the homeless community, UnitingCare West has made it their mission this winter to offer food, showers and a warm venue for those most in need.

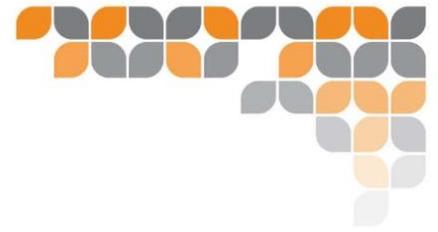
On a Saturday morning in Perth there is nowhere to go if you are homeless or at risk of homelessness: the city is a dark and bleak place, particularly in winter. UnitingCare West's Tranby shelter in East Perth currently offers free breakfast, shower facilities, support services and a warm venue to the homeless community Mondays to Fridays only. On Sundays there are other support services available to those doing it tough, but on Saturday mornings there is nowhere to go in Perth. Tranby stays dark.

As a mission based organization, all of UnitingCare West's work is person-centered: starting with the individual, and building programs and supports around their individual needs. Working where others don't, the organization deliberately researches needs and implements solutions, where it finds that individuals are falling through the cracks. That's why the organization started its Winter Appeal: Turn on the Lights – **raising \$150,000 to offer Saturday services to the homeless community for a year.**

With already over \$75,000 raised to date, UnitingCare West is able to Turn on the Lights at Tranby on Saturdays for the first time on 15 July 2017. Funds won't last a year just yet, so initially only core hours and services, including a free hot breakfast, showers, clothing, groceries and support from experienced staff, are offered between 7-10am on Saturdays.

UnitingCare West CEO Amanda Hunt says she is "very grateful for the overwhelming support we have received from individuals, the community, as well as other agencies. Within weeks of starting this campaign, we have passed the half-way mark in our quest to raise \$150,000 this winter so we can open up Tranby on Saturdays! This is an encouraging response and I hope that the community will continue to support us so we can offer the full suite of services on Saturdays into the future."

"We are not stopping here," says Sean Gardyne, Manager Homelessness at UnitingCare West "we will remain on our quest to raise the \$150,000 required to further extend our hours on a Saturday, so we can meet the needs of those who continue to sleep rough in our community".



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What: UnitingCare West launches Saturday services at Tranby
Attending journalists will be offered a tour at the premises.

When: Saturday 15 July, 7am-10am

Where: Uniting Care West Tranby Center, 6/5 Aberdeen Street, East Perth

Who: Address by CEO Amanda Hunt

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About UnitingCare West

UnitingCare West is there for those most in need; providing a broad range of services and partnerships that build healthier, more resilient, and better connected communities. UnitingCare West operates over 36 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.