



12 December 2016

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Premier supports Christmas Appeal for families in need**

UnitingCare West will receive a \$20,000 contribution to their annual Christmas Appeal from State Government. On Wednesday 14 December, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Mental Health and Child Protection, Hon. Nick Goiran MLC, will present the cheque to UnitingCare West on behalf of the Premier. The event will take place in UnitingCare West's Christmas workshop in Victoria Park, where corporate volunteers and students are currently busy packing over 100 Christmas orders for families in need, every day.

**Photo opportunity:** Hon. Nick Goiran MLC selects a Christmas present for a child in need

**Date & Time:** Wednesday 14 December, 1.00 – 2.00 pm

**Location:** UnitingCare West, 16 Sunbury Road, Victoria Park WA 6162

With the help of State Government, UnitingCare West can continue to assist Western Australians in need during the festive season. This year UnitingCare West will distribute Christmas presents to more than 700 children in need, who otherwise would have missed out on the celebrations. Over 800 food hampers will also be distributed to families in need to ensure they will have a special meal together over the public holidays when a lot of the emergency services, breakfast programs and soup kitchens are closed.

The funds will further support UnitingCare West with supplying emergency services over the festive season; to help people stay connected with utility bills and avoid becoming homeless. "We assist individuals and families that are currently facing the real risk of homelessness. Our aim is to keep people housed this Christmas and the financial support from the government goes towards this." says UnitingCare West CEO Sue Ash AO.



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Christmas is a time of the year that can be especially tough if you are experiencing disadvantage. While most of us are in festive mode, others are in survival mode. With many companies closing during the festive season, work opportunities decline, which can put a lot of financial pressure on families.

How will I pay the bills so that I can buy my children a Christmas present? Will I be alone with no one to celebrate Christmas with? Will I have a roof over my head if I miss my rental payments?

The UnitingCare West Christmas Appeal assists families, children and individuals who are experiencing financial crisis, homelessness, mental health issues and domestic violence. The services offered give people the most valuable gifts at Christmas - a sense of hope and belonging.

#### **Contact Details**

**For quotes and comments please contact:**

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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.