

Do you have room in your heart?

Our Futures Foster Care team is looking for people with love in their hearts and room in their homes to become foster carers, just like Neil and Beth.

One thing people always ask is why do you do it and I think the answer is why don't you do it? It's a great opportunity, such a fantastic thing to do and at the end of the day, the children are also the winners.

– Neil, Futures Foster Carer

Futures Foster Care provides long-term disability and therapeutic foster care options for children and young people with often significant



trauma and abuse histories, developmental, physical and/or medical care needs.

We aim to provide young people with a safe and supportive home where they can form meaningful

relationships and can be supported to grow and develop to their full potential.

If you have an interest in becoming a Futures Foster Carer, please contact us on 1300 663 298.

Men of Hope turns three!

It was celebration time in August, when our Community Options Men of Hope (MoH) group celebrated its third birthday at our Outer North Hub in Merriwa.

The event was made possible thanks to the support of the local community, including the Trinity North Uniting Church. The MoH team whipped-up pizzas using food donated by Woolworths Clarkson, which were cooked in a wood-fired pizza oven supplied by Bunnings Clarkson – delicious!



MoH was established by our Recovery Options team in 2016 as part of UCW's mental health support services. Group coordinator, Gerhard Rousseau said it provides an opportunity for men to come together, have a yarn and enjoy each other's company in a safe, welcoming space.

Men of Hope would not be possible without the support of our community partners, including Trinity North Uniting Church, Bunnings Clarkson and Woolworths Clarkson.

New app to help cut utility costs

UCW is collaborating with other community sector partners to roll out a new app to help reduce utility bills for people on low incomes, or in financial hardship, thanks to a grant from Lotterywest.

Currently, the 'Climate Clever' app is only available to schools, but a re-badged version is being developed for use by people who access our supported housing and financial counselling services.

In September, three of our tenants participated in a workshop to provide feedback on the features they want included on the app, along with some frank insight on the impact of rising utility costs.

The next version of the yet to be named app will be piloted for 12 months from later this year. UCW will use the app to help reduce our own utility costs and carbon footprint across our Place Hubs and services.

Tranby goes 24/7 for Homelessness Week 2019

UnitingCare West and Ruah Community Services joined forces during Homelessness Week (4-10 August) to trial the 'Safe Nights' model, a bold new initiative to create safe places for people sleeping rough on the streets of Perth.

During the week, our Tranby Centre was open 24/7 for men and women sleeping rough, while the Ruah Centre was open from 7pm to 7am, providing a Safe Nights resting space for women. During the trial, UCW supported an average of 211 people at Tranby each day and were at near capacity of 54 people each night.

Importantly, we saw a noticeable

decrease in alcohol and substance misuse and we had three phone calls from community members telling us they had noticed a reduction in people sleeping rough.

This success would not have been possible without the support of our volunteers (including UCW and Ruah staff), along with our corporate, government and school partners. See page three for more details about Safe Nights.

A special shout-out to Sophie Budd from Taste Budds Cooking Studio, who is now our official Tranby Centre Ambassador, along with MKDC, SecondBite and Site Services Holdings.

What did success look like?

1800+
interactions

211 visitors every day

54 people each night

2160 kilograms of food rescued

2600 breakfasts, lunches, dinners

70 volunteers

16 corporate and business partners

10 government, community and school partners



Chef Sophie Budd from Taste Budds Cooking Studio was invited to be our Tranby Centre Ambassador by Amanda Hunt, our CEO, and Gayle Mitchell, Practice Lead - Transitioning From Homelessness.

Welcome to Kambarang!

This edition of UCW News is named after the Noongar season of birth, *Kambarang* (October-November). Kambarang heralds an explosion of colours and flowers, with the bright orange blooms of the *Mooja* or Australia Christmas Tree signalling the heat is on its way. Watch out for snakes and swooping *Koolbardies* (magpies)!

New Board Chair appointed

Experienced non-executive director and champion of innovation, Erica Haddon, was appointed as UCW's new Board Chairperson at a Uniting Church Synod meeting on Monday, 7 October.

Ms Haddon replaces former Board Chairperson, Peter Fitzpatrick AO, who stepped down from the role in August this year. She has more than 30 years' experience in banking, the resources and energy sector, community services and diversified member organisations, including the insurance, automotive and aged care industries.

