

Official opening of the historic Wilf Sargent House in Fremantle

Men who were experiencing homelessness have the chance to rebuild their lives with the support of UnitingCare West at historic Wilf Sargent House, redesigned by renowned Fremantle Architect Michael Patroni of Space agency.

On Tuesday 13 June UnitingCare West will formally re-open its transitional housing program Wilf Sargent House Fremantle.

Significant renovations to the 1895 building, combine the building's original features with contemporary practicality. Renovation of the historic property was achieved through collaboration between the Housing Authority of WA and local government. Both identified the need for this type of service in the heart of the Fremantle community as well as preservation of local history and architecture. The Department for Child Protection and Family Services provides the funding for program support.

Wilf Sargent House was first established as a refuge for homeless men and couples during the early 1980s by the Uniting House Welfare office that provided programs such as foster care, low cost grocery access and general welfare assistance. In establishing this service, the group named the property Wilf Sargent House after a long-time member of the Fremantle Wesley Mission congregation and Treasurer of the Mission.

The formal opening event of Wilf Sargent House will be accompanied by the launch of UnitingCare West's 2017 Winter Appeal: Turn on the Lights.

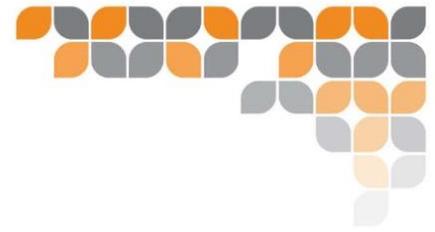
What: UnitingCare West's formal opening of Wilf Sargent House and Launch of 2017 Winter Appeal
Attending journalists will be offered a tour at the premises.

When: Tuesday 13 June, 5-7pm

Where: Uniting Care West, Wilf Sargent House, Fremantle (address available on request)

Who: Address by CEO Amanda Hunt

Jennifer Snell, Manager Community Transitions at UnitingCare West notes "once a person's immediate needs such as a bed, food and clothing are taken care of, the staff will then address the secondary issues that may have led to their homelessness such as unemployment, mental illness, relationship issues or language difficulties." The program offers a pathway out of homelessness providing people with the opportunity for a brighter future.



9 June 2017

The history of the Wilf Sargent House property on South Terrace can be traced back to 1895; owners since then included a blacksmith, a surgeon who turned it into a private hospital which became a lodging house in 1927. During the sixties and seventies the property was used as a family home.

In 2006 UnitingCare West was founded after a merger of several not-for-profit organisations and Wilf Sargent House became UnitingCare West's Homeless Accommodation Support Service (UCW HASS).

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Media Contact Details

For quotes and comments please contact:

Amanda Hunt, Chief Executive Officer, and UnitingCare West

Phone: 08 9355 9002

Email: amanda.hunt@unitingcarewest.org.au

For more information and photo opportunities please contact:

Tina Mucha, Manager Marketing & Advancement, UnitingCare West

Phone: 08 9355 9035

Email: tina.mucha@unitingcarewest.org.au

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.

About UnitingCare West's 2017 Winter Appeal

The 2017 Winter Appeal: Turn on the Lights focuses on raising \$150,000 to establish Saturday services at UnitingCare West's Tranby Homeless Shelter in Perth. Tranby provides a range of services to assist people experiencing homelessness to have a more secure and healthier lifestyle including meals, showers, material assistance and more.