

20 March 2017

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **UnitingCare West Farewells Retiring CEO Sue Ash AO**

At a farewell function on 16 March, UnitingCare West's Board and Executive, and the community services sector, paid tribute to outgoing CEO, Sue Ash AO, who will officially retire on 4 April 2017 after six years of service to the organisation. Chairperson of the Board, Peter Fitzpatrick AM spoke of the valued contribution made by Sue and the high regard in which she is held by the Board, staff and volunteers of UnitingCare West.

In a speech on behalf of the sector, Chris Hall, former CEO of UnitingCare West and current CEO of MercyCare, spoke of Ms Ash's "distinguished career" with her achievements having "seen her touch the lives of many organisations, people and sectors across her long history in public life". Mr Hall said, "Sue is widely regarded – across government and the NFP sector – as an exceptionally honourable person with high credibility and great integrity."

Throughout her career Sue has led not only UnitingCare West, but organisations such as WACOSS, Care Options and Wanslea. Her professional achievements include leading the CHOGM Commonwealth People's Forum in 2011 and leading the WA not for profit sector in new partnership arrangements with the former government.

Reflecting on the mission of UnitingCare West and the community sector Ms Ash said, "UnitingCare West's mission has been an easy one for me to support. My hope is that as the sector changes, everyone will focus on ensuring that even the least of those in the community are not forgotten, not marginalised but actually experience respect and inclusion."

In a framed tribute, colleagues and friends reflected on Sue's attributes of "integrity and passion", "warmth and support" and her "passion for social justice". One person wrote, "I acknowledge and honour your ability to make a real difference to what and who matters".

UnitingCare West's incoming CEO, Amanda Hunt, will be commissioned on 4 April 2017 at All Saints Floreat Uniting Church.

END OF RELEASE



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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.