UCW CEO Amanda Hunt said she welcomed the appointment, saying "Erica's experience as long-standing non-executive director with Anglicare WA has shown her to be a values based and community minded leader."

Erica's appointment signals a new era for UCW – with her leadership, people skills and background in innovation strategy, we are looking forward to a bold and exciting future at UCW.

– Amanda Hunt, UCW CEO

"I would also like to pay tribute to our outgoing Chairperson, Peter Fitzpatrick AO, who has strengthened the governance of UCW in his four years at the helm and led the organisation through a period of sustained change."

Ms Haddon said she was thrilled to join UCW, bringing her experience as a long-term director in the sector and leader of innovation and culture change, along with values and principles based on her upbringing in the Uniting Church.

"I am excited about leading a strong



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and committed board and executive team to continue the journey that was started back in the days of the Swan River Colony and entrusted to UCW since 2006," Ms Haddon said.

Read more at unitingcarewest.org.au

Tranby 7 - 7 - 7 funding boost

We were delighted to receive news from Community Services Minister Simone McGurk during Homelessness Week that our Tranby Centre would be funded to open from 7am-7pm, 7 days a week.

The Minister said she was "confident more than ever, that if we work together—the community, individuals, government, the business sector and service providers - we will have a significant impact on ending homelessness."

Tranby commenced extended opening hours on 21 October, providing additional supports and services to people experiencing homelessness in and around the city. Previous operating hours were 7am-12pm Monday to Friday, and 8am-11am Saturdays.

UCW Chief Executive Officer Amanda Hunt said the funding

couldn't have come at a better time. "We've been doing all we can to support the increasing numbers of people we are seeing at Tranby – people who are doing it tough and experiencing great hardship," Amanda said.

"This boost to our service will provide more opportunities to engage with people experiencing homelessness, helping us assist people in their journey towards safe and secure housing."

ABOVE: Community Services Minister Simone McGurk announces funding for Tranby 7-7-7 during Homelessness Week 2019.

BELOW: Scenes from Tranby during the Homelessness Week 24/7 Trial.



Safe Nights, safe places

As outlined on page one, UCW and Ruah Community Services are in discussion with the City of Perth to roll out the Safe Nights model, creating safe resting spaces for some of the 600 people who sleep rough in and around the Perth CBD each night.

It's one component of a whole-of-system, long-term approach to address Perth's rough sleeping crisis. Our aim is to reduce the mental and physical trauma experienced by people sleeping rough, and in turn connect them with long term supports.

The Safe Nights model involves refitting unused commercial properties to create respectful and safe areas for people to rest throughout the night.

They are not crisis beds or permanent accommodation – they are comfortable and secure facilities to help reduce the stress and hypervigilance people experience when sleeping on the street.



NAIDOC Week 2019 - Voice. Treaty. Truth

This year we held NAIDOC Week celebrations at all three of our Place Hubs, celebrating the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We enjoyed a wide range of activities alongside the people we serve, including kangaroo stew lunches at our South West Metro Hub and our Tranby Centre.

The true story of Australian history and colonisation must be told, must be heard, and must be acknowledged for us to all move forward together.

– Djidi-Djidi Josey Hansen, UCW Cultural Architect

Our Outer North Hub in Merriwa joined forces with MercyCare and other community partners to put on a special event at the True North Centre, with a Welcome to Country, traditional foods and performances.

'Voice. Treaty. Truth.' was the theme of NAIDOC Week 2019 and these three words are also the key elements to the reforms set out in the Uluru Statement From the Heart.



ABOVE: Our team and members of our community celebrated together at our NAIDOC Week events.

LEFT: Clive Morrison, a member of our Wisdom Circle, performed his original songs at our Fremantle NAIDOC celebration.

Geoff (name changed) walked into the Tranby Centre at 3pm on a Tuesday afternoon, with no money and nowhere else to go.

He had been staying with family in Esperance, but the situation had become toxic, so he made his way to Perth. Ordinarily the doors at Tranby would be closed at that time, but luckily for Geoff, Tranby was open 24/7 for Homelessness Week.

Having previously been connected to our HASS program, our team worked quickly and was able to find him a place to stay that same day.

Geoff's story is one of many witnessed during Homelessness Week that show how longer opening hours at Tranby will play a key role in reducing rough sleeping and better connecting people to vital support services.